

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

Vol. 13, No. 12 - December 2013

ISSN 2291-1111

INMD *Connections*

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



INMD IAB members and partners/guests (from left): Ilsa Horvath, Bruce Verchere, Arya Sharma, Stephen James, Brian Rush (facilitator), Murray Huff, Rodger McLeod, Phil Sherman, Morris Sherman, Stephanie Atkinson, Jan Hux, Aida Fernandes, Doug Manuel, Robert Thirsk, Deirdre Freiheit, Keith Sharkey, Carolyn Pullen, Marie-France Langlois, Rob Bertolo, Bob Goldstein, Guang Sun, Catherine Field, Loren Grossman, Paul Sinclair, Rickey Yada

Another eventful year is drawing to a close for INMD. In November we were delighted to host a Partners Forum and Institute Advisory Board (IAB) meeting at Univ. Montreal. The Partners Forum was an opportunity to facilitate interactions amongst partners in the INMD mandate areas, share best practices in evaluating the outcomes and impact of health research, and gather input from partners as we begin a refresh of the INMD Strategic Plan. Stay tuned for more details on the INMD Strategic Plan refresh, and an opportunity for you to provide input.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank partners and IAB members for attending and providing invaluable input. I would also like to acknowledge the warm welcome that we received at Univ.

Montreal, where we held part of the IAB meeting. On November 6, we were pleased to host a Meet & Greet and Poster Session at the Youville Pumping Station in Old Montreal. Thanks to all who made this event a success!

As the calendar year winds down, we wish each of you all the best for the holiday season and the coming new year.

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC

CONTACT US

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC
Scientific Director

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

Vera Ndaba
Business Officer & Event Planner

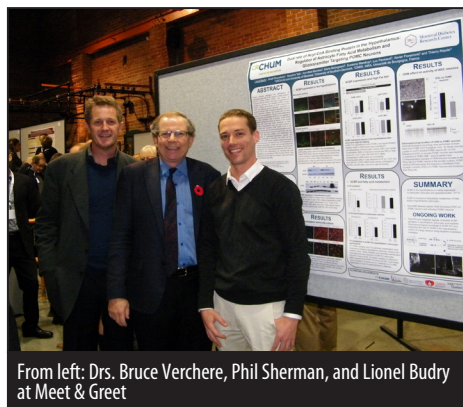
Keeley Rose, MSc, PhD
Project Manager

Paul Bélanger, BScN
Assistant Director - Ottawa

Allison Forsythe
Associate, Strategic Initiatives

Mélanie Bergeron
Project Officer

Denise Haggerty
Administrative Assistant



From left: Drs. Bruce Verchere, Phil Sherman, and Lionel Budry at Meet & Greet

RESEARCHER PROFILE

Thomas Lagace, PhD

*Canadian Lipoprotein Conference (CLC), 2013 New Investigator Award Recipient,
University of Ottawa Heart Institute*



Dr. Lagace joined the Genetics, Cell Biology and Atherosclerosis research group at the Univ. Ottawa Heart Institute as an Assistant Professor in January 2009. He earned his Doctorate degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology studying cellular cholesterol and phospholipid metabolism in the laboratory of Dr. Neale Ridgway at Dalhousie Univ.

With the support of postdoctoral fellowships from NSERC and CIHR, Dr. Lagace then spent four years training in the Department of Molecular

Genetics at the Texas Univ. Southwestern Medical Center in the laboratory of Dr. Jay Horton. During this time, he played a major role in discoveries pertaining to the mechanisms of action of the secreted serine protease PCSK9, a newly identified regulator of plasma low-density lipoprotein levels and cardiovascular heart disease risk. Dr. Lagace's primary research interests include defining cellular and molecular mechanisms that control cholesterol homeostasis and plasma lipoprotein levels. A particular focus of his work is to identify novel strategies to raise levels of low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR) in the liver and thus improve LDL-cholesterol clearance, including continued studies on the mechanism of action of PCSK9.

CIHR PRE-ANNOUNCEMENTS

Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (GACD) Co-ordinated Call for Research in Type 2 Diabetes

With the burden of type 2 diabetes increasing, the [Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases \(GACD\)](#) has agreed to launch a call for proposals on the prevention and treatment of type 2 diabetes, with a focus on implementation and intervention research in low- and middle-income countries and indigenous populations in Canada and Australia. The emphasis of this initiative is on existing approaches to prevention and control of type 2 diabetes, rather than development of new treatments.

Canadian researchers interested in this call, should visit the [GACD web site](#) for more details about this initiative and stay tuned to the [CIHR website](#) for the launch of this funding opportunity.

Innovative Therapeutic Approaches for Rare Diseases

CIHR is pleased to announce participation in the 2014 [Development of Innovative Therapeutic Approaches for Rare Diseases](#) Joint Transnational Call being launched by the ERA-NET: E-Rare-2. Participation in this program will provide Canadian investigators the opportunity to work with European colleagues to build an interdisciplinary, multilateral research project based on complementarities and sharing of expertise, with a clear translational research approach. CIHR will work with Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé and Voluntary Health Organization partners, ALS Canada, and Muscular Dystrophy Canada to maximize Canadian participation in this initiative, which complements ongoing efforts to advance the rare diseases research agenda.

CIHR REFORMS - LAUNCH OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For more information about the recently launched 2014 *Foundation Scheme "live pilot" funding opportunity* and the *Transitional Open Operating Grant Program (OOGP)*, please visit the [CIHR website](#).

UPCOMING INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE WORKSHOP - THE CURRENT STATE OF OBESITY SOLUTIONS

The Institute of Medicine Roundtable on Obesity Solutions is holding its first public workshop, *The Current State of Obesity Solutions in the United States* on **Tuesday January 7, 2014 from 12:30pm-5:30pm**. The workshop will present a status update on the current epidemiology of obesity and explore the prevalence, trends, severity, and disparities across the United States. Workshop presenters will discuss key settings where change is happening, focusing on nutrition, physical activity, the elimination of health disparities, and what should happen next. A live video webcast of the workshop will be available. To register for the video webcast, or for more information, please visit the [IOM website](#).

CIHR ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13: INNOVATIVE, STRATEGIC, CURRENT

CIHR Communications and Public Outreach notes that the [CIHR Annual Report 2012-13: Innovative, Strategic, Current](#) is now available on the CIHR website. The report was officially tabled on October 16 in the House of Commons by the Minister of Health. This year, important progress was made on top CIHR priorities such as the Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research and reforms to the Open Operating Grant Program and peer review processes. The report highlights how recent successes have helped position CIHR to meet the objectives set out in the Health Research Roadmap. It also shines a spotlight on the work of CIHR-funded researchers across the country who are helping build a healthier future for Canadians. For additional information, please contact [Caroline Kay](#).

SPOR NETWORK IN PRIMARY AND INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE INNOVATIONS

A Network Development Funding Opportunity for the SPOR Network in Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations is posted on the [CIHR website](#). Tune into an information webinar posted [online](#), which includes details about the Network, Membership Requirements and Key Timelines.

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.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Comments](#)