



Institute of Nutrition,  
Metabolism and Diabetes  
Institut de la nutrition,  
du métabolisme et du diabète

# Connections

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## Message from Norman Rosenblum, INMD Scientific Director



Partnerships are integral to the work of INMD, and so our team takes great interest in the annual scientific meetings and events convened by partner organizations. This month, two INMD partners held scientific meetings: the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and the Canadian Association for the Study of Liver (CASL)/Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF). INMD representatives had the opportunity to attend these meetings and to meet with leaders of both organizations to discuss common areas of interest.

Common topics of discussion included capacity building to support the next generation of hepatology and gastroenterology researchers in Canada. Capacity building is an issue that I have been engaged in throughout my professional career, and one that I feel is fundamental to the success of INMD. I would encourage INMD partners to assess capacity within their own research fields and to consider how they may best address the gaps. I am very proud of the work that has been undertaken by the kidney research community together with the Kidney Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Society of Nephrology in this regard, and consider the KRESCENT (Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training) Program to be an excellent

example of an effective training and capacity building program. If you have not already done so, I would encourage you to read the evaluation of the KRESCENT program, published last year (Burns KD, Levin A, Fowler E, et al. The KRESCENT Program (2005-2015): an evaluation of the state of kidney research training in Canada. *Can J Kidney Health Dis.* 2017;4. doi: 10.1177/2054358117693354).

The other issue that arose in these meetings was strategic planning. We will be embarking on development of a new strategic plan for 2019, and so I am very interested to hear from partners about what they feel are the areas of strategic importance that should be considered as a focus for INMD. Where can we have an impact as an Institute, and how can we contribute to CIHR's mission of creating new scientific knowledge and enabling its translation to improve the health of Canadians and strengthen the Canadian healthcare system? These are questions that we will be considering together with our Institute Advisory Board.

I wish to thank the CAG and CASL leadership teams who took the time to meet with our team, and I look forward to future opportunities for collaborations.

*Norman Rosenblum*

Norman Rosenblum, MD, FRCPC  
Scientific Director, CIHR-INMD

## In Memoriam: Dr. Robert Goldstein, Chief Scientific Officer, JDRF



It is with sadness that INMD announces the passing of Dr. Robert A. Goldstein, a pioneer in the field of type 1 diabetes (T1D). As Chief Scientific Officer of JDRF Canada, he was instrumental in the development of JDRF's Canadian Clinical Trials Network (CCTN), which demonstrated JDRF Canada's commitment to translating research progress into therapies and treatments for T1D. His tremendous understanding of T1D and significant experience in the funding of foundational research continues to serve as a model, not only for JDRF but for other research-

funding organizations around the globe. Dr. Goldstein's commitment to accelerating life-changing breakthroughs to cure and treat T1D and its complications has been profound and will be long lasting.

### CONTACT US

**Norman Rosenblum, MD, FRCPC**  
Scientific Director

**Keeley Rose, MSc, PhD**  
Project Manager

**Mary-Jo Makarchuk, MHSc, RD**  
Assistant Director

**Denise Haggerty**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Vera Ndaba**  
Business Officer & Event Planner

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# Researcher Profile

## Deanna Gibson, PhD, University of British Columbia

*Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) –2018 Young Investigator Award Recipient*



Dr. Gibson (Associate Professor, Biology, Univ. British Columbia, Okanagan Campus) studies how the gut microbiome develops in response to the environment, diet and genetics, and how this drives immunity. While genetics plays a role in the type of microbes that one harbours, other factors are major predictors of which types of microbes and bacterial metabolites

are produced in the mammalian gut. For example, early life is an important time for microbial colonization whereby antibiotic exposure

alters the microbiome, which is passed on from mother to offspring. Host behaviours, such as exercise, predict microbiome diversity associated with metabolite production in the human gut; diet and the environment are also important factors.

One major focus of Dr. Gibson's research has been the effect of dietary lipids on the gut microbiome and immunity. She has found that lipid diets alter the microbiome throughout the lifespan, and has demonstrated that certain lipids and polyunsaturated fatty acids drive colitis by enriching pathobionts (a class of potentially pathogenic symbionts of the microbiota) and pathogenic immune responses. Dietary exposure results in a dynamic host-microbe relationship with various functional pathways, depending on the type of dietary exposure. Dietary fats, such as monounsaturated fats, are protective during colitis, which may have implications for dietary recommendations for inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patients. Dr. Gibson is currently working on clinical studies of various diets with the goal of generating evidence to support dietary recommendations for IBD patients.

## Congratulations, Dr. Phil Sherman!



INMD wishes to congratulate former Scientific Director, Phil Sherman, for receiving the 2018 Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) Distinguished Service Award.

This award recognizes excellence in research and exemplary service to the CAG. Congratulations, Phil!

## 2018 IAB Membership Renewal

CIHR has launched the 2018 Institute Advisory Board (IAB) membership renewal. Open and transparent, this recruitment process will focus on filling remaining gaps in expertise on IABs, which are made up of individuals from Canada and abroad – reflecting the greatest possible diversity and the highest standards of excellence across the following dimensions: 1) Research expertise; 2) Community sectors; 3) Additional experience/expertise; and 4) Demographics. **Application deadline: April 9, 2018.** For more information about applying, contact [Gisèle Lacelle](#), Senior Governance Advisor, Governance Membership Program or visit the [CIHR](#) website.

## CIHR Funding Opportunities

### *Nutrition and the Epigenome*

INMD is pleased to announce the launch of Team Grants in Nutrition and the Epigenome in collaboration with members of the Joint Programme Initiative: Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL). The aim of this call is to support transnational, collaborative research projects that gain a better understanding of the diet-epigenome relationships and their effect on human health. The total CIHR amount available for the Canadian component of successful projects is \$900,000 CAD, enough to fund approximately two grants. The maximum amount per Canadian component of the grant is \$150,000/year for up to three years. **Application deadline: April 12, 2018.** More details are available on the [JPI HDHL](#) website and [ResearchNet](#).

### *Planning & Dissemination Grants – ICS (Winter 2018 Competition)*

INMD is pleased to support planning activities, partnership development and/or dissemination events/activities that focus on the communication of health research evidence to the appropriate audience(s). The maximum awarded for a single grant is \$20,000 per annum for up to one (1) year, and \$60,000 is available in total to support INMD relevant applications. **Application deadline: March 1, 2018.** Please visit [ResearchNet](#) for more details.

**The CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD)** invests in research on diet, digestion, and metabolism. By addressing the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of a wide range of conditions and problems associated with hormones, the digestive system, kidneys, and liver function, INMD seeks to improve health for all Canadians.

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