



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Economic Development Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 3, 2019
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Synapse Life Science Consortium Request for Funding - 2019 (PED19057) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Norm Schleeahn (905) 546-2424 Ext. 2669 Carolynn Reid (905) 546-2424 Ext. 4381
SUBMITTED BY:	Glen Norton Director, Economic Development Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) That the \$25 K funding request by Synapse Life Sciences Consortium of the City of Hamilton's 2019 annual community partnership contribution be approved;
- (b) That this \$25 K annual contribution for the Synapse Life Sciences Consortium be conditional on the Council established annual Key Performance Indicators as contained in this Report;
- (c) That this annual \$25 K contribution for the Synapse Life Sciences Consortium be funded from the Economic Development Investment Reserve Account No. 112221;
- (d) That City staff, together with the Synapse Life Sciences Consortium, report back to City Council with an annual review of the Municipal Funding Program prior to the approval of a renewal option for 2020 and satisfactory Key Performance Indicator results of the previous year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canada has a number of cluster-based organizations supporting life sciences. Most are member organizations concentrating on networking, branding and promotion. The Synapse Life Science Consortium was established to be an impartial champion and

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advocate for Hamilton's strong life sciences cluster. The following identifies some of Hamilton's assets:

- \$5 B healthcare spend;
- Most research-intensive university in Canada;
- Most research-intensive college in Canada;
- Ontario's second-largest hospital network;
- 30,000+ people employed in hospitals, academic institutions and private sector businesses in the region;
- 2,500+ researchers;
- \$460 M+ annual research budget; and,
- More than 40 world-class research institutes and centers focused on life sciences.

Representing Hamilton's leading institutions McMaster University, Mohawk College, McMaster Innovation Park, Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare, Bay Area Health Trust and Innovation Factory, the Consortium's goal is to leverage our collective strengths in an effort to drive commercialization and investment.

Three strategic pillars have been established as core drivers:

1. Communicate successes and impact of the life science cluster to raise visibility and reach of the consortium both within the region and beyond;
2. Collaborate with key partners and stakeholders to foster a more dynamic and cooperative ecosystem for life science innovation and commercialization; and,
3. Accelerate efforts to attract and secure life science companies and investment.

The City of Hamilton's Economic Development Action Plan 2016-2020 has identified life sciences as a key sector for growth. Together with our community stakeholders, the Synapse Life Science Consortium is intent on supporting Hamilton's economic diversification and growth through the attraction of private sector investment, partnerships and the commercialization of innovation to enable the creation of new enterprises and scaling up of existing operations.

The Synapse Life Sciences Consortium is requesting a partnership contribution of \$25 K which can be funded through the Economic Development Investment Reserve.

Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 6

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The request can be accommodated through the Economic Development Investment Reserve Account No. 112221 with no impact on the Levy.

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Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At its meeting of December 7, 2016, the General Issues Committee (GIC) approved Report PED16216(a) and Hamilton's Economic Development Action Plan 2016-2020.

This City-wide document is an action-oriented plan with clear alignment to the City's Strategic Plan. Hamilton is currently ranked as the most diversified economy in Canada – a testament to the efforts of Hamilton's business community and institutions. The Action Plan identifies areas of focus and key industry sectors to concentrate resources on to maximize economic benefits for the City.

The City of Hamilton is the home of an intellectual and physical environment for a thriving life sciences cluster that connects researchers, businesses, healthcare providers and education. Hamilton is globally recognized for its research intensity and for its biotechnology strengths in the health sector including drug discovery and validation, gene therapy and clinical trials. Research in these areas is producing lifesaving drugs and vaccines, medical devices, and solutions to current health issues that are making a major impact on a wide variety of health issues globally. With a focus on the commercialization of research and development, Hamilton is poised for growth in the knowledge-based cluster and industry sector.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Synapse Life Sciences Consortium has been created to bring together key stakeholders and partners in Hamilton's life science ecosystem to facilitate efforts and bridge collaborative research and commercialization success. McMaster University, its academic health science centre partners with Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, and Mohawk College together form an integrated and nimble engine for research that has placed Hamilton at the forefront of life sciences development for more than 50 years. Together with McMaster Innovation Park, Bay Area Health Trust and Innovation Factory, collaboration between these organizations unifies a diverse range of expertise, creating a unique platform for life sciences development unlike any other in Canada. (Appendix "A" to Report PED19057–Synapse Life Science Consortium Profile).

