



## Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Monthly Newsletter

# IMHA - *On the Move!*



Dr. Phillip Gardiner,  
Interim Scientific Director

On February 29, 2012, we look forward to hosting a Café Scientifique entitled *A burning question: Inflammation in chronic disease*. This Cafe is in partnership with the Cochrane Collaboration and will take place in Ottawa with support from CIHR's communications team. Our expert panel will include Dr. Marc Pouliot, Professor of Microbiology-Infectiology & Immunology at Laval University; Mrs. Anne Lyddiatt, Consumer Representative with the Cochrane Collaboration; and Dr. Peter Tugwell, Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and Rheumatologist at the Ottawa Hospital. Moderated by yours truly, this cafe will address the important health issue of chronic inflammation, publicize the significant work being done by the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre, and provide a forum for discussion around the CIHR Inflammation in Chronic Disease Signature Initiative.

In funding news, IMHA is supporting the Personalized Medicine Signature Initiative through a multi-year, \$ 2.5M investment. This funding opportunity is a part of a \$ 40M partnership between Genome Canada, CIHR and other Institutes. Please see page 3 for

details on this partnership, and page 4 for other funding opportunities.

As arthritis is one of the 6 IMHA focus areas, here is a quick update from the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC) whose goal is to improve the lives of Canadians with arthritis.

The AAC has been hard at work to create a National Framework that considers solutions for Canadians living with arthritis. One of the pillars of the National framework is research, which aims to prioritize investments in arthritis research, to advance knowledge and awareness around arthritis prevention and care. As a government affiliate of the Arthritis Alliance of Canada (AAC), IMHA is an active member of the AAC Research Working Committee which is expected to take responsibility in finalizing the *research aspect* of the National Framework that will facilitate how the recommendations are developed to approach government and other funding stakeholders for investments related to arthritis research. This National Framework will certainly play a role in determining priority areas in arthritis research and help us as we develop IMHA's next strategic plan.

Planning for the IMHA Young Investigator (YI) forum which will be held June 10-12, 2012 at the Kingbridge Conference Centre in Toronto is well underway. Participation in this meeting will be **by-invitation-only**, however, if you know an outstanding YI we would be happy to receive nominations which can be sent to Tanya Gallant at [IMHA@cihr-irsc.ca](mailto:IMHA@cihr-irsc.ca).

As always, IMHA welcomes your comments and questions. Please feel free to contact us at [imha.iala.cihr.irsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:imha.iala.cihr.irsc@utoronto.ca).

Phillip Gardiner PhD,  
Interim Scientific Director  
Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

## Contact Us

CIHR - Institute of Musculoskeletal  
Health and Arthritis  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto  
The Banting Institute,  
100 College St., Room 207B,  
Toronto, ON, M5G 1L5  
Tel: 416-946-7243  
Email: [IMHA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:IMHA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)  
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# Upcoming IMHA Events



## Young Investigator Forum

IMHA will host a Young Investigators (YI) forum June 10-12, 2012 at the Kingbridge Conference Centre located just outside of Toronto. IMHA recognizes the value of bringing YIs together to network with one another and to take part in learning sessions. Several other Institutes hold regular YI meetings and have received positive feedback from their research communities. Our learning sessions will cover various topics including

grant writing, giving effective presentations, and understanding the CIHR peer review process. Participation in this meeting will be **by-invitation-only**; however, if you know an outstanding YI we would be happy to receive nominations which can be sent to Tanya Gallant at [IMHA@cihr-irsc.ca](mailto:IMHA@cihr-irsc.ca). Please visit our forum website at [www.YI2012.ca](http://www.YI2012.ca).

## Café Scientifique

Science on tap  
Quench your interest

CIHR CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

## A Burning Question: inflammation in chronic disease

Wednesday, February 29, 2012, 5:00 pm  
Events InStyle  
107 Murray Street, Ottawa  
RSVP: [cafescientifique@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:cafescientifique@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

Inflammation can be a life saver. When you are injured or you're fighting off an infection, this natural response helps contain the damage. The redness, swelling, pain and heat that are the hallmarks of inflammation may be unpleasant, but they are just part of getting better.

However, chronic inflammation has been linked to a number of diseases, from heart disease to rheumatoid arthritis.

Why is too much inflammation a bad thing? What causes inflammation to run amok? How can you know when you're experiencing chronic inflammation? And what can we do to put out the fire?

Join us for a discussion about the connection between chronic inflammation and disease. This free event is hosted by the CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis and the Cochrane Collaboration. Hope to see you at this Café in Ottawa on February 29<sup>th</sup>!!

# IMHA Participation in Other Signature Initiatives

## 2012 Large-Scale Applied Research Project: Genomics and Personalized Health



Genome Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) are working together to advance the personalized health research agenda. The 2012 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition in Genomics and Personalized Health aims to support projects that will demonstrate how genomics-based research can contribute to



a more evidence-based approach to health and improving the cost-effectiveness of the health-care system. CIHR Institutes participating in this exciting initiative include: CIHR Institute of Aging, CIHR Institute of Cancer Research, CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health, CIHR Institute of Genetics, CIHR Institute of Health

Services and Policy Research, CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity, CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, and CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction.

