



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

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INMD *Connections*

Seasons Greetings from the INMD Institute Advisory Board (IAB)



With great pleasure, I bring greetings from the INMD Institute Advisory Board (IAB). Reflecting on the past year, we celebrate achievements of INMD through funding opportunities, national and international partnerships, and outreach to the community. As a co-lead on the **Environments and Health Signature Initiative**, INMD launched **Programmatic Grants in Environments,**

Genes and Chronic Disease in collaboration with the Institutes of Aging, Human Development, Child & Youth Health, and Infection & Immunity. The results of the **Team Grants in Bariatric Care for Management of Severe Obesity**, launched in April, will be announced soon. Grants from a collaborative transnational research initiative with European nations on **Biomarkers in Nutrition and Health** were also recently announced.

The diabetes research community gathered at a **National Strengthening Workshop** in Ottawa on Diabetes and Related Complications as a means of focusing interest in a national Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Network in the area. To enhance

research skills for young scientists, a two-day meeting for 35 New Investigators (<5 years on faculty) from across the country was held in Banff. Evaluated as a great success, this meeting cultivated interactions between the new investigators with seasoned scientists and INMD partners from health charities and professional societies. In partnership with the Institute of Infection & Immunity, INMD hosted a national **Microbiome Workshop**. INMD also sponsored scientific symposia at the 17th World Congress of Food Science and Technology, the Canadian Nutrition Society, and the annual meeting of the Canadian Public Health Association. With excellent input from IAB members, partners, and the research community at large, the refreshed strategic plan for INMD for 2015-2018 was finalized, and will be circulated shortly.

On behalf of all members of the IAB, sincere thanks to INMD staff for making 2014 a great year for the Institute.

Wishing you peace and joy for the holiday season,

Stephanie Atkinson
Chair, INMD IAB



LAUNCHED: Programmatic Grants in Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease

CIHR and partners are pleased to announce the *Programmatic Grants in Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease (EGCD)* funding opportunity. The Programmatic Grants in EGCD are part of the **Environments and Health Signature Initiative**. The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$14M (grant max \$400K/yr for up to 5 yrs). The Programmatic Grants in EGCD will provide funding for research addressing four funding pools: (1) environment-microbiome-gene interactions in chronic non-communicable

diseases, (2) chronic non-communicable immunologically-mediated diseases (e.g. IBD, type 1 diabetes, celiac disease), (3) chronic non-communicable metabolic diseases (e.g. type 2 diabetes, NAFLD, obesity), (4) chronic non-communicable diseases related to reproduction, fetal and/or early childhood development. For more information about this funding opportunity, please visit **ResearchNet** or contact **Keeley Rose**.

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RESEARCHER PROFILE

Brent Richards, MD, MSc, McGill University 2014 Dr. Jody Ginsberg Young Investigator Award



Dr. Brent Richards is an endocrinologist and a FRQS-supported Clinician-Scientist on faculty at McGill Univ. in Montreal, Quebec. In support of his training, he was selected for a CIHR Fellowship and a Commonwealth Scholarship. Brent's current research program is focused on the identification of genetic determinants of common, aging-related diseases and the translation of these findings

to improved clinical care. His research focuses primarily on diabetes and osteoporosis. His research findings, which have been supported by CIHR, the Public Health Agency of Canada and partners in industry, are published in journals including *Nature Genetics*, *Lancet*, and *PLoS Medicine*. Dr. Richards has been recognized for his accomplishments with receipt of the 2014 Canadian Society for Endocrinology (CSEM) Dr. Jody Ginsberg Young Investigator Award, co-sponsored by INMD, for his research on vitamin D.

Team Grant: Biomarkers in Nutrition and Health (BioHN)



INMD, in partnership with ten European members of the Joint Programming Initiative: Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life is pleased to support a joint action on Biomarkers in Nutrition and Health (BioHN). Details about this joint action are available on the [JPI HDHL website](#). Dr. David Wishart (Univ. Alberta) was

successful in receiving a 3-year team grant for his participation in *The Food Biomarkers Alliance: FOODBALL*. A project description is available on the [CIHR website](#).

Dr. Daniel Drucker, Recipient of the 2014 Manpei Suzuki International Prize for Diabetes Research



INMD congratulates Dr. Daniel Drucker, Professor of Medicine (Univ. Toronto) and Senior Scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of Mt. Sinai Hospital, for his receipt of the prestigious **2014 Manpei Suzuki International Prize for Diabetes Research**. The Selection Committee recognized his years of ground-breaking contributions to landmark discoveries in the biology and physiology of incretin hormones. These serve as the basis for clinical development of GLP-1 receptor agonists

and DPP-4 inhibitors. Dr. Drucker will be awarded a certificate of honour, at an award ceremony in Tokyo in February 2015.

CIHR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease

This funding opportunity will provide support for the development and implementation of SPOR Networks in non-communicable Chronic Diseases. **Letter of Intent Deadline: January 13, 2015.** For more information, visit [ResearchNet](#) or contact [Erica Dobson](#).

SPOR Patient Engagement—Collaboration Grants

CIHR is pleased to announce the launch of the Patient Engagement Collaboration Grants. **Application deadline: January 13, 2015.** For more information, visit [ResearchNet](#) or contact [Rosa Venuta](#).

INMD Start-up Funds (Bridge funding for Clinicians and New Investigators)

INMD will provide bridge funding to Clinicians and New Investigators working in our mandate area through the Transitional Operating Grant Priority Announcement Funding Opportunity to be launched in December. For more information please visit [ResearchNet](#).

Knowledge Synthesis

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to support teams of researchers and knowledge users to produce knowledge syntheses and scoping reviews that will contribute to the use of synthesized evidence in decision-making and practice. **Application deadline: May 15, 2015.** For more information, visit [ResearchNet](#) or contact [Alison Bourgon](#).

Planning and Dissemination Grants

INMD will provide support for planning and dissemination grants that are relevant to its mandate. This includes support for workshops and symposia. The maximum amount for a single grant is \$20,000. For more details, please visit [ResearchNet](#).

Travel Awards—Institute Community Support

INMD has launched travel awards to fund **trainees only** (doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows) whose relevant presentations (oral or poster) have been accepted through a peer review process to present at a scientific conference. INMD will offer travel awards to a maximum of \$1,500 per award. For more information, visit [ResearchNet](#).