In the Consortium's initial year, efforts were focused on initiatives designed to promote Hamilton's life science ecosystem, with the goal of promoting the commercialization of

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health innovation across the region. The following activities and results were achieved in 2018:

- 302 curated introductory collisions, connecting 662 innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers, clinicians and investors;
- Hosted 11 monthly health community check-ins attended by over 300 innovators, entrepreneurs, researchers and clinicians;
- Organized more than 20 curated site visits into Hamilton;
- Launched and facilitated the 2018 Hamilton Health Innovation Week with 19 concurrent events occurring in April 2018 with over 1,000 in attendance;
- Delegation of 22 representatives from the Consortium attended the BIO International Conference in Boston conducting over 100 B2B meetings, hosting a round table meeting with senior investment staff of the Ontario government, hosting a joint reception with McMaster University alumni and the Consortium recognized during the Ontario luncheon as an example of a municipality focused on driving investment in life sciences; and,
- Secured over \$700 K for Hamilton companies as part of Health Ecosphere (FedDev Program).

The Synapse Life Science Consortium has shown to be an impartial advocate and champion for the Hamilton Life Sciences Cluster, acting as a concierge to promote and facilitate initiatives that leverage public and private resources to commercialize innovation and attract investment. Consequently, the founding Consortium partners have agreed to support the advancement of the Consortium annually as follows:

Organizations with more than 100 employees \$25 K/each:

- McMaster University;
- Mohawk College;
- Hamilton Health Sciences;
- St. Joseph's Healthcare; and,
- City of Hamilton (subject to Council approval).

Organizations less than 100 employees \$10 K/each:

- Bay Area Health Trust; and,
- McMaster Innovation Park.

Cash and in-kind support:

- Innovation Factory.

Representatives of all founding Consortium partners form the Consortium Board. Dr. Ted Scott, Vice President Research and Chief Innovation Officer is the Chair of the

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Consortium board with Dr Gay Yuyitung, Executive Director McMaster University Industry Liaison Office serving as Vice Chair,Carolynn Reid, Business Development Consultant, City of Hamilton’s Economic Development Department serving as Secretary/Treasurer and Alex Muggah as the Consortium Director.

Going forward, the following Key Performance Indicators have been established to support the Synapse Life Science Consortium’s annual funding request:

Create and cultivate an inclusive business driven ecosystem:

- Number of Synapse Life Science Consortium meetings held annually;
- Number of industry related theme events hosted/supported annually;
- Number of attendees participating in Consortium meetings and events annually; and,
- Number of collisions or connections created annually.

Enhance global and regional cluster connectivity:

- Number of new Synapse Life Sciences Consortium stakeholders and champions identified;
- number of marketing initiatives; and,
- number of partnerships initiated with international life sciences clusters and organizations.

City of Hamilton life sciences sector growth and attraction:

- Number of new life sciences business investment leads;
- Number of company visits;
- Number of life sciences start-ups and SMEs supported and connected; and,
- Number of funding and grant applications pursued.

The City of Hamilton has long been criticized for the lack of required infrastructure necessary for the development and growth on an innovation-based economy. Further, Hamilton has consistently been in the shadow of the greater Toronto area when talent and investment are looking to collaborate and commercialize in life sciences cluster development. The work of the Synapse Life Sciences Consortium is in alignment with the 2016-2020 Economic Development Action Plan, particularly the goal to have “entrepreneurial individuals, organizations and companies experience Hamilton as a place where innovative ideas and entrepreneurial people thrive”.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Synapse Life Sciences Consortium partners:

- Hamilton Health Sciences;
- St Joseph's Healthcare;
- Bay Area Health Trust;
- McMaster University;
- Mohawk College;
- McMaster Innovation Park;
- Innovation Factory;
- Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario)/Government of Canada;
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade/Province of Ontario Life Sciences Ontario;
- Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization;
- Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario; and,
- Jacobs Institute (Buffalo NY).

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION

Provision of a reduced community partnership contribution by the City of Hamilton or eliminate the annual contribution. Either option would require the Synapse Life Sciences Consortium to scale back efforts to create an ecosystem to attract investment and develop a collaborative hub to drive global health innovation. The result would most certainly have an impact on meeting their current Key Performance Indicators and literally handicap Ontario's leading regional cluster initiative supporting life science growth and development.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Economic Prosperity and Growth

Hamilton has a prosperous and diverse local economy where people have opportunities to grow and develop.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix A–Synapse Life Science Consortium Profile

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