Medicago’s Board of Directors asked company CEO Andy Sheldon to explore new business opportunities for Medicago.

To devote himself effectively and fully to this assignment, Andy requested to be discharged from Medicago current operations and to leave his position as President and Chief Executive Officer while continuing to act as special adviser to the new President, Dr. Bruce Clark, as well as advisor to the Board of Directors and to the shareholders and as government affairs advisor for Medicago.

Since his arrival at Medicago in 2004, Andy has helped it grow from an emerging biotechnology company to a global leader in the production of vaccines and antibodies using plant-based technology.

Under his govern, Medicago went from being a privately owned and subsidized company in 2004 to a public company in 2006. He was instrumental in helping the company raise over $200 million over the years as a public company, including a funding grant from the US Department of Defense to establish a state-of-the-art plant-based manufacturing facility in North Carolina in 2011.

With 30 years of experience in the life sciences industry, Andy has always been passionate about making a major difference for worldwide human health. Among his contributions, before joining Medicago, he led negotiations for the first contract with the federal and provincial governments to protect the Canadian population against an influenza pandemic.

Since joining Medicago, he has built a strong executive management team and forged numerous partnerships with government organizations and pharmaceutical companies. Medicago is currently preparing for Phase III clinical trials for its quadrivalent influenza vaccine to be produced with Medicago exclusive technology. The company was also recently awarded two contracts to develop Ebola antibodies for the US and Canadian governments.

Medicago series of successful new products and promising developments under Andy’s leadership attracted the attention of Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma, which became Medicago majority shareholder in 2013. This acquisition is allowing the company to become a leader in the world biologics market. Under his leadership, Medicago is now one of the largest biotech companies in Canada with more than 300 employees, 200 in Canada and 100 in the USA.

Andy was named CEO of the Year at the 2012 World Vaccine Congress’ Vaccine Industry Excellence Awards and in 2014 received BIOTECanada Canadian Gold Leaf Game Changing Award as well as the “Rayonnement Hors Québec” Award from the Quebec City Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his work to raise the region’s international profile. In 2015, Medicago received the High Technology Award and Innovation Award from the Quebec City and Montreal chambers of commerce.

In May 2015, Medicago CEO Andy Sheldon, in the presence of the Quebec Prime Minister, five other Ministers and National Assembly members, and the Mayor of Quebec City, announced a $245 million investment in the expansion of Medicago vaccine manufacturing facility in Quebec.

For all his work and his important contribution to making Quebec City a recognized center of biotechnology, Laval University has granted Andy title of “Grand Diplômé de L’Université Laval” in 2017.