

<u>NANOCANADA</u> JANICE WARKENTIN 780.498.6518 janice.warkentin@nanocanada.com

Investing in Canada's Nanomedicine Ecosystem

Discover the latest advances in Canada's development of genetic medicines and vaccines, plus explore opportunities to expand Canada's advanced manufacturing capacity.

March 16, 2021 – Edmonton, Alberta

NanoCanada and the NanoMedicines Innovation Network (NMIN) are pleased to host a virtual workshop exploring new market potential in Canada's nanomedicine ecosystem. Canada is a proven leader in nanomedicine and the current pandemic has demonstrated the ability of Canadian researchers and companies to quickly respond to global challenges and opportunities. Bringing together key stakeholders in Canada's nanomedicine ecosystem is vital to collectively identify and address current barriers to scale-up. This free online event features keynote presentations from Canadian leaders in nanomedicine, a panel discussion exploring the need to grow Canada's advanced manufacturing capacity, and a special funding announcement on growing the nanomedicine cluster in Canada.

"Initiatives like this workshop hosted by NanoCanada and the Nanomedicines Innovation Network are important steps towards enabling Western Canada's brilliant researchers and technology firms to scale-up and commercialize new ideas. Nanotechnology is an emerging strength for Alberta and Western Canada, and I'm proud that this initiative will contribute to our momentum in this cutting-edge field."

- The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages, and Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification Canada

"Thanks to the efforts of Canadian researchers in university and government labs, and the small and mediumsized biotech spin-off companies established to commercialize their results, Canada currently enjoys a comparative advantage and unique expertise in lipid nanoparticle (LNP) technology that enables mRNA-based therapeutics. Faced with the global COVID-19 pandemic, scientists in Canadian start-up companies and academia rapidly pivoted their efforts to develop and commercialize novel diagnostic and therapeutic nanomedicine-based approaches with global market potential. However, Canada still lacks a national strategy for developing and manufacturing vaccines and therapeutics in response to pandemics. This workshop is an opportunity to collectively take stock of current opportunities and barriers, and identify a path towards a national, multi-sectoral strategy to accelerate development of Canada's nanomedicines ecosystem. Nanomedicine approaches enable rapid, effective response capabilities to unmet medical needs and to national



and global public health emergencies. Facilitating expansion of Canada's nanomedicines ecosystem is a strategic initiative around which Canada's science and innovation community can unite." – Dr. Diana Royce, Executive Director, NanoMedicines Innovation Network

"NanoCanada is delighted to partner with NMIN on this exciting workshop. Convergence of materials, manufacturing, and biotechnologies is at the heart of a competitive positioning for Canadian industry to capture more of the global nanomedicine market. Clean technologies and processes are driving down the cost of drug and vaccine manufacturing, and Canada is at the forefront of this transformation. Key to growth will be investment by government into manufacturing facilities of materials for clinical trials and scale-up to commercial production. Our thanks go to Western Economic Diversification for supporting NanoCanada's workshop series and investing in Canada's nanotechnology and advanced materials ecosystem."

– Dr. Marie D'Iorio, President, NanoCanada

Registration for this workshop is free and available here.

Sign up for NanoCanada's newsletter to stay up to date on events and plans to further advance Canada's nanomedicine ecosystem. You can also find us on Twitter and LinkedIn.

-30-