

# Communiqué de presse

For immediate release

## Funding for the Centre for Commercialization of Cancer Immunotherapy (C3i) Celebrating the excellence of Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont

**Montreal, July 7, 2016** – “We’ve just taken another step in the fight against cancer.” These are the words that Mr. Yvan Gendron, President and CEO of the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l’Est-de-l’Île-de-Montréal, expressed during a celebration of a **major project that demonstrates the excellence in cancer research** at Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont (HMR).

In the presence of Ms. Kirsty Duncan, Federal Minister of Science, Mr. Gaétan Barrette, Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services and Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre, along with many other guests, the CIUSSS celebrated the awarding of a \$15-million grant over five years that has been earmarked for the Centre for Commercialization of Cancer Immunotherapy (C3i). This investment will go towards the development, application and commercialization of cancer immunotherapy through a grant from the Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR) program, which is in addition to contributions of \$35 million from over 40 industrial and academic partners. The Government of Quebec also contributed \$2.5 million to the initiative. “All of these partners are united in the common goal of using immunotherapy to intensify our fight against cancer,” said Dr. Lambert Busque, the project’s Chief Medical Officer.

The C3i will help patients access innovative immunotherapies in oncology care. Affiliated with HMR, the C3i will act as a single point for the development, application and commercialization of revolutionary therapies.

### Three departments working together

The C3i will combine three departments that will work together to provide patients with cutting-edge diagnostic tests (biomarkers), targeted cancer cell drugs that will be produced at the Centre of Excellence for Cellular Therapy (CECT) of HMR, and faster access to more effective and more affordable treatments.

The CIUSSS de l’Est-de-l’Île-de-Montréal would also like to acknowledge the support of Dr. Rémi Quirion, Chief Scientist of Quebec, and the HMR Foundation for the entire initiative, which promises to help drive Canada’s leadership in the field of cancer immunotherapy.

Previous investment in the HMR include contributions from the Government of Quebec (\$12 million), the Canada Foundation for Innovation (\$4 million), Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (\$2 million), and the HMR Foundation (\$10 million) for the Centre of Excellence for Cellular Therapy, which just celebrated its three-year anniversary.

**About the CIUSSS de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal**

The Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Est-de-l'Île-de-Montréal (CIUSSS-Est) includes Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont, Hôpital Santa Cabrini, the Canadian-Polish Welfare Institute and the Institut universitaire en santé mentale de Montréal, as well as the CSSS de Saint-Léonard et Saint-Michel, the CSSS de la Pointe-de-l'Île and the CSSS Lucille-Teasdale. Affiliated with Université de Montréal, the CIUSSS-Est combines its educational, assessment and research missions with training for doctors and health professionals.

**For more information and interviews**

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