



A Newsletter from the CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes

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INMD *Connections*

Helping you make connections and stay connected

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



It was a great pleasure to co-host with the Institute of Genetics (IG) a National Workshop on Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease held February 7-8 in Ottawa. This Workshop explored Canadian strengths and opportunities for increasing research capacity related to interactions between natural and built environments, human behaviour and genes, on the pathogenesis and pathobiology of chronic, non-communicable diseases.

- Gilaad Kaplan, Univ. Calgary: The Environment and Inflammatory Bowel Diseases: Challenges and Future Directions
- Catherine Laprise, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi: Environment-Gene Interactions in Asthma

The Workshop included three break-out sessions during which participants discussed knowledge gaps and challenges in the area of environments, genes and chronic disease, and then considered how Canadian strengths may be harnessed to support future research in this area. We are currently compiling the information received to create a workshop report, which will be posted on the INMD website in the coming months.

On behalf of INMD and IG, I thank all of the speakers and moderators for sharing their expertise. I would also like to express our greatest appreciation to Workshop participants for sharing their knowledge, opinions and valuable time with CIHR. We look forward to working with partners to further develop this timely and important topic into a research initiative.

Wishing you all the best,

Philip M Sherman, MD,
FRCPC

We were honoured to have Dr. Alain Beaudet, President of CIHR, open the Workshop and Dr. Jane Aubin, CIHR Chief Scientific Officer and Vice-President of Research, moderate a plenary discussion on potential opportunities for partnerships.



Sally Brown, Facilitator, and
Alain Beaudet, President of CIHR

The topic of Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease crosses a number of disciplines, and INMD and IG were pleased to welcome Workshop attendees from across the country representing diverse research areas. Six outstanding researchers shared their perspectives at the workshop:

- Robert Hegele, Univ. Western Ontario: Gene-Environment Interactions in Cardiometabolic Disease
- Laurie Chan, Univ. Ottawa: Measuring Environmental Exposures Workshop Report (led by CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health in November, 2011)
- Atul Butte, Stanford Univ.: Environment-Wide Association Study on Type 2 Diabetes (via WebEx)
- Daniel Krewski, Univ. Ottawa: Assessing Environment-Gene Interactions



Small group session at the Workshop

CONTACT US

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC
Scientific Director

Mary-Jo Makarchuk, MHSc, RD
Assistant Director - Toronto

Paul Bélanger, BScN
Assistant Director - Ottawa

Keeley Rose, MSc, PhD
Project Manager

Kimberly Banks Hart
Associate, Strategic
Initiatives

Mélanie Bergeron
Project Officer

Vera Ndaba
Business Officer & Event
Planner

CIHR-INMD Website



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Proposed Changes to Open Suite of Programs and Enhancements to the Peer Review Process

CIHR has developed a [Design Discussion Document](#) to provide an overview of the design elements that are being considered in CIHR's new Open Suite of Programs and peer review system and to solicit feedback on the proposed changes. This document outlines how CIHR is proposing to change the way investigator-initiated research is funded and peer reviewed. INMD encourages you to read the document and provide your thoughts to CIHR.

Feedback will be accepted until March 30, 2012.

Congratulations to Funding Recipients!

INMD wishes to congratulate the researchers who were successful in the following INMD-supported Priority Announcements. Follow the links for more details on each project.

Principal Investigator	Institution	Project Title
Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (Bridge Funding)		
Scot Stone	University of Saskatchewan	The role of DGAT2 in triacylglycerol synthesis and lipid droplet formation
INMD Start Up Funds (Bridge Funding) - Clinician Scientists		
May Faraj	Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal	ApoB-lipoproteins, adipose tissue NLRP3 inflammasome and insulin resistance
Joel Ray	St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto)	Abdominal visceral fat measured in early pregnancy and the risk of gestational diabetes mellitus
INMD Start Up Funds (Bridge Funding) - Assistant Professors		
Jehannine Austin	University of British Columbia	A prospective study of the role of genes and folates in postpartum psychopathology in women at increased risk
Przemyslaw Sapienza	Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont (Montréal)	Omega-3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Intake and Metabolism for Age Related Macular Degeneration
INMD Start Up Funds (Bridge Funding) - New Investigators		
Jan Ehres	University of British Columbia	Targeting anti-inflammatory macrophages to treat type 2 diabetes
Elena Verdu	McMaster University	The role of intestinal microbiota in host responses to dietary gluten and to gluten binders
Bariatric Care		
Isabelle Dionne	Université de Sherbrooke	Metabolic Characteristics of Overweight Postmenopausal Women First-Degree Relatives of Type 2 Diabetes patients (FDR)
Katherine Mary Morrison	McMaster University	Canadian Pediatric Weight Management Registry (CANPWR): Identifying the characteristics of successful change in Canadian pediatric weight management programs

The Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD) supports research to enhance health in relation to diet, digestion, excretion, and metabolism; and to address causes, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, support systems, and palliation for a wide range of conditions and problems associated with hormone, digestive system, kidney, and liver function.

CIHR NEWS

Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition in Genomics and Personalized Health

Genome Canada and CIHR are working together to advance the personalized health research agenda. The [2012 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition in Genomics and Personalized Health](#) will support projects that demonstrate how genomics-based research can contribute to a more evidence-based approach to health and improve the cost-effectiveness of the health-care system.

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

Community-Based Primary Healthcare

CIHR and its partners are pleased to announce the launch of the [Innovation Team Grants: Community-Based Primary Healthcare \(CBPHC\)](#) funding opportunity. CIHR and its partners will provide funding for teams undertaking programmatic, cross-jurisdictional and interdisciplinary research to develop, implement, evaluate, and compare innovative models for chronic disease prevention and management in CBPHC and improving access to appropriate CBPHC for vulnerable populations.

Funds available

Up to \$ 31,665,000 over 5 years is available to support Canadian-based teams (additional funds from Australian and New Zealand partners are available to components of teams based in those countries).

Important Dates

Phase 1: Letter of Intent

Application Deadline: 2012-05-01

Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2012-07-03

Phase 2: Full Application

Application Deadline: 2012-10-15

Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2013-04-01

Funding Start Date: 2013-04-01