

## Welkom ReGen Biomedial, Gouvernement aan de Maas, 21 september 2023

Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests,

Good morning,

Before you get inspired by a great program and network event this afternoon, let me briefly address you. As chief resident of this house.

Welcome to the government building of the Province of Limburg. Or: the Gouvernement aan de Maas, as we like to call it. A building where, 30 years ago, history was made. The birthplace of the Maastricht Treaty of 1992. A treaty that is the foundation of the modern Europe we all know, today. A treaty, that – since the signing, back then, by the leaders of Europe – has not lost much of its relevance.

In a time where the borders of our European Union face unprecedented threats, working together – as a team – is of the utmost importance and urgency. A team is what I also see, right in front of me, today.

Limburg, the province that I am governor of, is surrounded by borders. Our inhabitants live closer to Belgium and Germany than to the rest of The Netherlands, almost like a Dutch island in the **heart** of Europe. This **physical location** forces us, invites us to ignore these borders as much as we can.

That is where **you**, professionals in the biomedical ecosystem, and **we**, the people of Limburg, find common ground. Borders, limits and restraints do not confine us. On the contrary, they challenge us to think way outside the box and find creative solutions for the problems of the future.

Regenerative medicine is one of the most groundbreaking and **boundless** developments in medicine. It stimulates and uses the body's healing powers to repair diseased tissue and organs. It strengthens the economy, is good for patients and important for society.

It provides healing instead of long-term care for the chronically ill. From an economic perspective, it is an emerging and rapidly growing industry, catering to large, international markets.

Innovation with economic spinoff. Daily business for our 4 Brightlands campuses. 30.000 students, researchers and other Brightlands optimists firmly believe that our world can be a much better place.

Firmly believe that we should make chemistry circular, health more personal, food healthier, and data safer and more human.

By combining knowledge and expertise and working together in a smarter manner, these four innovation campuses in Limburg prove - **every day** - that there is another way.

Our Brightlands Maastricht Health Campus is the birthplace of Regen Biomedical and a direct, successful result of the National Growth Fund project, RegMed XB. A project that is unique in Europe. Nowhere else is a regenerative medicine ecosystem being established on this scale. As a result, there is considerable interest from other continents in this development.

Dear guests. You have come to the right place. Regenerative medicine in general - Regen Biomedical in particular - and Limburg are a match made in heaven. Let's continue to set the course of innovative medicine together.

**Thank you for being here today. I wish you all a very inspiring day.**