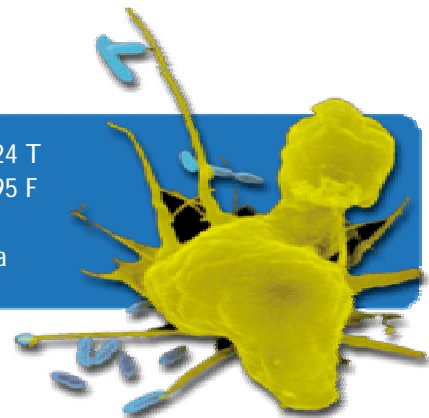


Institute of Infection and Immunity

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MAY 2002

Institute Mission

The mission of the Institute of Infection and Immunity (III) is to establish national leadership by setting research priorities and creating programs that promote innovative research aimed at reducing the global burden of infection- and immune-based diseases. The ultimate goal of such strategic research is to improve human life expectancy and the overall quality of life. To set the pathway towards achieving this goal, III in consultation with its advisory board members and the research community at large has developed a five-year strategic plan. The summary can be viewed on our web site at: http://www.cihr.ca/institutes/iii/strategic_plan_e.shtml

Microcosm-III

Message from the Scientific Director, Dr. Bhagirath Singh

The Institute of Infection and Immunity (III) is one of 13 Institutes of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) that together share responsibility for implementing the mission and mandate of CIHR. As the founding scientific director of III, I strongly believe there has never been a better opportunity nor a greater need to shape a health research agenda in infection and immunity in Canada. The Institute of Infection and Immunity is anxious to establish a rapport with the research community by creating effective communication links with all researchers working within the areas of infection and immunity.

We are therefore pleased to launch our very first newsletter, which will inform our community of researchers about Institute activities such as the various funding opportunities and fund-

ing decisions as well as the strategic research opportunities available to you. In future editions, we will feature profiles of researchers who are making major contributions to scientific advancements in the Institute's priority research areas, introduce the Institute staff and advisory board, publish commentary on issues of interest to the III community and direct you to the relevant links within the III web site. We welcome your comments and suggestions on how to help III best serve the interests and needs of our research community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bhagirath Singh,

Scientific Director,
CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity



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CIHR's Institute of Infection and Immunity Grand Opening

Open for business!

The formal opening of the Institute of Infection and Immunity took place on May 3, 2002, at the University of Western Ontario

in London, Ontario. The opening festivities included a half-day research symposium featuring presentations by members of the Institute Advisory Board and local researchers

working in the fields of infection and immunity. For further information about all Institute activities please check our web site: http://www.cihr.ca/institutes/iii/iii_e.shtml



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Canada



As a result of the recent CIHR Strategic Training Program Grants initiative the III will be sponsoring 11 training centres in the areas of infection and immunity.



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Institute Strategic Research Themes

CIHR funds investigator-initiated grants across the full spectrum of health research. When this funding is considered by Institute, as in funds allocated to researchers working within the mandate of individual institutes, III ranks third in total research dollars spent by CIHR on operating grants, making it one of the larger institutes in terms of funded researchers. To complement, broaden and enhance this research base, III has consulted widely within the infection and

immunity community to establish priority research areas for targeted, or strategic, initiatives. With these consultations and the leadership of the Institute Advisory Board, several priority areas have been identified, namely:

- Research Training and Career Development
- Food and Water Safety
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- The HIV/AIDS Health

Challenge

- Hepatitis C/Blood-borne Infections
- Innovative Vaccine Development and Delivery
- Asthma, Allergy, Host Resistance and Innate Immunity
- Autoimmune Diseases, with a Focus on Type 1 Diabetes
- Stem Cell Biology, Transplantation and Regenerative Medicine

Funded Strategic Research Programs

The III has already committed significant funds to the support of new strategic research initiatives including:

Health Researchers for the 21st Century

As a result of the recent CIHR Strategic Training Program Grants initiative, III will be sponsoring 11 training centres in the areas of infection and immunity. Each of these centres will receive up to \$1.8 million over six years. The Institute has committed over \$600,000 per year from the

Institute strategic budget to funding for these programs.

