



PRESS RELEASE

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**AmorChem's KNOCK OUT Event:
Where academic Contenders duke it out with industry Heavyweight Champions.
Who will be left standing in the ring?**

Montreal, May 27, 2016. Back by popular demand, AmorChem, the innovative Quebec-based seed venture capital fund, is hosting the 3rd edition of its KNOCK OUT™ Event, a challenge inspired by the television show "Dragon's Den".

Following a country-wide call for proposals, five teams of academic researchers have now been selected as Contenders to participate in the final stage of the contest to be held during the June 2nd Lumira-AmorChem Event in Montreal. After several weeks of training, the Contenders will duke it out in the ring against a panel of Heavyweight Champions in order to qualify to win **a \$500,000 financing from AmorChem.**

In the Contenders' corner, anxiously practicing their scientific jabs and technical uppercuts, we have:

- **JOHN COLES, MD**, University of Toronto
& **JASON MAYNES, MD, PhD**, The Hospital for Sick Children and University of Toronto
- **JULIE FORMAN- KAY, PhD**, The Hospital for Sick Children and University of Toronto
& **NAHUM SONENBERG, PhD**, McGill University
- **RÉJEAN LAPOINTE, PhD**, Université de Montréal and CRCHUM
& **SOPHIE LEROUGE, PhD, P.ENG**, École de technologie supérieure and CRCHUM
- **ANNE-MARIE MES-MASSON, PhD**, Université de Montréal
- **MOUTIH RAFEI, PhD**, Université de Montréal.

In the opposite corner, ready to challenge the Contenders with their best knock-out punches, we have our undefeated Heavyweight Champions:

- **RICHARD LESNIEWSKI, PhD**, pharmaceutical industry veteran formerly from Abbott (AbbVie), GlaxoSmithKline and Madison Vaccines
- **JOHN GILLARD, PhD**, science entrepreneur formerly from Merck Canada, BioChem Pharma and Aegera Therapeutics
- **JOHN BELL, PhD**, scientist-entrepreneur from the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and the University of Ottawa
- **LLOYD SEGAL**, best known as a serial biotech entrepreneur and investor at Persistence Capital Partners and Trimera Capital.

Mr. Christopher Hall, renowned radio and newspaper columnist and comedian, will be the master of ceremony. As any good boxing referee, he will buffer the blows (with water bottles at the ready!) and cheer on the Contenders.

There can only be one winner, which Contender will be left standing after several rounds in the ring with our Heavyweights? Who will be crowned the champion of the ring? The winner will be revealed during the Lumira Capital-AmorChem Event on June 2nd, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Montreal.

The Lumira-AmorChem Event

For the second year in a row, Lumira Capital and AmorChem have teamed up to host a half-day conference to showcase their respective contributions to the financing of the life science sector. Under the theme “From bench to bedside: financing theory to clinical practice”, this year’s event will include, in addition to the KNOCK OUT, presentations from Lumira Capital portfolio companies and from AmorChem’s first spin-off company as well as a panel on the emergence of immunotherapy.

AmorChem and Lumira Capital thank their sponsors:

Gold



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ABOUT AMORCHEM

AmorChem L.P. (www.amorchem.com) is a venture capital fund located in Montreal focused on investing in promising life science projects originating from Quebec-based universities and research centres. The principal limited partners of this fund are Investissement-Québec, FIER Partenaires, Fonds de solidarité FTQ and Merck & Co. This fund is the latest addition to the GeneChem portfolio of funds, a fund manager in existence since 1997. AmorChem's innovative business model involves financing research-stage projects to enable them to reach pre-clinical proof-of-concept ("POC") in a semi-virtual mode within 18-24 months. The fund seeks to generate returns through a two-pronged exit strategy: sell projects having reached POC to large biotechnology or pharmaceutical companies; or bundle them into new spin-out companies. AmorChem using external resources will manage the projects. In addition, to enabling projects requiring small molecules as tools or drug leads, AmorChem has founded NuChem Therapeutics Inc., a medicinal chemistry contract-research company.

ABOUT LUMIRA CAPITAL

Lumira Capital is a leading North American healthcare and life sciences venture capital firm. Lumira Capital is currently actively investing from two funds: **Lumira Capital II** invests primarily in North American, clinical-stage biopharmaceutical, medical device, and healthcare IT companies. **Merck Lumira Biosciences Fund** is targeted to earlier stage investments in biopharmaceutical companies located in Quebec. Successful investments from our previous fund include: KAI Pharmaceuticals (acquired by Amgen), Ception Therapeutics (acquired by Cephalon), Morphotek, (acquired by Eisai Co.), Argos Therapeutics (IPO), Guava (acquired by Millipore), Corus Pharma (acquired by Gilead Sciences), Depomed (public exit following PIPE), Ista (public exit following PIPE), Pharmasset (acquired by Gilead Sciences following IPO) and MAKO Surgical (acquired by Stryker following IPO).

Lumira Capital's portfolio companies are located throughout North America and we have partners in our offices in Toronto, Montreal and Boston. For more information visit the Lumira Capital website at www.lumiracapital.com.