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PRESENTATION TITLE: Building a Québec "Chimiothèque" for high throughput screening in drug discovery – A Médicament Québec initiative

ABSTRACT: The Institute of Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC) of Université de Montréal is establishing a pan-Québec small molecule collection to accelerate the drug discovery process in the province. Funded by the Médicament Québec initiative, which has the objective of increasing Quebec's autonomy in drug discovery and manufacturing, the creation of this national collection will centralize small molecules of all college (CCTT) and university research centers in Quebec. Access to this collection and to a state-of-the art high throughput screening infrastructure coupled with an integrated management system is offered to the Québec biopharmaceutical ecosystem. A description of this infrastructure will be provided and its utility will be exemplified by the discovery of UM171 as a stem cell self-renewal agonist useful in the treatment of blood diseases.

BIOGRAPHY: **ANNE MARINIER** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, an Accredited Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at UdeM, in addition of being a Principal Investigator and the Director of Medicinal Chemistry at the Institut de Recherche en Immunologie et Cancérologie (IRIC) of UdeM. She brings along more than 30 years of experience in medicinal chemistry and a strong industry expertise in all aspects of drug discovery. Before joining IRIC, Dr Marinier was Group Leader in the Drug Discovery Research group at Bristol-Myers Squibb. As chemistry co-chair of several hit-to-lead and lead optimization programs, she and her team contributed to the progression of numerous programs in immunology, inflammation and infectious diseases. She currently heads IRIC's Drug Discovery Unit (DDU) which comprises 65 chemists and biologists. This research unit, of which she spearheaded the creation and implementation in 2007, supports drug discovery research programs from IRIC and UdeM scientists, as well as from collaborators/pharmaceutical company partners. Two molecules discovered and synthesized at the DDU, in collaboration with Bristol-Myers Squibb have successfully completed Phase 1 clinical trial and one is being progressed to Phase II. A further compound, UM171, a cord blood stem cell expansion factor, discovered by Dr. Marinier's and Dr Guy Sauvageau' teams, has also successfully completed a Phase I/II clinical study and is the foundation of the creation of two companies, ExCellThera Inc. and more recently, RejuvenRx Inc. As co-founder of these two IRIC spin-off companies, Dr Marinier is a member of their respective board and acts as Chief Executive Officer in RejuvenRx.