

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

Vol. 13, No. 10 - October 2013

ISSN 2291-1111

# INMD *Connections*

## Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



I would like to offer hearty congratulations to recipients of the **Programmatic Grants in Food and Health**.

The research funded includes basic science, population health, and clinical research that will increase the critical mass and depth of research efforts in Canada in Food

and Health and strengthen the evidence underpinning nutritional practice and food policy, which is one of the four INMD Strategic Priorities. In addition, these grants complement other investments that INMD has made in collaboration with the CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health supporting two food security related grants funded in the **Programmatic Grants in Health and Health Equity** competition.

Moving forward, we look forward to engaging multiple partners in efforts to advance Food and Health Research in Canada and, of course, to

learning from the outputs and outcomes of the Programmatic Grants in Food and Health.

In addition, I had the pleasure of attending the annual Canadian Lipoprotein Conference, which was held in beautiful Mont Tremblant, Quebec September 26-29, 2013. The level of scientific presentations and the lively and stimulating interactions between trainees and faculty were most impressive! Congratulations to the conference organizers and the conference Chair, Dr. Scott Kiss, as well as to Dr. Yves Marcel, Univ. Ottawa and the Ottawa Heart Research Institute, who delivered the 2013 state-of-the-art Dr. David Rubinstein Memorial Lecture.

Best wishes for the fall,

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC



Dr. Yves Marcel

## CONGRATULATIONS TO FOOD & HEALTH GRANT RECIPIENTS!

INMD congratulates the successful applicants in the *Programmatic Grants in Food and Health*:

Principal Investigator	Institution	Project Title
Sonia Anand	McMaster University	Understanding the impact of maternal and infant nutrition on infant/child health
David Jenkins	University of Toronto	Canada-wide human nutrition trialists' network
Simone Lemieux	Université Laval	Adhésion aux recommandations visant la saine alimentation: identification des mesures, déterminants et interventions
André Marette	Université Laval	Translational approach to establish the cardiometabolic health effects and mechanisms of action of fish nutrients: from animal models to obese insulin-resistant subjects
Bruce Mazer	Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre	GET-FACTS: genetics, environment and therapies: food allergy clinical tolerance studies
Deborah O'Connor	Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto)	Optimizing mothers' milk for preterm infants

# RESEARCHER PROFILE

## Tony K.T. Lam, PhD

Canadian Diabetes Association, 2013 Young Investigator Award Recipient

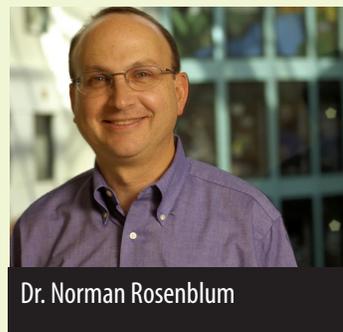


Dr. Tony Lam

Tony Lam is the John Kitson McIvor Endowed Chair in Diabetes Research, Canada Research Chair in Obesity, Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Research Institute, and Associate Professor of Physiology and Medicine at Univ. Toronto. Tony is Associate Director of Research at the Banting and Best Diabetes Centre. Dr. Lam received his PhD degree from Univ. Toronto and completed post-doctoral training at the Albert Einstein College of

Medicine in New York. After his return to Toronto in 2006, Tony discovered novel signalling pathways connecting the gut, brain, and liver, which plays a critical role in glucose homeostasis in diabetes, obesity, and following bariatric surgery. His research team discovered novel nutrient-sensing mechanisms in the hypothalamus and the dorsal vagal complex, which regulate hepatic glucose production and triglyceride-rich VLDL secretion. Tony is a member of the Keystone Symposia's Scientific Advisory Board and an editorial board member of the journal, *Diabetes*. His research program is funded by CIHR and the Canadian Diabetes Association.

## PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATION (CSCI) – A PASSION FOR TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CLINICIAN SCIENTISTS!



Dr. Norman Rosenblum

Dr. Norman Rosenblum has been elected President of the CSCI for 2013-2015. He is Professor of Paediatrics, Physiology, and Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at Univ. Toronto, and a Paediatric Nephrologist and Senior Scientist in the Research Institute at the Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Rosenblum is the recipient of a Canada Research Chair (tier 1) in Developmental Nephrology and is an

MD graduate of Dalhousie Univ. He completed his residency in Pediatrics and a fellowship in Pediatric Nephrology at Boston Children's Hospital, followed by research training in the laboratory of Bjorn Olsen at Harvard Medical School. In 1993, Dr. Rosenblum was recruited to Toronto where he researches the molecular mechanisms of kidney development with a

focus on signaling by bone morphogenetic, WNT, and Hedgehog proteins. As Associate Dean, Physician-Scientist Training, and Director of both the MD/PhD and CIP (Clinician Investigator) programs at Univ. Toronto, Dr. Rosenblum is deeply committed to establishing and managing career development programs and providing mentorship for the next cadre of clinician-scientists needed to fuel the health research enterprise in Canada. When asked about the importance of the mentor/mentee relationship, Dr. Rosenblum recalled, "At many stages of my education and career, teachers and colleagues recognized in me something they thought was worth developing; they became mentors who gave selflessly and who helped me find my way. These mentors and others built programs without which the career development of medical scientists would be far less effective. The efforts of all these mentors, so important to me, has been a constant source of inspiration and has propelled me to try to do for others as they had done for me."

## PRIORITY ANNOUNCEMENTS: HOW DO THEY WORK?

Although CIHR commits to funding at least 400 grants per [Open Operating Grant Program \(OOGP\)](#) competition, securing funding is competitive even for highly ranked applications. Priority Announcements (PAs) offer funding for highly rated applications that are relevant to specific CIHR research priority areas and mandates but not funded in the OOGP competition. PA funding opportunities are listed on the CIHR website. Researchers may apply for PA through the OOGP application by following the link for [Priority Announcements/Funding Pools](#) and selecting a PA from the drop-down menu.

Peer review of PA applications is completed through the OOGP competition. CIHR strategic leads and partners are provided with relevance forms and/or summaries of the OOGP applications in order to conduct a relevance review for each PA funding opportunity. Applications deemed relevant are funded in rank order as far as available budget will allow on the basis of committee percentile rank. For more information on the PA application process, please contact [Olivier Jacob-Gravel](#) and consult the PA funding opportunity on the [CIHR website](#).

## CIHR SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWSHIPS

The [Science Policy Fellowships](#) program has launched its fifth competition, offering a new series of policy assignments hosted by Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the British Columbia Ministry of Health and BC health authorities. This program supports researchers from all areas of health to spend six to twelve months in a policy setting; providing policy makers with access to scientific evidence to inform policy and giving researchers the opportunity to learn firsthand about the policy development process.

### CONTACT US

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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.