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STATUTES OF THE RÉSEAU QUÉBÉCOIS EN REPRODUCTION

(The masculine gender was used to facilitate reading and has no discriminatory intent)

1. NAMING OF THE NETWORK

The present statutes govern the activities and operation of an FRQNT strategic cluster, the Réseau Québécois en Reproduction, hereafter referred to as the "RQR".

2. UNIVERSITY AFFILIATION

The RQR is affiliated with the university that manages the FRQNT "Strategic Cluster" grant, which finances the network's activities. The managing institution may change according to terms defined in the grant application (if applicable), by decision of the network management team, or during the renewal process of the grant. The head of the RQR as concerns the FRQNT (hereafter called "Director of the RQR") is not necessarily affiliated with the institution that manages the grant.

3. OBJECTIVES

The RQR amalgamates a large group of high performing scientists with complementary interests and skills to address five specific goals:

1. To integrate and strengthen innovative multidisciplinary, multi-institutional reproductive biology research in Quebec by increasing collaboration and interaction.
2. To incorporate novel concepts and approaches to address three priority areas of high fundamental and practical significance in reproductive biology: reproductive efficiency in livestock species, the impact of the environment on reproductive health and development, and the development of genome editing technologies.
3. To consolidate and strengthen unique core and common facilities in support of cutting-edge research in reproductive biology.
4. To create a superior and sustainable research training and mentoring environment to educate the next generation of biomedical scientists in reproductive and developmental biology.
5. To transfer knowledge and technology in reproductive biology from the network laboratories to the public and to industrial, veterinary medical, and governmental end-users.

4. MEMBERS

The RQR includes the following categories of members:

4.1. Regular member:

A regular member is a professor from a Quebec university who makes a significant contribution to the advancement of the scientific and training programs of the RQR. Regular members must hold extramural, peer-reviewed funds (as the designated Principal Investigator) to conduct research that is directly related to one or more of the RQR research axes. A grace period may be offered to a regular member who has lost funding and is actively seeking new funding, or to a newly hired faculty member who has not yet obtained funding.

Regular members have full voting rights and have access to all activities, including bursary and grant programs, offered by the RQR. They are expected to participate in RQR meetings and events, committees, and training activities. They are required to update their profiles on the RQR website upon request, and to provide all information required for purposes of FRQNT funding maintenance and renewal. Regular members are expected to acknowledge RQR membership and funding in publications and presentations.

4.2. Collaborator:

A collaborator is a non-trainee scientist with an interest in reproductive biology who does not meet all the criteria for membership as a regular member. Collaborators include:

University collaborators; faculty members of Quebec universities who conduct reproductive biology research in a field unrelated (or only peripherally related) to the axes of the RQR, or who are not currently funded. This category can also include faculty members of Quebec universities who conduct research in fields relevant to RQR interests (e.g., developmental biology, toxicology, bioinformatics, ethics) and/or who collaborate with regular members.

Governmental collaborators; investigators employed by provincial or federal government research agencies and who conduct reproductive biology research.

Industrial collaborators; scientists employed in the private sector whose involvement in RQR activities is deemed to be of mutual benefit.

Outside Quebec collaborators; faculty members of universities outside of Quebec who conduct reproductive biology research in collaboration with RQR members. These are typically named co-investigators on multi-center grants lead by an RQR regular member.

All collaborators are non-voting members of the RQR. They have access to all RQR activities, and are encouraged to participate in meetings, events, committees, and training activities. University, government, and industry collaborators also have access to RQR bursary and grant programs, but may have a lower priority for funding in competitions

specifically targeted to regular members. All collaborators are encouraged to maintain a profile on the RQR website, but are not required to do so.

5. DIRECTORSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF RQR ACTIVITIES

The directorship and management structures of the RQR are defined in the grant application. These can be modified by decision of the network management team or during the grant renewal process.

The Director of the RQR is responsible for the network and is named at the time of the submission of the grant application. The Director's powers, responsibilities, and term length are defined in the application. If the length the Director's term is shorter than the duration of the grant (or if the Director does not complete his term), a succession procedure may be specified in the grant application. If no such procedure is specified, a nomination process will be undertaken and the new Director will be elected by vote by the regular members.

The nomination of a successor to the Director will take place before the end of the grant period. A nomination process will be undertaken and the new Director will then elected by vote by the regular members. This procedure must be completed at least 12 months before the end of the current funding period. The Director-Elect will then be responsible for leading the grant renewal process. The latter will then assume the role of Director if and when the renewal of the grant is successful.

6. RQR MEMBERSHIP PROCESS

A researcher interested in joining the RQR must submit the following documents to the Director:

1. his *curriculum vitae*;
2. a cover letter

For a researcher wishing to obtain the status of regular member, the cover letter must explain the link between his funded research and the scientific program of at least one of the RQR research axes.

The researcher's application will be evaluated by the RQR committee responsible for membership. This committee determines whether the researcher meets the criteria for becoming a regular member or collaborator (as defined in sections 4.1 and 4.2) and, if all criteria are met, accepts the applicant. A researcher applying for regular membership status but who is deemed ineligible may be offered collaborator status if he meets the criteria for that designation.

7. APPROVAL AND AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

The Executive Committee of the RQR approves the present statutes on its own initiative. The Executive Committee is the RQR committee with the power to propose amendments to the

statutes. This committee may change by decision of the Executive Committee, or during the renewal process. Any proposed amendments to the statutes must be approved by the regular members by a 2/3 majority vote.

8. ENACTION

The current statutes come into effect on the day of their adoption by the Executive Committee.

Updated on January 2021, by the RQR Executive Committee.