



August 4, 2020

Norm Schleeahn
Director
Economic Development Department
City of Hamilton

Dear Norm,

By way of this letter, I would like to extend my appreciation for the continued participation of **The City of Hamilton** in the Hamilton Synapse Life Sciences Consortium. Your commitment and effort in support of a shared vision for the Hamilton life sciences ecosystem is critical to ensuring the success and sustainability of our vibrant cluster.

As you know, the Synapse Consortium is a partnership of public and private anchor institutions in the Hamilton region which together employ 25,000 people and invest almost \$500 million in innovation research and development each year. A neutral advocate and concierge for the entire Hamilton life sciences community, Synapse seeks to raise the profile of the Hamilton cluster, facilitate the commercialization of innovation, attract new partnerships and investment, and open national and global export markets.

The Consortium is guided by the following vision and mandate, which was articulated and agreed upon at the September 23, 2016 meeting of the founding members of the Synapse Consortium:

Synapse Vision: A collaborative hub to drive global health innovation

Synapse Mission: To create an ecosystem to attract investment and develop health innovation for global export

As a Partner of the Consortium, **The City of Hamilton** will have the opportunity to provide strategic oversight and guidance to the activities and initiatives of the Synapse team. In addition to overseeing and managing the activities of the Director, our Partners set the Consortium's strategic objectives and key performance indicators.

As a Partner with more than 100 employees, **The City of Hamilton** is being asked to make an annual cash contribution of \$10,000 in support of the Synapse Consortium for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (August 1, 2020 through July 31, 2021). Partners have previously committed to making a three (3) year commitment to ensure the sustainability and continuity of the Synapse Consortium. It is understood that an ongoing commitment to the Consortium is subject to an annual review of Synapse's operational and financial performance.

The mandate of the Synapse Consortium will be held by Innovation Factory, which will collect Partner contributions that will be used to pay Consortium expenses. As a non-profit, and Hamilton's Regional



Innovation Centre, Innovation Factory will maintain separate accounting lines to track contributions and payments made in support of the Synapse Consortium. Innovation Factory will provide audited financial records, as required, to verify that Partner contributions have been used solely for Synapse operations. Contributions to the Synapse Consortium are separate and distinct from any ongoing financial relationship and/or sponsorship your institution may have with Innovation Factory, including the annual Synapse Showcase Competition.

The founding Partners of the Consortium include:

- Bay Area Health Trust
- City of Hamilton
- Hamilton Health Sciences
- Innovation Factory
- McMaster University
- McMaster Innovation Park
- Mohawk University
- St. Joseph's Hospital, Hamilton

Additional stakeholders, including private sector companies, will be asked to join the consortium to ensure their unique perspectives and insights are incorporated in setting the strategic direction of the cluster.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ty Shattuck (Chair, Synapse Consortium) or Alex Muggah (Director, Synapse Consortium).

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Muggah" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Muggah

Director, Synapse Life Sciences Consortium

cc:

Ty Shattuck, Chair, Synapse Consortium and CEO, McMaster Innovation Park;
David Carter, Executive Director, Innovation Factory