



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

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INMD *Connections*

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



New Investigator Meeting, Banff, Jan. 15-17, 2014

Happy new year! January started with a focus on New Investigators in the INMD mandate. Together with voluntary health organization and health professional society partners, INMD held its 2nd New Investigator Forum at the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta on January 15-17, 2014. Thirty-seven new investigators (within five years of their first faculty appointment) from across the country had a chance to present their research, participate in a mock grant review, hear about a variety of changes underway at CIHR, and learn about various aspects of knowledge translation and the importance of patient and citizen engagement in determining research priorities. Many leading Canadian researchers generously served as mentors and participated actively throughout—thanks to all involved. A “shout out” to INMD Institute Advisory Board members who participated in the meeting and provided outstanding mentorship: Stephanie Atkinson, Catherine Field, Keith Sharkey, and Bruce Verchere.

I would also like to thank Dr. Paul Kubes (Univ. Calgary), Canada's Health Researcher of the Year for 2011 and member of CIHR Governing Council, who provided a stimulating and insightful state-of-the-art keynote address to kick off the meeting.

Best wishes to each one of you for 2014,

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC



New Investigator meeting poster prize winners with IAB Chair and SD (from left): Jean-Philippe Lafrance, Stephanie Atkinson, Phil Sherman, Laurie Twells, Luigi Bouchard, Laura Sly

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

RESEARCHER PROFILE

Bamini Jayabalasingham, PhD

CIHR-Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Science Policy Fellow



Dr. Jayabalasingham holds a CIHR Science Policy Fellowship at the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). She is currently working under the supervision of Dr. Christina Bancej at PHAC, where she is involved in evaluating interventions to reduce childhood obesity using the newly developed Population Health Microsimulation model for childhood and adult body mass index (POHEM-BMI),

and communicating her findings to policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders.

Bamini began her training as an undergraduate at the University of Toronto, where she studied host-pathogen relationships. Her doctoral studies focused on the cellular processes by which the Plasmodium parasite adapts to the human host cell to promote its own replication. During post-doctoral training, Dr. Jayabalasingham continued her work investigating the mechanisms by which the Plasmodium acquires lipids.

CIHR FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Team Grant: Prevention and Treatment of Diabetes

The Institute of Nutrition Metabolism and Diabetes is pleased to partner with the Institutes of Population and Public Health, Aboriginal Peoples' Health, Health Services and Policy Research, and with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to launch the **Prevention and Treatment of Type 2 Diabetes Team Grant**. Canadian teams doing research with Aboriginal communities in Canada to prevent and treat type 2 diabetes are among the priority areas that are eligible for this funding opportunity. Letters of Intent (LOI) are due **February 19, 2014**.

Institute Community Support Awards

The ICS Program is designed to foster community development by providing grants and awards to individuals and organizations for the purposes of enabling research and knowledge translation activities and supporting individuals and organizations whose goals are consistent with CIHR and its Institutes' vision, mandate and strategic directions. Please visit the CIHR website to learn about **INMD Travel Awards** for PhD Students and Post-doctoral Fellows, and **INMD New Investigator Partnership Prizes**.

CIHR PRIORITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Operating Grant: Priority Announcement

INMD currently has one priority announcement available through the CIHR Open Operating Grants Program: **INMD Start-Up Funds (Clinicians and New Investigators)**, which will provide bridge funding to Clinicians and New Investigators working in the INMD mandate area. Deadline to apply is **March 3, 2014**!

CIHR MEDIA TRAINING 101

You are invited to participate in a teleconference webinar training session on media relations. This webinar will provide you with training on how to interact with the media, for situations where you are interviewed about your research. We encourage you to talk about your research, to promote it, and this training will provide you with the tools you need to do this effectively. The webinar will be held on **February 25, 2014** from 2:00-3:30pm (Eastern Time). To register, please click [here](#). Once the host approves your registration, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions for joining the session. For more information contact **Mireille Khouri**.

HEALTH CANADA-PHAC / CLASSIFICATION OF FOODS: REVISED SURVEILLANCE TOOL

Health Canada, in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada, has updated the classification of foods in the Canadian Nutrient File (CNF) according to Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide (CFG). This classification replaces the original classification based on the 1992 Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating. This revised surveillance tool has been applied to the food composition reference database that was used for the Canadian Community Health Survey Cycle 2.2, Nutrition (CCHS 2004). It will allow researchers to use the CCHS 2004 survey data to assess Canadians adherence to CFG. Health Canada has started using this tool to analyze the dietary intakes of Canadians as reported in CCHS 2004. These results will be used as a baseline for comparison with results from the next national nutrition survey, CCHS 2015. The classification and some surveillance results were shared at the 2013 Canadian Nutrition Society conference, and more information will be sent to select stakeholders this winter informing them of this revised classification. For more information, please email [Health Canada](#).

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION PRIZE

The CIHR Knowledge Translation Prize honours and supports exemplary knowledge translation efforts and activities of an exceptional individual, team, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to increasing the application of research findings, improving the health of individuals, improving health services and products, or strengthening the health-care system. Nominated individuals, teams or organizations will be assessed on achievements in knowledge translation activities relevant to any area of health research (biomedical, clinical, health services and policy, and population and public health), including commercialization and global health. The amount for the Knowledge Translation Prize is \$100,000 for one year and will be awarded to the top overall ranked applicant. The application deadline is **March 3, 2014**. Additional information can be found at [KT Prize](#).

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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