

Canada's Research-Based
Pharmaceutical Companies



Les compagnies de recherche
pharmaceutique du Canada

Remarks

by

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Rx&D

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Thank you Wayne,

Today is a great day. I am delighted to be here.

I want to begin by thanking the staff, many volunteers and others who contributed to the success of this important event. I also want to thank everybody for participating today.

For me this meeting could not come soon enough. The decline in clinical trial activity over the past few years is a disconcerting problem that we must reverse if we want to remain a player in the life sciences at the global level.

I think everybody understands how important, robust clinical trials activity is for our patients, our communities, our hospitals and our research facilities.

Over the past four years, despite many strengths Canada has lost its competitive edge due in some part to inefficiencies and operational barriers, as well as the time and costs required to conduct clinical trials in our country.

“The negotiations between Canada and Europe on a new Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) are an important opportunity for Canada to become more internationally competitive by raising its IP standards.

Now it is time for all to move on and do better for Canada. Collectively, we must work together to put into place a more competitive environment. Our goal is to create more jobs and opportunities in Canada’s life sciences sector and provide life-saving medicines and vaccines that improve health outcomes and contribute to the sustainability of our health care system.

I know that we are ready to roll up our sleeves and tackle a problem that affects us all, and one that cannot be addressed without the full participation of all who are gathered here today.

I am proud to represent a sector that contributes so much to improving the quality of life of Canadians. Our members are involved in hundreds of cutting-edge projects to discover future medicines and vaccines. These researchers link up in centers of excellence from across the globe and collaborate on a research and development process that involves research,



development, pre-clinical and clinical phases with universities, hospitals and patients.

With 800 clinical trials in cancer alone currently taking place around the globe and an annual 100\$ billion invested each year, there is much opportunity; but we have to take action - and get it right - if we want to be active participants rather than spectators.

Today, we take a giant step in the right direction. I would like to thank our co-sponsors for this event, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) under the leadership of Dr. Alain Beaudet as well as the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations (ACAHO) headed by Glenn Brimacombe.

Under the visionary leadership of Dr. Beaudet, the CIHR has set the tone for partnership and collaboration: looking forward will play an even greater role. As Life Sciences get more sophisticated, strategic partnerships with hospitals, universities and research institutions as well as governments not only throughout Canada but also around the globe will become the norm rather than the exception.

ACAHO provides a valuable leadership role advancing the impacts of health research and innovation in the delivery of health care to all Canadians. Glenn and his team have done an excellent job eloquently describing our challenges, our opportunities and international domestic best practices as holders of the pen on the Backgrounder document that will guide today's discussions.

Before I yield the floor, I just want to make a few quick points.

First, our industry is committed to Canada. A KPMG study, concluded earlier this year, demonstrates that our member companies actually invest more in research than we previously thought with approximately 1.3 \$ billion. We want to invest more, because every dollar we invest strengthens our health care system, our research capacity and our communities.



Second, the challenge we have within our industry when it comes to attracting clinical trial investment is not competition between our companies, but competition **within** our companies **between** countries.

For instance, the CEOs of our member companies tell me that they must compete with their counterparts in Europe to have a clinical trial brought to Canada. This means Pfizer Canada must compete with Pfizer Europe.

Mr. Levesque, Pfizer Canada's CEO must make a difficult case with respect to access and patent protection here, where for instance, European Union countries provide more access to medicines and stronger Intellectual Property (IP).

No less important to their decision-making is the clinical trials environment. They will look at costs, regulatory efficiency, clinical trial infrastructure, health care systems and pool of patients - the very same issues we will discuss today.

Third, improving our competitive position is an on-going process. We have to keep moving, because other countries are thinking the same way we are, and doing what they can to make themselves more attractive to investors to reap the full value of clinical trials.

We've been able to make some progress in the past: for instance, we have been very successful with our agreement with the provinces and territories to streamline ethical reviews for clinical trials. Now we have to make another push.

Rx&D members are pleased to be part of the process to make Canada an even more attractive destination for clinical trials. We look forward to continuing to work with ACAHO, CIHR, the Federal and Provincial Governments, and all our other partners in the health and research community to help ensure that Canadian patients access the best medicines and vaccines when they need it.

I thank you all for attending. I am convinced that our work today will provide us with a new path outlining a pan-Canadian roadmap that will help restore Canada's position as a global leader in clinical trials.



Thank you, merci.

- 30 -