

PERSPECTIVE Project: Revolutionizing Breast Cancer Screening

Montreal, February 24th, 2025 – The Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation is proud to announce a groundbreaking innovation that marks a revolution in breast cancer screening and has the potential to save more lives: the PERSPECTIVE project. The innovative genetic analysis tool combines the results of a saliva sample and a questionnaire about well-known risk factors, making it possible, for the first time, to offer women a personalized risk assessment of developing breast cancer.

This breakthrough is particularly significant given that breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, affecting one in eight over the course of their lifetime. The next step for the project is obtaining regulatory approval, made possible through collaboration with Génome Québec.

Additional Factors to Consider for Effective Screening

In Quebec, access to breast cancer screening is currently based on a single criterion: age. The Quebec Breast Cancer Screening Program (PQDCS) is aimed at women who are between the ages of 50 and 74, inviting them to undergo a screening mammogram every two years. However, this approach assumes that all women within this age group share the same level of risk, which is inaccurate.

In reality, many other factors must be considered during risk assessment, including family history, breast density, hormone exposure, and body mass index. The PERSPECTIVE project aims to revolutionize this approach by incorporating these factors to create personalized risk profiles. This would enable earlier detection and potentially improve survival rates. Research has shown that screening can lower the risk of breast cancer mortality by 41%, highlighting the importance of a personalized, risk-based screening strategy.

A Petition to Provide a Risk-Based Screening for All Quebec Women

Nearly one in six breast cancer cases (16%) are diagnosed in women under the age of 50. In response, the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation (QBCF) is launching a petition to gather support for expanding the PERSPECTIVE project. This initiative aims to make the project accessible to the entire population of Quebec.

Integrating the PERSPECTIVE project into Quebec's screening process would bring significant benefits. For women, it would enable early detection, optimal treatment, reduced stress from over-screening, and fairer access to care. For the healthcare system, the project would optimize resources, lower costs, and improve quality of care.

To support this initiative and help bring this groundbreaking project to life, sign the petition here: stayabreast.ca

Quotes

"The Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation is proud to have been the first to financially support the PERSPECTIVE project, a groundbreaking advancement in the fight against breast cancer. Given that the

survival rate for a woman with cancer detected at stage 1 is 98%, this test has the potential to save lives and transform the quality of life for thousands of women, of all ages. This is a step towards a future where every woman has access to care tailored to her needs. We are committed to making this vision a reality and urge decision-makers to act swiftly."

- Karine-Iseult Ippersiel, President and CEO, Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation

"I am pleased to say that, along with my team, we have successfully developed this innovative project. By providing personalized breast cancer screening, we will be able to better identify women at risk and take timely action. It is incredibly rewarding to know that our work will have a meaningful impact on the lives of many women and their loved ones."

- Dr. Jacques Simard, University researcher and Vice-Dean of Research and Innovation, Faculty of Medicine, Laval University

"The rise of genomics is transforming our approach to cancer screening. With this initiative, we are applying knowledge from cutting-edge research to provide a personalized tool that will more effectively identify women at high risk. Génome Québec is proud to contribute to this advancement and is closely monitoring the next steps towards more preventive medicine for patients."

- Stephanie Lord-Fontaine, Vice President, Scientific Affairs at Génome Québec

About the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation

For over 30 years, the Quebec Breast Cancer Foundation (QBCF) has been dedicated to supporting those affected by breast cancer, along with their loved ones, through research and innovation, patient support services, and awareness initiatives. To date, the Foundation has raised over \$69 million, which has been invested across Quebec to fund cutting-edge research and advocate for the needs of breast cancer patients and their families.

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec's mission is to catalyze the development and excellence of genomics research and promote its integration and democratization. It is a pillar of the Québec bioeconomy and contributes to Québec's influence and its social and sustainable development. The funds invested by Génome Québec are provided by the ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et de l'Énergie du Québec (MEIE), the government of Canada, through Genome Canada, and private partners. To learn more, visit www.genomequebec.com.

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