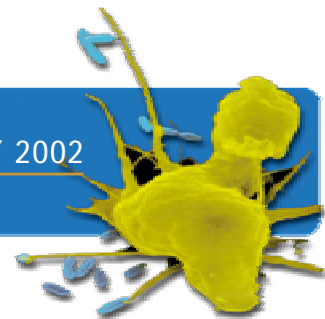
Health Research Programs of Excellence (HRPE)

Health Research Programs of Excellence are transdisciplinary research programs representing at least two of the four themes of health research, with an emphasis on research translation between the themes, and focused on an important health problem. III has funded two HRPE programs, one in the area of vaccine research and the

other in the area of transplantation research. Each HRPE grant is valued at approximately \$1.9 million over five years.

New Emerging Teams (NET)

New Emerging Teams grants are designed to support the creation or development of teams of independent investigators undertaking collaborative multidisciplinary research in Canadian research institutions. The program is intended to promote either the growth of small existing



teams or the formation of new research teams. In partnership with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes and the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health, III has funded two NET programs in Type 1 Diabetes and its complications. III has also committed funding for one NET program in asthma research in partnership with the CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health and the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health. Each NET program will receive approximately \$1.2 million over five years.

Partnership Opportunities



III actively welcomes partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, private sector or volunteer sector agencies in joint research initiatives, training programs and workshops in any area of the Institute's mandate. III is already involved in many active partnerships in a variety of research areas. In the areas of microbial contamination of food and water and antimicrobial resistance for example, III is working with a coalition of 18 stakeholder organizations to develop a national research agenda. This coalition of collaborators includes representatives from federal government departments, industry, network centres of excellence and other research funding agencies.

III welcomes partnership with governmental, non-governmental, private sector or volunteer sector agencies in joint research initiatives, training programs and workshops in any area of the Institute's mandate.

New Strategic Research Opportunities

A new series of Requests for Applications (RFA) will be launched by III in May 2002. These RFA will be focused on the following areas and programs:

Health Researchers for the 21st Century III will consider applications for

training centres in any area of the Institute mandate.

NET Programs In collaboration with its partners, III seeks to fund the following NET applications: "Anti-microbial Resistance: Health System Implications and Health Outcomes" and "Host Susceptibility and Resistance

to Pathogens in Health and Disease."

Clinician-Scientists in Infectious Diseases In partnership with Health Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg and with Health Canada's Office of the Chief Scientist, III is requesting applications for a



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new clinician-scientist program in the area of infectious diseases.

Global Health: Research Program Development and Planning Grants In partnership with other members of the Global Health Research Initiative, III is seeking applications for development and planning grants to build research capacity in Canada and in developing countries in order to strengthen and coordinate Canada's global health research activities.

Needs, Gaps, Opportunities Assessment Grants (NGOA) With the support of its partners, III is requesting applications from teams of investigators to perform environmental scans of current research into the microbial contamination of food and water, and antimicrobial resistance. These NGOA programs are designed to provide III and its coalition of collaborators with clearly identified and prioritized research areas for high impact, jointly funded research programs and to provide assessments and recommendations for more effective knowledge translation mechanisms in this field.

Reducing Health Disparities and Promoting Health of Vulnerable Populations Together with several CIHR Institutes, III is offering research program development grants to build research capacity to assess and reduce health disparities experienced by vulnerable populations.

HIV/AIDS In partnership with the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, III will sponsor innovative research proposals related to the current HIV/AIDS epidemic in aboriginal communities.

Further information on all the research initiatives listed above can be found on the CIHR web site at:

http://www.cihr.ca/institutes/iii/funding_opportunities/iii_rfa_menu_e

Other Institute Activities

III has funded or co-funded several national meetings, workshops and consultations in a variety of research areas relevant to the Institute's mandate. Institute staff have also attended and participated in a number of national meetings and conferences related to infection and immunity. III is taking the lead in an HIV/AIDS Advisory Partnership to establish research priorities in HIV/AIDS research; and recently organized a national conference on Biological Terrorism in collaboration with other CIHR Institutes and Health Canada.



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