CIHR's participation in this competition marks the launch of the [CIHR Personalized Medicine Signature Initiative](#) and represents the first in a series of funding opportunities to be launched under this initiative.

For more [information about the competition](#), including the CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis targeted areas of interest, please visit our website.

**Genome**Canada

### Did You Know?

IMHA recently developed the Micro Impact Survey (MIS) to gather information pertaining to outcomes of research projects supported by our strategic initiatives budget. It is a web-based survey instrument designated for the Nominated Principal Investigators (NPIs) or other leaders of research projects. The survey takes on average 5-10 minutes to complete, and was successfully deployed (with a high response rate) in 2010 for purposes of the [international review](#). We plan on deploying the survey on an annual basis to rapidly assess the progress of recently funded programs. The information gathered will be used to inform decision-making and to help spread knowledge regarding the positive impacts of funding research in IMHA-relevant health areas.

## Annual Recruitment of New Institute Advisory Board Members

The 2012 cycle of recruitment of new institute advisory board (IAB) members for the CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis (IMHA) will begin January 31, 2012. The IAB is composed of accomplished and motivated volunteers from Canada and abroad selected from a wide range of research disciplines relevant to the Institute's mandated areas: arthritis, bone, skin, skeletal muscle, MSK rehabilitation and oral health. IMHA strives to cover all four CIHR themes - biomedical, applied clinical, health systems and services, and population and public health – as well as the knowledge translation, ethics, and consumer/patient domains.

search priorities. They also consider how best to shape and implement health research strategies in line with these priorities, and to accelerate the flow of knowledge into health benefits. The IMHA IAB meets, in person, three times a year. Members are reimbursed for travel and accommodation.

Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2012. New members will be invited to serve terms of three years beginning September 1, 2012. For more information on Institute Advisory Boards, click here: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/18156.html> or <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/26486.html>.

Diversity of expertise and experience are key to the success of IABs. Their primary function is to provide advice on health re-



# Launch of CIHR Innovation Team Grants in:



## Community-Based Primary Healthcare

CIHR will be launching Innovation Team Grants to fund research that improves the delivery of high-quality, Community-Based Primary Healthcare (CBPHC) across Canada this month.

CIHR is hosting an information webinar for interested applicants to learn more about the CBPHC Innovation Team Grant funding opportunity (e.g., objectives, eligibility, review process, etc.). We invite you to [RSVP for the webinar](#), which will be held on February 9 at 2.30pm EST at this [website](#).

Dr. Robyn Tamblyn, Scientific Director for the Institute of Health Services and Policy Research, and Dr. Nancy Edwards, Scientific Director for the Institute of Population and Public Health, will provide an overview of the Innovation Team Grant funding opportunity and will be available to answer questions from interested applicants. A copy of the presentation along with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will be available after the presentation.

For further details about the Initiative, please visit the [CIHR CBPHC website](#) or contact [erik.landriault@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:erik.landriault@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For information on current funding opportunities, please visit [IMHA's Funding Opportunities](#).

### NEW !! IMHA Knowledge Translation Prize

The CIHR-IMHA Knowledge Translation Prize honours and supports the exemplary knowledge translation efforts and activities of an exceptional individual, team, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to increasing the application of research findings, improving the health of individuals, improving health services and products, or strengthening the health-care system in IMHA relevant areas. The application deadline is February 15, 2012 with funding to begin November 1, 2012.

### Dissemination Event

The specific objective of this funding opportunity is to support events/activities that contribute to the dissemination, exchange and uptake of research evidence. The application deadline is February 15, 2012, with funding to begin June 1, 2012.

### Operating Grant Priority Announcement - Musculoskeletal Health, Arthritis, Skin and Oral Health

Operating Grants provide operating funds to support research proposals in all areas of health research including randomized controlled trials. The application deadline is March 1, 2012, with funding to begin October 1, 2012.

## Meetings Of Interest

[Advances in Skeletal Muscle Biology in Health & Disease Conference](#) (February 22-24, 2012) Gainesville, FL.

[GTA Rehab Network's annual Best Practices Day](#) (February 27, 2012) Toronto, ON.

[Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research](#) (March, 21-24, 2012) Tampa Bay, FL.

[Canadian Rheumatology Association Conference](#) (March 28-31, 2012) Victoria, BC.

[The ASBMR 2012 Topical Meeting, Bone and Skeletal Muscle Interactions](#) (July 17-18, 2012) Kansas City, Missouri, USA. ASBMR Topical Meetings present leading research on timely, top-of-mind scientific topics. Held regularly, the Topical Meetings disseminate and discuss specific, in-depth research on one scientific area of interest. Abstract submission will open on February 1, 2012.