



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

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INMD *Connections*

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



From left: Drs. Bill Paterson and Tanya Verrall

In August of each year, we bid a fond farewell to INMD Institute Advisory Board (IAB) members who have completed their terms of service. This year, two individuals who have each made substantial contributions are leaving the IAB: Tanya Verrall, PhD, RD (Univ. Saskatchewan/ Saskatchewan Health Quality Council) and William (Bill) Paterson, MD, FRCPC (Queen's Univ.). Dr. Verrall's background

is in nutritional sciences and health services research. In Vancouver 2011, Tanya presented a lectureship to the IAB highlighting her research in the area of health services quality improvement, *Partnerships for Health Systems Improvement in Action: from funding idea to research reality*. Tanya also hosted the IAB at the Univ. Saskatchewan in May of this year, where she shared her enthusiasm for Saskatoon with all of us. Tanya has been an enthusiastic board member, who has provided particular guidance in the areas of strategic planning and evaluation. Dr. Paterson is a leader in gastroenterology in Canada who has published extensively on the physiology and pathophysiology of the esophagus. In October 2013,

Bill hosted the IAB at Queen's Univ. and delivered a lectureship entitled, *Reflux esophagitis and neuromuscular dysfunction: the long and the short of it*. At this same meeting in Kingston, Bill introduced many of us to the joys of dragon boating. Bill has ably represented the INMD at a variety of workshops and events over the years that he has served on the IAB. My sincere thanks goes out to both Tanya and Bill for their years of service to INMD. I know that the rest of the IAB and INMD staff share my gratitude and wish them both all the best in their future endeavours, both personal and professional!

On a personal note, I wish to let you know that renewal of my term as the Scientific Director of INMD for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 was recently approved by the CIHR Governing Council and announced by President Alain Beaudet. I look forward to continuing to work with the IAB to refresh the INMD Strategic Plan by updating the strategic research priorities and supporting related targeted research in the INMD mandate areas.

Best wishes for the summer season,

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC

PATIENT AND CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP PILOTED IN CANADA



On June 18, 2013, the **Priority Setting Partnership for People with Kidney Failure on Dialysis** held a workshop (participants left) in Toronto, which was partially funded by a CIHR planning grant with the goal of determining the top 10 most important unanswered questions in the area of kidney failure and dialysis. A short list of 30 research uncertainties were generated from a list of nearly 2,000 responses received

in a national survey of patients, caregivers, and clinicians. The genesis for this project began in July 2012 when Dr. Andreas Laupacis, Canada Research Chair in Health Policy and Citizen Engagement, met with Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director, to discuss the potential for applying an approach used in the U.K. to involve citizens and patients in setting research priorities. A collaboration was then forged between the Kidney Foundation of Canada (KFOC), the Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration, and the Canadian Kidney Knowledge Translation and Generation Network (CANN-NET), funded by CIHR INMD. This pilot project was modeled on an approach established by the

James Lind Alliance, which is a program funded by the National Institutes of Health Research in the U.K. The goal of the Canadian pilot was to identify areas of research that people on dialysis, their caregivers, and clinicians agree should be priorities for future research funding. A Steering Group of patients, caregivers, and clinicians was formed to oversee the process and to develop a national survey to identify research uncertainties. Key contributors to this project were: Dr. Braden Manns (Univ. Calgary), Wim Wolfs (KFOC), Dr. Andreas Laupacis (St. Michael's Hospital, Univ. Toronto), Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn (Univ. Calgary), five patients and caregivers from across Canada, and Sally Crowe from the U.K. who served as the main facilitator to ensure



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that everyone had a chance to be heard. While challenging, participants were well prepared for a consensus decision-making process that involved complex trade-offs to come up with top research uncertainties. For more information on the Patient Priorities Process, visit the **CANN-NET** website and for more information about CIHR Citizen Engagement strategies, please contact **Rosa Venuta**.

RESEARCH PROFILE: DENIS PRUD'HOMME AND THE SOMET RESEARCH GROUP



Denis Prud'homme

INMD wishes to congratulate members of a New Emerging Team (NET) on the 10th anniversary of their collaboration. In 2003, a team of six researchers was awarded a NET grant to study the biological, psychological, and social factors that influence weight gain during critical life periods in women. The PI of the Montreal-Ottawa New Emerging Team (MONET) is Dr. Denis Prud'homme, a physician-researcher based at the Univ. Ottawa. Co-principal investigators (Co-PI) are Dr. Eric Doucet (Univ. Ottawa), Drs. Rémi Rabasa-Lhoret, Jean-Marc Lavoie, and Irene Strychar at Univ. Montreal, and Dr. Martin Brochu at Univ. Sherbrooke. In 2008, they extended their research group to include Drs. Kristi Adamo, Dawn Stacy, Alexandre Dumas and Frédérique Tesson at Univ. Ottawa and Dr. Isabelle Dionne at Univ. Sherbrooke. To highlight these additions, the

research group took a new name: SOMET (Sherbrooke Ottawa Montreal Emerging Team). MONET- SOMET researchers have undertaken an observational longitudinal study to document the effects of menopause on body composition and cardiometabolic risk factors, and prospective studies to investigate the effects of exercise program and/or diet on excess weight gain in pregnant women and weight loss and weight maintenance in perimenopause, post-menopausal, and elderly women. These studies were complemented by interventions in relevant animal models, with a focus on delineating underlying mechanisms of fatty liver and lipid metabolism. The SOMET team has trained over 50 graduate students and four post-doctoral fellows, and published more than 100 relevant peer reviewed articles. For additional details about this research group, visit the [SOMET](#) research group website.

NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Operating Grant: Fall 2013 Priority Announcements

- [Bariatric Care](#)
- [Inflammatory Bowel Disease](#)
- [INMD Start-up Funds \(Bridge funding for Assistant Professors, Clinicians, New Investigators\)](#)
- [Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes - Bridge Funding](#)

Fellowship: Fall 2013 Priority Announcements

- [Inflammatory Bowel Disease \(IBD\)](#)
- [Gastroenterology](#)

Knowledge Translation

- [Partnerships for Health Systems Improvement \(PHSI\)](#)
- [Knowledge Synthesis](#)
- [Knowledge to Action](#)

Planning Grants and Dissemination Events

- [Planning Grants - Priority Announcements](#)
- [Dissemination Events - Priority Announcements](#)

For a complete list of current funding opportunities, please visit the [ResearchNet](#) website.

UPDATE ON THE CANADIAN LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON AGING (CLSA)



The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) is the largest study of health and aging ever undertaken in Canada. The CLSA is a strategic research initiative of the CIHR, involving 11 universities and a national team of more than 160 researchers and

collaborators. The CLSA collects information on the changing biological, medical, psychological, social, lifestyle, and economic aspects of people's lives as they age. To date, more than 25,000 Canadians have signed up for the study. Through their contributions, the CLSA will improve the health and quality of life for people in Canada by serving as a compass on the journey of healthy aging. It will show us not only how to live longer, but also how to live better. Over the next 20 years, the CLSA will follow 50,000 women and men ages 45 to 85. The spectrum of participants includes those entering their senior years, those making the transition into retirement, those who are already retired, and those who have entered old age. By examining the trajectories and transitions of aging, the CLSA will provide longitudinal data needed to inform the decisions and design interventions and policies to improve the health and well-being of Canadians. Please visit the [CLSA](#) website for more information.

CIHR REFORMS: FOUNDATION SCHEME LIVE PILOT COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Please visit the Reforms section of [CIHR's website](#) to find further information on the eligibility criteria as well as a set of questions and answers.

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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.

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