



PRESS RELEASE

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AmorChem's KNOCK OUT Event:

Where academic Contenders duke it out with industry Heavyweight Champions to have a chance to win a \$500,000 financing.

Montreal, June 2, 2015. Back by popular demand, AmorChem, the innovative Quebec-based seed venture capital fund, is hosting the **2nd edition of its KNOCK OUT™ Event**, a challenge inspired by the television show "Dragon's Den". In 2013, in front of a captivated audience, Dr. John Stagg was crowned the first KNOCK OUT Champion.

Following a country-wide call for proposals, five academic researchers have now been selected as Contenders to participate in the final stage of the contest to be held during the June 4th Lumira Capital-AmorChem Event in Montreal. After several weeks of training, the five Contenders will duke it out in the ring against a panel of Heavyweight Champions in order to qualify for a **\$500,000 financing from AmorChem.**

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

- Dr. Carolina Alfieri from the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Centre and the University of Montréal,
- Dr. Mari Kaartinen from McGill University,
- Dr. Sheng-Xiang Lin from the CHU de Québec Research Centre and Université Laval,
- Dr. Fackson Mwale from the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research and McGill University,
- Dr. Reza Sharif-Naeni from McGill University.

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

- Dr. Aled Edwards, CEO of the ground-breaking Structural Genomics Consortium,
- Dr. John Gillard, science entrepreneur from Merck Canada, BioChem Pharma inc. and Aegera Therapeutics inc.,
- Dr. Richard Lesniewski, pharmaceutical industry veteran from Abbott and GlaxoSmithKline,
- Mr. Lloyd Segal, best known as a serial biotech entrepreneur and investor at Persistence Capital Partners.

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 five 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 4, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Montreal.

An Event brought to you by Lumira Capital and AmorChem

Lumira Capital and AmorChem teamed up this year to host an event to showcase their respective contributions to the financing of the R&D continuum. The high quality, innovative research conducted in Canadian institutions will be given a chance to shine during AmorChem's KNOCK OUT. This challenge offers a dynamic look into the different factors that influence AmorChem's decision-making when investing in an academic researcher's work.

AmorChem's KNOCK IN

The fund is also premiering its new platform, the AmorChem KNOCK IN™, which is designed to represent the ways in which typical portfolio projects reach the stage of commercialisation. During the KNOCK IN, three AmorChem-financed researchers will discuss with members of the venture capital and pharmaceutical industries whether their technology is better suited for a straight license to a pharma or for serving as the basis to starting-up a small company. The invited researchers, Dr. Philippe Gros, Dr. Mike Sapiuha and Dr. Claude Perreault represent McGill University, University of Montréal and their affiliated institutions. In addition, Lumira Capital, a North American venture capital fund investing in companies focused on life sciences as well as medical devices and healthcare IT, will present four of its Quebec-based portfolio companies: Thrasos Therapeutics inc., enGene inc., OsteoQC inc. and Formation Biologics inc. These companies' activities underline the fundamental role played by Lumira Capital in the financing and the development of more mature technologies requiring larger financial support.

AmorChem and Lumira Capital thank their sponsors:



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. To that effect, AmorChem has established a strategic partnership with the Biotechnology Research Institute in order to access its R&D platforms. 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.

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ABOUT ROBIC

Founded in 1892, **ROBIC, LLP** is an internationally renowned firm of lawyers, patent and trade-mark agents specialized in Intellectual Property and Business Law. Headquartered in Montreal, ROBIC is a Canadian firm with more than 175 people including 23 partners and 45 professionals. We provide dynamic and entrepreneurial assistance and representation to clients in executing business transactions in addition to managing, protecting, enforcing and commercialising their intellectual capital.

ABOUT NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA

At National Bank, our clients are at the heart of our activities. National Bank Health is comprised of specialists devoted exclusively to the health care and life sciences industries. We are unwavering in our goals: to be recognized for the quality and effectiveness of our advisors, and for providing commercial financing solutions adapted to your industries.

With \$214 billion in assets as at January 31, 2015, National Bank of Canada (www.nbc.ca), together with its subsidiaries, forms one of Canada's leading integrated financial groups. The Bank has more than 20,000 employees and is widely recognized as a top employer. The Bank's securities are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: NA). Follow the Bank's activities via social media and learn more about its extensive community involvement at clearfacts.ca and commitment.nationalbank.ca

ABOUT MERCK

Today's Merck is working to help the world be well. Merck is a global health care leader with a diversified portfolio of prescription medicines, vaccines and animal health products. In Canada, Merck markets more than 250 pharmaceutical and animal health products. Merck is a leader in a broad range

of areas such as cardiology, infectious diseases, respiratory, vaccines and women's health, and is focused on expanding offerings in other areas, including virology, oncology and diabetes.

Based in Montréal, Québec, Merck employs approximately 975 people across Canada. The Merck Canada manufacturing facility in Québec has been designated by its parent company as a Centre of Excellence for the global production of liquids, ointments and creams. Merck is one of the top R&D investors in Canada, with investments totalling \$22.6 million in 2013 and more than \$1 billion since 2000. For more information about our operations in Canada, visit www.merck.ca

ABOUT THE FONDS DE SOLIDARITÉ FTQ

The Fonds de solidarité FTQ helps drive our economy. With net assets of \$10.5 billion as of November 30, 2014, the Fonds is a development capital fund that channels the savings of Quebecers into investments in all sectors of the economy to help create and maintain jobs and further Québec's development. The Fonds is a partner, either directly or through its network members, in more than 2,450 companies. With more than 600,000 shareholder-savers, the Fonds helps create, maintain and protect more than 172,000 jobs. For more information, visit www.FondsFTQ.com.

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.