



March 11, 2022

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos  
Minister of Health  
Health Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Duclos,

On behalf of **Research Canada: An Alliance for Health Discovery**, we wish to offer our sincere thanks to you for your service to the health and wellbeing of Canadians in your role as Minister of Health and Member of Parliament for Québec. We would also like to sincerely thank you and the Government of Canada for your ongoing efforts to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you know, the COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced Canadians' recognition of the importance of health research and innovation to our health and economic security, and according to the Report from our Expert Advisory Panel Report convened in 2021, [Invigorating the Biopharmaceutical Sector's Contribution to Canada's Health Research and Innovation Ecosystem](#), it has presented a unique opportunity to strengthen the cross-sector partnerships that are critical to unlocking the potential of Canada's health research and innovation ecosystem. A thriving health research and innovation ecosystem requires a balanced approach to policy that supports and encourages cross-sector partnerships and recognizes the need for novel approaches to partnership in light of a changing biomedical innovation landscape.

The Report emphasizes that the biopharmaceutical industry—just one stakeholder among many—plays a unique and irreplaceable role in a functional health research and innovation ecosystem. In order to safeguard the critical partnerships industry brings to the health research and innovation ecosystem, Canada needs a balanced policy environment that encourages these partnerships. Canada's health research and innovation ecosystem will succeed only if we plan and act as an integrated community of partners focused on a common future.

COVID-19 has showcased the strength of Canada's health research and innovation ecosystem and the vital role it will play as our nation seeks to restart—and grow—our economy. We must not forget the role of industry within the health research and innovation ecosystem, and the importance of supporting and encouraging cross-sector partnerships among all the stakeholders

**Research Canada: An Alliance for Health Discovery**

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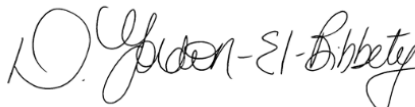
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within the ecosystem. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Government of Canada to ensure Canada's post-COVID recovery and our future health security, social wellbeing and economic prosperity.

Sincerely,



Rose Goldstein, MD  
Chair



Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety  
President and CEO