DRUG DEVELOPMENT AND AUTONOMY IN THE ESTRIE REGION

From Bench to Bedside

Expertise and technology converging in a collaborative environment to support the Life Sciences industry!
The Estrie Region: at the Intersection of Business and Research

AN INFORMED CHOICE

Economic Incentives
- Property tax credits
- Financial support
- Some of the lowest operating costs in the country

Services and Environment
- Support for business start-up and growth
- Economic development agencies at your service
- A dynamic business community operating in the Health, ICT, and Medical Technology Sectors

Human Resources and Training
- Qualified, specialized labour pool
- Largely bilingual labour force
- Two universities in the region (French and English)
- Co-op programs (internships)
- Captive population (clinical trials)
- CIUSSS de l’Estrie - CHUS (integrated university health and social services centre)

Location
- Proximity to the U.S. market
- Soft-landing program
- Affordable lots and buildings available

Institut de pharmacologie de Sherbrooke (IPS – Sherbrooke Pharmacology Institute)

A preferred partner in Québec for drug discovery and diagnostic research.

A culture of multidisciplinary research and the tremendous expertise of its team help IPS develop the products of university research into new drugs and diagnostic tools. Its many partners on the Université de Sherbrooke Health Campus (Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, CHUS Research Center) assist IPS in steering projects from the design of new molecules to the validation of new therapeutic and diagnostic targets, from the preclinical to the clinical stage. As its many active collaborations with the pharmaceutical industry attest (more than 15 companies in 2015), IPS is a key contributor to the development of future drugs and diagnostic tools.

usherbrooke.ca/ips
Estrie Businesses and Research Platforms at Your Service

Industries
The Université de Sherbrooke is a fertile ground for new businesses especially through its many entrepreneurship programs such as ACET (Accélérateur de création d'entreprises technologiques – accelerateur.ca), a technology-business accelerator program, and the opportunity to acquire experience in the field through co-op programs in which training is closely linked to industry.

usherbrouke.ca/pépremier-cycle/stages-coop

The Estrie region is the third-largest Life Sciences hub in Québec, home to a host of businesses, both highly specialized and diversified:
- Preclinical research
- Clinical research (phases I-IV)
- Medical Technologies
- Healthcare-specific software
- Drug development
- And much more!

Research
The Estrie region can accommodate bench to bedside research, including preclinical and clinical research stages, from the newborn to the elderly.

The Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Sherbrooke (CIUSSS de l’Estrie – CHUS – integrated university health and social services centre) serves some 500,000 residents and includes a University Genomics Institute, a Primary Health Care and Social Services University Institute, a University Hospital Centre, an affiliated Rehabilitation Centre, as well as two research centres: Centre de recherche du CHUS (CRCHUS – Research Centre) and Research Centre on Aging (CdRV).

The Université de Sherbrooke includes a Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, which is renowned for its 7 centres of excellence in diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular complications; mother and child health; pharmacology and structural biology; RNA biology; inflammation and cancer; molecular imaging; and neuroscience. These centres focus on 5 research themes, which are based on 3 scientific pillars (illustrated below).

CHARLES RIVER: at Home in Estrie!

“Our intention was to expand our Montréal operations within the Province of Québec. The site selection process reviewed many assets offered across numerous locations in the Province. Sherbrooke was ultimately selected because of its wealth of expertise in the life sciences domain and most particularly the availability of highly trained technical and scientific talent. Local and regional government efforts also significantly facilitated our transition to Sherbrooke, and we continue to enjoy thriving partnerships within the region.”

MICHAEL BROADHURST, SITE DIRECTOR, SHERBROOKE | CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES | CRIVER.COM
Drug development is one of the major strengths of the Estrie region, closely followed by areas related to maintaining autonomy. Here, autonomy does not relate solely to seniors, but includes anyone affected by an illness or accident who needs medication or technology to improve their quality of life.
Institut de pharmacologie de Sherbrooke (IPS – Sherbrooke Pharmacology Institute)

IPS is dedicated to the study of the actions of drugs and their targets. Work done at the Institute integrates concepts from such disciplines as pharmacology, physiology, chemistry, imaging, and engineering, applying them to the validation of new diagnostic or therapeutic targets, the discovery of new drugs and diagnostic tools, and the development of innovative technologies in these fields.

IPS’s primary goals are:

- **Isolating new molecular and cellular mechanisms** driving human pathologies
- **Discovering new bioactive molecules** with the diagnostic or therapeutic potential to act on these mechanisms
- **Accompanying scientists in the creation of value and industrial collaboration**

Some of the medical fields in which IPS research is conducted include cardiovascular, respiratory, and inflammatory diseases; cancer; infectious diseases; and pain.

SAGE-Innovation

SAGE-Innovation is a not-for-profit organization of regional health-care stakeholders, including healthcare, educational and training institutions, community organizations and private-sector companies. It is an umbrella organization for the pooling of ideas and resources through value-added services, projects and activities for its members.

With the ACCORD project (regional development cooperation – Québec’s Ministry of economy, innovation, and export) as its inspiration, SAGE-Innovation is a health, autonomy, and gerontechnology cluster in the Estrie region dedicated to ensuring that the population remains active and independent for as long as possible. Through joint action, its membership aims to enhance quality of life so people can live longer and happier lives through the development of adaptive products and services.

SAGE-Innovation is both an economic development initiative centred on supporting overall autonomy and a gerontology hub that pools the strengths and expertise related to this axis.

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Sage-Innovation also offers a **soft-landing program** for foreign companies interested in exploring the North American market. The program includes support as well as free or discounted space and services.

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Sherbrooke Innopole

Sherbrooke Innopole is the economic development organization for the City of Sherbrooke. Its mission is to support the City’s economic transition, with an emphasis on innovation and the development of five key sectors, one of which is Life Sciences.

Sherbrooke, the central municipality in the Estrie region, is home to a number of companies in the expanding Life Sciences sector. Sherbrooke Innopole offers the following services:

- **Support** for businesses at every stage in their development
- **Access to investment funds**
- **Access to an international business network**
- **A business mentoring program**
- **Link with regional partners, including an innovative business accelerator/incubator (space and services)**

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