

## Communiqué

### **Regenerative Medicine Alliance of Canada Welcomes the Appointment of Dr. Rod McInnes as Acting President of CIHR**

**April 3, 2017** - The Regenerative Medicine Alliance of Canada (RMAC) welcomes the announcement of Dr. Rod McInnes as Acting President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Dr. McInnes is a distinguished health researcher and world leading medical geneticist.

“On behalf of the stem cell and regenerative medicine research community, it is with pleasure that I congratulate Dr. McInnes on taking on this important role with CIHR,” said Dr. Michael Rudnicki, Interim Chair of RMAC. “He is well respected throughout the health research community for his commitment to collaboration and research excellence. I am confident that Rod will provide steady and positive leadership in the weeks and months to come,” added Dr. Rudnicki.

A new evidence based [report](#) by the Council of Canadian Academies found that Canada punches above its weight in regenerative medicine. If Canada is to continue to compete globally in fields such as regenerative medicine, CIHR must be equipped with the leadership, resources and outstanding processes that serve as the backbone for a robust health research enterprise. Dr. McInnes is well positioned to support CIHR in meeting these requirements.

Dr. McInnes is the Director of the Lady Davis Institute of the Jewish General Hospital at McGill University. He has furthered the understanding of the molecular basis of retinal and eye development, and to the identification of genes and processes associated with inherited retinal degenerations.

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**About the Regenerative Medicine Alliance of Canada:** RMAC is a voluntary organization comprised of national, provincial and regional organizations that are committed to building a robust regenerative medicine sector in Canada. All members have mandates relevant to stem cell research and/or regenerative medicine. The founding members

include: BC RegMed; CCRM; Canadian Stem Cell Foundation; the Centre for Drug Research and Development; CellCan; Medicine by Design; Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine; ThéCell; and Stem Cell Network. Regenerative Medicine is commonly described as the process of replacing, engineering or regenerating human cells, tissues or organs to establish or restore normal function.

### **About CCRM**

CCRM, a Canadian not-for-profit organization funded by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and leading academic and industry partners, supports the development of regenerative medicines and associated enabling technologies, with a specific focus on cell and gene therapy. A network of researchers, leading companies, strategic investors and entrepreneurs, CCRM aims to accelerate the translation of scientific discovery into marketable products for patients with specialized teams, funding, and infrastructure. CCRM is the commercialization partner of the Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the University of Toronto's Medicine by Design. CCRM is hosted by the University of Toronto. Visit us at [ccrm.ca](http://ccrm.ca)

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