



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

Vol. 13 No. 7 - July 2013

ISSN 2291-1111

# INMD *Connections*

*Helping you make connections and stay connected*

## Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



From left: Drs. Atanu Sarkar, James Valcour, Gil Kaplan, Nancy Edwards, Phil Sherman, and Laurie Twells

On June 26, 2013 a symposium on *Opportunities and Challenges to Advance Research in the Field of Environmental Health* was held at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Epidemiology and Biostatistics in St.

John's, NL. Professor Paolo Vineis, Chair in Environmental Epidemiology at Imperial College-London delivered a keynote presentation on *The Exposome in Practice*, which highlighted omics approaches for environmental epidemiology and exposure science. This set the stage for my presentation, which highlighted the INMD [Environments, Genes](#)

and [Chronic Disease Research Priority](#) and related [Catalyst Grants](#), planning for a CIHR Signature Initiative on the Environment and Health (Nancy Edwards, Institute of Population and Public Health), and the importance of considering multiple environmental exposures in the prevention of chronic non-communicable illness, with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) used as an example (Gilaad Kaplan, U. Calgary). Meeting participants were highly enthusiastic about the prospect of a Canadian Environmental Health Research Initiative, and I look forward to sharing more details about this CIHR Signature Initiative as it evolves.

Best wishes for the summer season,

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC

## Nutritional Biomarkers for Health and Chronic Disease



From left: Drs. Parminder Raina, Stephanie Atkinson, and Dan Raiten; Kripa Raghavan

INMD was pleased to sponsor a symposium at the annual meeting of the [Canadian Nutrition Society \(CNS\)](#) held in Quebec City on June 1, 2013. Speakers included: Kripa Raghavan from the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), Dr. Dan Raiten, NICHD and Project Lead for a large collaborative

project, [Biomarkers of Nutrition for Development \(BOND\)](#), that is harmonizing processes for making decisions about what biomarkers

are best for use in support of research, program development and evaluation, and generation of evidence-based policy, and Dr. Parminder Raina (McMaster Univ.) who holds a Canada Research Chair in Geroscience and is the Principle Investigator for the [Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging \(CLSA\)](#). The CLSA is a research platform being built to enable population-based research and evidenced-based decision-making to study aging as a dynamic process from middle life to older age. Dr. Raina's presentation, *CLSA: Advancing the Science of Population Health and Aging through Interdisciplinary Research* included consideration of nutritional biomarkers to be included in the study. Dr. Stephanie Atkinson, INMD Institute Advisory Board Chair, moderated the symposium. The three presentations are available on the [CNS](#) website.

## Funding Announcement: Community-Based Primary Health Care Innovation Teams

On June 26, 2013, the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq announced funding for 12 [Community-Based Primary Health Care Innovation Teams](#). INMD is pleased to be a partner in this Signature Initiative, and together with the Institute of Aboriginal People's Health, is funding Dr. Stewart Harris, from Western U., for a project entitled, *Transformation of Indigenous Primary Healthcare Delivery (FORGE AHEAD): Community-driven Innovations and Strategic Scale-up Toolkits*. Congratulations to Dr. Harris!

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# RESEARCHER PROFILE

## Dan Winer, MD, FRCPC, Amgen New Investigator Award Recipient

Associate Professor, University of Toronto, University Health Network (UHN)



Dr. Winer is currently a clinician-scientist and endocrine pathologist at UHN, who runs an obesity and inflammation research laboratory at the Toronto General Research Institute. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the U. Toronto. Dan received his MD degree from the U. Ottawa in 2002 and then

completed residency training at the U. Toronto, becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in Anatomical Pathology in 2007. Subsequently, he spent three years studying immunology at Stanford U. in the laboratory of the Stanford Blood Center Director, Dr. Edgar Engleman. During this time, Dan worked in direct collaboration with his identical

twin brother, Dr. Shawn Winer, who was a post-doctoral fellow at the Hospital for Sick Children. Together, the brothers spearheaded an initiative to understand how the immune system influences obesity and associated insulin resistance. This work has led to two paradigm shifting articles published in Nature Medicine, which challenged conventional thinking in the field of obesity, insulin resistance and diabetes research. The Winer brothers' work on the adaptive immune system in insulin resistance was featured in Maclean's magazine and opened up new avenues in industry for immune-based diagnostics and treatments of obesity and insulin resistance. Dan received the prestigious Amgen New Investigator award from the Endocrine Society, recognizing him as one of the five most accomplished young scientists in endocrinology worldwide for 2012. His research is funded by operating grants from the CIHR and the Canadian Diabetes Association.

## Café Scientifique: Chronic Diseases



From left: Drs. David Meyre, Stephanie Atkinson, Susan Elliot, Guillaume Paré and Phil Sherman

INMD was pleased to host a Café Scientifique entitled, *Chronic Diseases: Are they an effect of the environment or your genetic destiny?* at the beautiful Art Gallery of Hamilton on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Thank you to speakers: Drs. Guillaume Paré and David Meyre (McMaster U.), who discussed environmental and genetic influences on obesity,

and Dr. Susan Elliot (U. Waterloo), who discussed the hygiene hypothesis and how the environment interacts with genetic influences in relation to the increasing prevalence of food allergy. Special thanks to Dr. Stephanie Atkinson, who moderated and assisted with organizing the event.

## Are you attending the Vascular 2013 Conference from October 17-20, 2013 in Montreal, Quebec?

INMD and the Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH) are pleased to host a breakfast session for researchers on **Friday, October 18, 2013**. Presentations will outline INMD and ICRH Strategic Priorities and provide a preview of forthcoming CIHR funding opportunities, including SPOR and other Signature Initiatives. Space is limited, so please RSVP [Denise Haggerty](#) by **August 15, 2013** if you are interested in attending.

## Congratulations to Funding Recipients!

INMD congratulates researchers who were successful in the following INMD-supported Priority Announcements in the March 2013 competition.

Principal Investigator	Institution	Project Title
<b>Operating Grant - Priority Announcement - Bariatric Care</b>		
Marie-France Langlois	Université de Sherbrooke	Effets d'un programme préopératoire d'activité physique supervisée sur l'état de santé des personnes obèses en attente d'une chirurgie bariatrique
<b>Operating Grant-PA: INMD Start Up Funds (Bridge Funding) - Assistant Professors</b>		
Laura Sly	University of British Columbia	Macrophages in intestinal disease
<b>Operating Grant-PA: INMD Start Up Funds (Bridge Funding) - Clinician Scientists</b>		
R. Todd Alexander	University of Alberta	Sodium, Claudin-14 and the (Patho)Physiology of (Hyper)Calciuria and Kidney Stone Formation
<b>Operating Grant-PA: INMD Start Up Funds (Bridge Funding) - New Investigators</b>		
Jennifer Linche Kuk	York University	Causes and Implications of Metabolically Healthy Obese
<b>Operating Grant - PA: INMD - Bridge Funding</b>		
Thomas Chang	University of British Columbia	Safety Evaluation of Natural Health Products
Rene Jacobs	University of Alberta	Dietary Creatine Supplementation as a treatment of Fatty Liver Disease

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.

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