

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE 12<sup>TH</sup> QUÉBEC CITY HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY FORUM**  
**INNOVATION AND HEALTH NETWORK IN THE BIG DATA**  
**AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ERA: IMPACTS ON THE CREATION OF VALUE**

**Québec City, October 24, 2018** – The next Québec City Healthcare Industry Forum will be held on December 5 and 6, 2018, at the Voltigeurs de Québec Armoury. Presented by Québec International, in collaboration with BIOQuébec, Génome Québec, Innovative Medicines Canada, and Norton Rose Fulbright, the Québec City Healthcare Industry Forum is the biggest annual forum on innovation in life sciences and health technologies in the province.

Bringing together the major players in the industry, including industrialists, researchers, managers and decision-makers, this 12<sup>th</sup> edition will discuss one of the most promising global trends: big data and artificial intelligence. These new technologies contribute to the reflection not only in Quebec's health system but also in other industries that rely on scientific innovation in the province and around the world.

The Forum has always made innovation an unifying theme in each of its edition, and this year is no exception, having for central theme "Innovation and Health Network in the Big Data and Artificial Intelligence Era." This encompassing and unavoidable issue for the various industries in the health sector aims to highlight two strategic sectors for the province of Quebec — life sciences and digital technology — by exploring subjects that will be at the core of their development in the coming years.

**A CUTTING-EDGE PROGRAM**

As cutting-edge as ever, the Forum's program includes two days of conferences and interactive workshops on a variety of subjects related to concrete applications for technologies that are often seen as futuristic or unattainable. This will be an opportunity for participants to reflect on what big data can bring and explore the potential of AI when applied to the health sector.

Over 20 speakers and specialists from the following organizations will contribute to the discussions on various aspects of our health network, which is likely to become both smart and organic: Datactik, Servier Canada, Imagia, Medtronic, Roche, Université Laval, Lumed, École Polytechnique de Montréal, McGill University (OPAL), Icentia, Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux, Université Laval (PULSAR), and the Health and Social Services Innovation Office (Bureau de l'innovation en santé et en services sociaux). The Forum's plenary sessions will occur in the morning of December 5 and 6, followed by workshops offered by the program partners in the afternoon, including:

- **Algorithms and “omics”: statistical power for the benefit of patients**

*By Génome Québec and BIOQuébec*

Resulting from a disruptive technology, “omics” data are at the core of competitive research lead by both the industry and the academic sector. However, the success of this shift remains a major challenge: accessing patient data to develop accessible and cost-effective tests, protecting this data, and integrating tests and new customized medication to our health system. All with one ultimate goal: that population can benefit from major therapeutic advances. These key challenges will require creativity, skills, and a strong will to collaborate.

- **Stay on track by learning to navigate the new legal reality in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors**

*By Norton Rose Fulbright*

The acceleration of innovation and access to data drive health research forward and allow the creation of new therapeutic avenues. However, these new and innovative solutions are also subject to new obligations and responsibilities. Join us in this workshop, presented as part of the Québec City Healthcare Industry Forum, and learn more about the impacts of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the use of biological data in artificial intelligence, and the legalization of cannabis for recreational purposes in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors.

- **Do we really need a Canadian pharmacare program?**

*By Innovative Medicines Canada*

This session, to which private drug insurance plan representatives have been invited, will focus on the current debate and the Canadian government’s intentions to implement a national pharmacare program. This political will may lead to actions affecting patients, the health and life sciences ecosystem as well as stakeholders from the private sector (both employers and insurance companies). First, this subject will be addressed from the Quebec perspective through discussions on the universal pharmacare in the province of Quebec and the system of mutualization designed to protect the viability of private insurance plans. Following these discussions on Quebec environment, a panel will take place on the theme “Do we really need a Canadian pharmacare program?”

## **INPAQTS CONTEST**

The INPAQTS Contest is designed to highlight innovative solutions that help transform the health system through collaboration initiatives between the industry and institutions of the health network. The winners will be revealed during this session, which will include an awards ceremony and a presentation of their innovations.

“Combining in-depth reflections and real-life examples, the Forum is a unique place for the life sciences sector to get the necessary tools to deal with tomorrow’s challenges. Industrialists, researchers, managers and decision-makers alike have the opportunity to meet, discuss and develop their ideas in order to better react to Quebec’s growing needs. Québec International is proud to support this meeting of the utmost relevance in the development of this cutting-edge sector in the province of Quebec, and in the Québec City area,” said Québec International President and CEO Carl Viel.

The Québec City Healthcare Industry Forum is made possible thanks to the support of the following partners: GSK, AstraZeneca, Janssen, Innovative Medicines Canada, Merck, Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada, Celgene, Génome Québec, MEDEC, Medtronic, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Servier and Takeda.

Find the schedule for the Québec City Healthcare Industry Forum at [www.FISQC.com](http://www.FISQC.com).

#### **ABOUT QI**

Québec International contributes to the economic development of the Québec metropolitan region and enhances its international status. As a regional economic development agency, Québec International fosters business growth, supports key industry clusters and attracts talent and investment. For further information, please visit [www.quebecinternational.ca](http://www.quebecinternational.ca).

-30-

Resource: Sylvie Fortin  
Advisor – Public Affairs and Media Relations  
Phone: 418-681-9700, ext. 260  
Email: [sfortin@quebecinternational.ca](mailto:sfortin@quebecinternational.ca)