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News release
For immediate release

GÉNOME QUÉBEC STRENGTHENS ITS POSITION AS LEADER AMONG THE MAJOR GENOMICS RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

The McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre — Another first for Canada: Illumina CSPro certification for three genomics applications

Montréal, February 20th 2008 – Génome Québec announced today that the **McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre** has become the first organization in Canada to obtain Illumina **CSPro** certifications (Certified Service Provider) for three genetic research applications: **Illumina** GoldenGate and Infinium genotyping as well as **Illumina** Gene Expression. These services assure researchers access to leading technologies and the highest data quality to support the discovery of genetic variations and their roles in gene expression.

Illumina's CSPro program is a collaborative service partnership dedicated to ensuring the delivery of the highest-quality data available for genetic analysis applications. Illumina CSPro Providers undergo a rigorous two-phase certification process that includes minimum data generation, data certification and on-site audit of the facility and processes. The McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre was a key partner in the initial development of the certification process and is now the **first in Canada** to obtain certification for three applications under this program.

Senior Director of Operations and Business Development of the Innovation Centre, Daniel Tessier, stated: "The addition of this third certification to our portfolio represents yet another demonstration of the talent and dedication of our staff in implementing new technologies and reaffirms the Centre as a leading edge, integrated genomics service provider. This Gene Expression CSPro certification is a guarantee to our investors, collaborators and clients that Génome Québec has the capacity to produce research results of exceptional quality for various kinds of studies."

Paul L'Archevêque, President and CEO of Génome Québec, added: "Génome Québec is proud to maximize the use of technological platforms, such as Illumina's, to provide Canadian researchers access to the latest technological advances in the field of genomics in the quest for pioneering solutions."

Researchers at the McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre are especially proud of the Illumina certification because they participated in setting up the CSPro Program by helping to validate the processes. "Thanks to the close collaboration of its experts, Génome Québec was instrumental in the validation of the certification processes for both GoldenGate and Infinium genotyping applications. We are pleased to have such an esteemed Centre as a partner in the Illumina CSPro Program." affirmed **Karen Possemato, Director of Corporate Marketing, Illumina Inc.**

About Illumina

Illumina (www.illumina.com) develops and markets next-generation tools for the large-scale analysis of genetic variation and function. The Company's proprietary BeadArray technology -- used in leading genomics centres around the world -- provides the throughput, cost effectiveness and flexibility necessary to enable researchers in the life sciences and pharmaceutical industries to perform the billions of tests necessary to extract medically valuable information from advances in genomics and proteomics. This information will help pave the way to personalized medicine by correlating genetic variation and gene function with particular disease states, enhancing drug discovery, allowing diseases to be detected earlier and more specifically, and permitting better choices of drugs for individual patients.

About the McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre

The McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre is financed by Genome Canada and the ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation of Québec, and provides complete DNA analysis services, from a few samples to several tens of thousands per week. Ambitious DNA sequencing projects carried out over the past 5 years are testimony of Génome Québec's ability to provide data of exceptional quality in the pursuit of various genomics studies. Large-scale genomics projects at the Innovation Centre are linked together on three platforms: sequencing, genotyping and functional genomics supported by an infrastructure and unique expertise in bioinformatics. High quality protein analysis services are also provided by the proteomics platform.

About Génome Québec

The mission of Génome Québec is to mobilize academic and industrial sectors with regard to genomics and proteomics research. This private non-profit organization, financed by the Government of Canada through Genome Canada and the ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation of Québec, invests and manages funds totaling over \$380 million from both the private and public sectors. Génome Québec currently manages projects in six major sectors: human health, bioinformatics, ethics, the environment, and forestry and agricultural sciences. To find out more about Génome Québec and genomics, visit its Web site at www.genomequebec.com.

- 30 -

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