



### **The CCRM Foundation partners with Visions of Science to support underserved Toronto youth in STEM**

November 28, 2023 (Toronto, ON) – CCRM and the private foundation it has established – The CCRM Foundation – have partnered with Visions of Science to support under-represented, racialized youth from low-income communities in the Greater Toronto Area with new and increased opportunities for access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education. The commitment is for a three-year partnership that includes a CA\$75,000 donation and programming support.

Seed funding from CCRM, a leader in developing and commercializing regenerative medicine-based technologies and cell and gene therapies, has financed the start-up phase of The CCRM Foundation, and this is the first initiative that it will support. Visions of Science was selected for its track record of excellent work in the community and for its alignment with The CCRM Foundation's efforts to support education and training.

"I am thrilled that The CCRM Foundation has announced its first long-term partnership with Visions of Science," says Michael May, PhD, President and CEO of CCRM, and Chair of the Board of The CCRM Foundation. "Our commitment is to enhance the accessibility of science education to support underserved youth through high-impact philanthropic investments. This partnership will expose young people to regenerative medicine, sparking their interest in pursuing further education and careers in the sector, adding to the talent pipeline. Ultimately, the goal is to create pathways to life-changing outcomes for those who face significant barriers in pursuing a STEM education."

Through this partnership, The CCRM Foundation will provide annual financial support for the next three years to build robust, engaging and strategic volunteer frameworks. The staff of CCRM and its subsidiary, OmniaBio Inc., will help to create meaningful experiences for the youth that Visions of Science serves.

"Visions of Science is proud to be launching a partnership with The CCRM Foundation that will support a pathway of STEM learning and opportunities for Black and racialized youth from low-income communities," explains Dr. Eugenia Duodu Addy, CEO, Visions of Science. "This will contribute to life-changing outcomes for youth and their communities, and promote a STEM future that is more innovative, sustainable, and ultimately more equitable for all."

Visions of Science takes a proactive approach by engaging youth at critical stages of development and facilitating year-round STEM learning opportunities to strengthen support networks and ensure equitable STEM education and academic and career pathways.

### **About The CCRM Foundation**

The CCRM Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* and a Canadian registered charity. The CCRM Foundation is focused on advancing education, conducting research and promoting health in the field of advanced therapies (regenerative medicine and cell and gene therapies). The CCRM Foundation seeks philanthropic support from individuals, corporations and foundations to enable its activities. It will work closely with the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM), a not-for-profit organization based in Toronto, Canada, and institutional, academic and other not-for-profits to identify and implement innovative opportunities through critical, but underfunded, stages of development. The CCRM Foundation will maintain the highest standards of transparency and practices.

### **About CCRM**

CCRM is a global, public-private partnership headquartered in Canada. It receives funding from the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and leading academic and industry partners. CCRM supports the development of regenerative medicines and associated enabling technologies, with a specific focus on cell and gene therapy. A network of researchers, leading companies, investors and entrepreneurs, CCRM accelerates the translation of scientific discovery into new companies and marketable products for patients with specialized teams, dedicated funding and unique infrastructure. In 2022, CCRM established [OmniaBio Inc.](#), a commercial-stage CDMO for manufacturing cell and gene therapies. CCRM is the commercialization partner of the University of Toronto's Medicine by Design. CCRM is hosted by the University of Toronto. Visit us at [ccrm.ca](http://ccrm.ca).

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### **For further information, please contact:**

Stacey Johnson

[stacey.johnson@ccrm.ca](mailto:stacey.johnson@ccrm.ca)

[1-647-309-1830](tel:1-647-309-1830)