

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

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INMD *Connections*

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director

Warm welcome to new INMD Institute Advisory Board (IAB) members

This fall we are delighted to announce the appointment of five new Institute Advisory Board members, profiled below. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Gillian Booth, Lise Gauvin, Peter Jones, Chris Kennedy, and Wim Wolfs. Each of these accomplished individuals brings a unique perspective and expertise to our Board, and we look forward to many fruitful discussions.

Best wishes to all,

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC
Scientific Director, INMD



Gillian Booth, MD, MSc

Gillian is a Scientist in the Keenan Research Centre of St. Michael's Hospital, an Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at Univ. Toronto, and a practicing endocrinologist. Her research focuses on health outcomes related to

diabetes; specifically how socioeconomic, environmental and health care factors influence the risk of diabetes and its complications. One of her major research interests is on the built environment and its role in the obesity and diabetes epidemics.



Lise Gauvin, PhD

Lise is a Professor in the School of Public Health at the Université de Montréal and a Researcher at the CHUM (Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal) Research Centre. She is also actively involved in activities of the Léa-Roback Research Centre on Social Inequalities in Health in Montreal. Her research focuses on socio-environmental determinants of involvement in physical

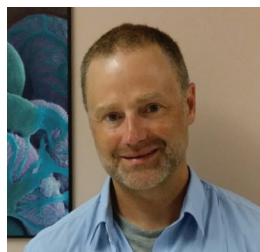
activity, interventions to promote physical activity at the population level, and social determinants of disordered eating. She investigates how different neighbourhood characteristics and features can influence lifestyle choices and can become the focus of public health interventions to improve health and prevent disease.



Peter J. Jones, MSc, PhD

Peter is a Canada Research Chair in Functional Foods and Nutrition and Director of the Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals at Univ. Manitoba. He serves as President of the Danone Institute for Nutrition in Canada and Chairman of the Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals Board of the Vancouver-based Forbes Medi-Tech group. Peter's research interests cover cholesterol, fat, and energy

metabolism. His research group has been active in exploring dietary determinants that control cholesterol biosynthesis absorption and turnover in humans, as well as how plant sterols act in functional foods as cholesterol-lowering agents.



Christopher R.J. Kennedy, PhD

Chris is a Senior Scientist within the Chronic Disease Program and Kidney Research Centre at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and an Associate Professor at Univ. Ottawa. His research seeks to identify factors, such as prostaglandins and reactive oxygen species, responsible for mediating damage to podocytes, which may cause

filtration barrier injury. Identifying specific factors responsible for filtration barrier injury may reveal novel therapeutic targets for the prevention of glomerular diseases. His research has shed light on how mutations in the alpha-actinin-4 gene lead to an inherited form of a common chronic kidney disease; focal segmental glomerulosclerosis.



Wim Wolfs, MSc, MBA

Wim is National Director of Research for The Kidney Foundation of Canada. Wim has served on a number of governing and advisory committees in the voluntary health sector, including acting as Chair of the Health Charities Coalition of Canada Standing Committee on Health Research, member of the Canadian National Transplantation Research Program Senior Advisory Committee, member of the

Horizons 2015 Steering Committee, and KRESCENT Program Steering Committee. He holds a Masters in Psychology (Univ. Amsterdam) and a Master of Business Administration (Concordia Univ.).

RESEARCHER PROFILE

David Mutch, PhD, University of Guelph



anti-inflammatory, not everyone responds to omega-3 fatty acids in

David is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Health & Nutritional Sciences at Univ. Guelph. David's nutrigenomics research program examines the interactions between fatty acids, genes, and inflammation, and how these interactions contribute to the development of obesity-related complications, such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. David's research has shown that although omega-3 fatty acids are generally

the same manner. With the receipt of an INMD Start-Up Grant, David will elucidate the role of fatty acid desaturase genes as mediators of the anti-inflammatory benefits of omega-3 fatty acids in adipose tissue by employing genomic technologies in complementary cellular, rodent models, and human studies. David's research will generate new insights to guide the development of tailored diet strategies using omega-3 fatty acids to prevent cardiometabolic risk. David is also the recipient of an Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease Catalyst Grant entitled, *Investigating the use of bi-clustering to identify blood mRNA biomarkers to monitor the efficacy and safety of pharmacological and nutritional compounds targeting MetS.*

17TH INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORLD CONGRESS



From left: Drs. Philip Sherman and Elena Comelli with oral poster presenters from Brazil and China.

CIHR was a proud sponsor of the 17th International Union of Food Science and Technology Congress held in Montreal August 17-21, 2014. INMD chaired a symposium on *Food & Health – Gut Health, Fibre, and Prebiotics*. Dr. Elena Comelli, Univ. Toronto presented a state-of-the-art update related to dietary impacts on the composition and function of the intestinal microbiota. This outstanding talk was followed by oral abstract presentations from Canada, China, and Brazil. The local organizer of this highly successful World Congress, with >1,800 registrants from more than 70 countries, was Dr. Rickey Yada, Univ. Guelph, Vice-Chair of the INMD Institute Advisory Board, and soon to be Dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at Univ. BC. Congratulations, Rickey!



Dr. Rickey Yada, Univ. Guelph

PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT: LAUNCH OF PROGRAMMATIC GRANTS IN EGCD

INMD is pleased to announce the upcoming launch of the *Programmatic Grants in Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease (EGCD)* funding opportunity. This funding opportunity, which builds on the [Catalyst Grants in EGCD](#), will provide funding for research addressing the role of environment, microbiome and gene interactions in chronic diseases. The Programmatic Grants in EGCD are part of the [Environments and Health Signature Initiative](#), which will focus on investigating how the physical, social, cultural and built environments in which we live, work, and play are critical to our health, development and well-being over the lifespan.

CIHR/CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY (CAG) INDUSTRY - FALL 2014 PRIORITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

INMD is pleased to announce the following CIHR/CAG Industry Fall 2014 Priority Announcements. For more information, click on the links below.

Fellowships:

- [Inflammatory Bowel Disease \(IBD\)](#), Due: November 14, 2014
- [Gastroenterology \(non-IBD\)](#), Due: November 14, 2014

New Investigator Salary Award:

- [Inflammatory Bowel Disease \(IBD\)](#), Due: December 1, 2014

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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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