

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

Vol. 14, No. 5 - May 2014

ISSN 2291-1111

INMD *Connections*

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



From left: Drs. Robert Bertolo, Harriet Kuhnlein, Stephanie Atkinson, Philip Sherman, Janet Brunton, and Hope Weiler at 2014 American Society for Nutrition Annual Meeting Opening Mixer

Earlier this Spring, the annual meeting of the American Society for Nutrition was held as part of Experimental Biology in San Diego. There were many Canadian investigators profiled at the meeting, including Dr. Valerie Tarasuk (Univ. Toronto) speaking about discretionary fortification at a symposium on challenges related to food fortification and human health. Congratulations to the Canadian trainees who were selected to provide presentations of their research as well as to all of the Canadian researchers invited to present at this meeting.

For those of you with an interest in obesity research, I trust you already are aware of the call for applications for **Team Grants in Bariatric Care** that INMD recently launched in partnership with Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions and Alberta Health Services Obesity, Diabetes and Nutrition Strategic Clinical Network, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Fonds de recherche du Québec-Santé, and the Canadian Obesity Network. This funding opportunity aims to advance Canadian research on bariatric care. Bariatric care includes lifestyle intervention and modification, cognitive and behavioural therapies, pharmacotherapy, and surgery used individually or in combination. The research funded will investigate impacts of bariatric care on severe obesity.

In addition, I am pleased to announce the launch of a new funding opportunity, **Biomarkers in Nutrition and Health (BioNH)**. This is a joint action of the Joint Programming Initiative, "A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life" (JPI HDHL) and involves a partnership between CIHR and 13 Member Countries of the European Union.

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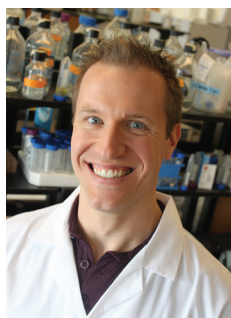
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RESEARCHER PROFILE

Jonathan Schertzer, PhD, McMaster University

Recipient of CIHR Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease (EGCD) Catalyst Grant



Jonathan Schertzer is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences at McMaster University where he has been on faculty since 2012. He earned his doctorate degree in the laboratory of Professor Gordon Lynch at Univ. Melbourne in Australia. With the support of fellowships from NSERC, CIHR, and the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA), he completed postdoctoral training in the Cell Biology Programme at SickKids, Univ. Toronto

in the laboratory of Professor Amira Klip. Jon currently holds a CDA Scholar Award and operating grants from NSERC, CDA, and CIHR. Receipt of an EGCD Catalyst Grant and an INMD New Investigator award serve to further Jon's interest in linking metabolism and immunity. His primary research interest is to understand the role of host bacterial sensing as a trigger for immune responses that contribute to insulin resistance. One goal is to understand how specific parts of bacteria, such as constituents of the cell wall, can be used to improve glucose homeostasis. He is also interested in understanding how antibiotics and drugs commonly used to manage metabolic syndrome act on the immune system to alter metabolism.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING



INMD recently participated in the 46th Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN) Scientific Meeting, held in April in Vancouver. The meeting provided an opportunity for the clinical and research communities to come together to exchange ideas, participate in debates, and hear about recent discoveries. A unique feature of the meeting was the use of TED-like talks with presentations by Drs. Julie Ho (Univ. Manitoba, KRESCENT Program), Arsh Jain (Western Univ.), Matthew James (Univ.

Calgary, KRESCENT Program), and Rob Quinn (Univ. Calgary). Similar to conventional TED talks, in 18 minutes or less, with a minimal number of slides, standing under bright lights in a dark room on a raised catwalk extending into the audience, the presenters shared their ideas in the most simple, innovative and engaging ways possible, setting the tone for an excellent scientific meeting. Another meeting highlight was the presentation of The Kidney Foundation of Canada 2014 Medal of Research Excellence was awarded to **Dr. Adeera Levin** from Univ. British Columbia for her research on chronic kidney disease. Congratulations, Adeera!

NETWORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF CANADIAN CHILDREN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE NETWORK

On April 30, 2014, the Foundation for Children with Intestinal and Liver Disorders (CH.I.L.D) and INMD hosted the inaugural meeting of the Network Advisory Committee (NAC) of the [Canadian Children Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network \(Network\)](#) in Toronto. Members of the NAC include: Ms. Neelu Chauhan, a patient representative, and Drs. Brett Finlay, Univ. British Columbia; Claudio Fiocchi, Cleveland Clinic; and Wallace Crandall, Ohio State University. Ms. Cathleen Morrison, past CEO of Cystic Fibrosis Canada, chairs the NAC. The NAC was established to advise the Network Leadership Team and the funders on issues such as governance, strategic planning, evaluation, and outcomes. As CIHR focuses more on funding larger-scale, cross-pillar strategic initiatives with more complex funding arrangements, the added value of having external governance is clear. INMD is pleased to work Dr. Grace McCarthy, Mary Parsons and Lindsay Gordon, co-founders of the CH.I.L.D Foundation, as well as Tim Murphy and Dr. Aubrey Tingle in establishing a responsive, transparent, and supportive governance model for the Network.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE FOR CHRONIC DISEASE

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) invites eligible organizations to submit "Letters of Intent" for the *Healthy Living and Injury Surveillance for Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative*. PHAC is seeking applications that will explore new tools and channels to collect, analyze, and disseminate timely surveillance information, which includes exploring new partnerships. Canadian not-for-profit voluntary organizations and corporations, for profit organizations, unincorporated groups, provincial, territorial, regional, and municipal governments and agencies, organizations and institutions supported by provincial and territorial governments (regional health authorities, schools, post-secondary institutions, etc.), and individuals deemed capable of conducting population health activities are encouraged to [submit](#) letters of intent. For more information, contact the [PHAC website](#).

CHMS BIOBANK CALL FOR PROPOSALS

From **May 1 to June 30, 2014**, Statistics Canada is inviting researchers to apply for access to blood, urine and DNA samples from the Biobank of the Canadian Health Measures Survey (CHMS) for use in health studies. The biospecimens are available to any Canadian researcher that completes a review process and would benefit from a national population survey of about 5,600 participants per collection cycle. For details about the application and review process, visit the Biobank section of the [CHMS website](#). For more information, please contact the [CHMS biobank coordinator](#).

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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