

## PRESS RELEASE

Paris, July 20th 2022

### **An international agreement between France and Quebec to promote innovation in health**

The Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS) in Canada has signed an international cooperation agreement with the Health Data Hub aiming to jointly strengthen the access, use and valorisation of health data for research. This agreement starts with the launch on July 18th of a France-Quebec call for projects to support cutting-edge research in artificial intelligence (AI) applied to the health sector.

You have until September 30th to apply: find more information [here](#).

#### **An international cooperation agreement between the FRQS and the HDH that focuses on three objectives.**

The primary objective of this agreement is to federate and promote collaboration between the stakeholders in the data ecosystem around projects with a strong potential impact on the French and Quebec healthcare systems. On a broader level, this collaboration between France and Quebec also aims to promote training and knowledge sharing through support for the development of skills in the management and use of health data. Finally, it should maximise the results of research and innovation collaborations between Quebec and France through the dissemination of joint results.

#### **To mark the beginning of this collaboration, the two partners are launching a joint call for projects to identify innovative and mature projects led by Franco-Quebec teams.**

The selected projects will have to capitalise on the cutting-edge expertise in artificial intelligence applied to health in Quebec and France. The call for projects aims to provide a space for scientific excellence in AI and health, and thus encourage the mobilisation of data by French and Quebec scientists using innovative methods. These collaborations will lead to important scientific breakthroughs, in the short and medium term, by combining and building on the expertise and structural levers of both regions, as well as by promoting knowledge sharing.

Three main axes around the theme of AI and health have been identified to guide candidate projects, the first being the development of AI-based applications for professionals or patients. The second is the development of population models for prevention or therapy based on innovative data analysis techniques. Finally, the last axis focuses on the development of solutions demonstrating benefits for the treatment and care of patients.

Applications must be submitted no later than September 30th 2022 at 10:00 a.m. (French time) or 4:00 p.m. (Quebec time). A maximum of two projects will be selected and will benefit from joint funding for a period of 18 months as well as support from the HDH.

The call for projects, as a first step in this international collaboration, marks a step further towards joint achievements between France and Quebec in the development of AI research for health. The capacity for discovery and innovation in the health sector will be greatly enhanced by the pooling of different and complementary fields of expertise in AI and life sciences.

"The valorization of health data across countries and continents is more essential than ever to drive research and produce cutting-edge knowledge to serve our transforming health systems and societies. The international cooperation agreement between HDH and FRQS and the launch of our first program will facilitate the development of new research collaborations committed to the joint and responsible mobilization of health data." Carole Jabet, Scientific Director of the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS)

"It is through the sharing of knowledge between all the stakeholders in the ecosystem that we will achieve the best possible use of health data. To do this, initiating international cooperations like the one between FRQS and HDH is essential, and will help federate our two ecosystems." - Stéphanie Combes, director of the Health Data Hub

#### ABOUT THE HEALTH DATA HUB



The Health Data Hub is a public interest grouping created by the Law of July 24th, 2019 on the organisation and transformation of the healthcare system. It brings together 56 stakeholders, the vast majority from the public authorities (CNAM, CNRS, France Assos Santé...) and implements the major strategic directions relating to the National Health Data System set by the State and in particular the Ministry of Health and Prevention. It is a service for the health ecosystem, for the actors who collect data, for general interest projects and for civil society. In this sense, it promotes innovation in health and the accessibility of data and knowledge through, among other things, federating events such as the organisation of data challenges and calls for projects.

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#### ABOUT THE FONDS DE RECHERCHE DU QUÉBEC - SANTÉ

Fonds de recherche  
Santé

Québec 

The mission of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS) is:

- to promote and financially assist all health research, including basic, clinical, epidemiological, public health and health services research;

- to promote and support the dissemination and mobilisation of knowledge in the areas of health research;
- to promote and financially support the training of researchers through the awarding of scholarships for excellence to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, and through the awarding of fellowships to individuals who wish to re-enter the research arena;
- to establish all necessary partnerships, particularly with universities, colleges, health care institutions, ministries and public agencies concerned.

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