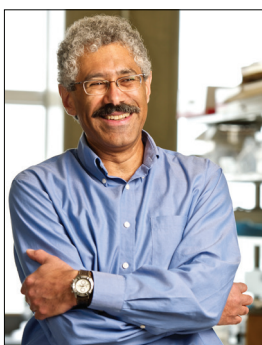


IMHA On the Move!

CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

June 2015

Message from the Scientific Director



With so many international research conferences taking place this spring and summer, the increasing importance of global collaboration in scientific research is clearly evident. In every one of IMHA's mandate focus areas, international collaboration is now becoming the norm. This greatly facilitates opportunities for large, impactful research programs that have a global impact. Moreover, it is at these international conferences that the plans are made for an ever increasing

exchange of human resources at all levels, from senior investigators going on sabbatical leave, to student exchanges. In Canada, we are fortunate to be able to provide excellent opportunities for researchers at all levels from other countries to bring their valuable experiences to the mutual benefit of the Canadian and international groups involved. CIHR has recently engaged in several large international collaborative projects including the [JPco-fuND European research projects on neurodegenerative diseases](#), the [European Research Projects on Ethical, Legal, and Social Aspects of Neuroscience](#), and the [Joint Canada-Israel Health Research Program](#). Based on the strategic priorities that CIHR-IMHA has set for itself in its Strategic Plan 2014-2018, the Institute is in the process of developing some important new initiatives that will feature major international partnerships in the funding opportunities...so stay tuned!

At this time we are pleased to have the involvement of the UK-based James Lind Alliance (JLA) along with the help of several international researchers for our Adult Fibromyalgia Priority Setting Partnership project. The survey part of this project will be launched this summer and we plan to hold a consensus conference in the late fall to determine which are the top ten research questions most needing to be addressed.

As most of you are aware, based on recommendations from CIHR's Governing Council, changes in CIHR's Institute Model have become operationalized. The following is a summary of the highlights:

- The current slate of thirteen CIHR Institutes will remain the same.
- Institute strategic budgets will be split equally between Institute-Specific Initiatives (ISI) and the Roadmap Accelerator Fund (RAF), the latter focused on the development of large multi-Institute initiatives. This will allow for opportunities to develop initiatives patterned along the lines of CIHR's existing Signature Initiatives, while also providing opportunities to support the stakeholder communities that are specific to each Institute.
- Ottawa-based Institute Staff (OBIS) will be better integrated into teams that will work with the host staff based at the Institute's home institution.
- Institute Advisory Boards will become more broad based in their mandates, with an increasing focus on cross-cutting themes that engage multiple institutes and partners.
- CIHR is developing detailed Performance Measurement tools with which to assess all levels of operations including Institutes, Scientific Directors, staff, initiatives, etc. in order to ensure appropriate return on investment for the public funds for which the organization is the steward.

Please refer to the [CIHR website](#) for more information about Institutes Modernization.

As always, I encourage you to continue to submit any questions or comments to IMHA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca. Please also follow me on Twitter [@HaniElGabalawy](#).

Sincerely,

Hani El-Gabalawy MD FRCP
Scientific Director
CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

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Funding Opportunities



For a full listing of CIHR funding opportunities, please visit the [ResearchNet website](#).

Program Name: Operating Grant: Collaborative Health Research Projects (NSERC Partnered) (2015-2016)

Application Deadline (Phase 2: Application): October 1, 2015

Program Name: Operating Grant- Canadian DOHaD Cohort Registry (Canadian Developmental Origins of Health and Disease Cohort Registry)

Application Deadline: October 1, 2015

Healthy and Productive Work Initiative – Pre Announcement

CIHR and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) are launching a joint initiative: Healthy and Productive Work, aimed at driving innovative, evidence-informed solutions to work and labour market challenges to improve the health and productivity of Canada's diverse workforce. This summer, SSHRC and CIHR will launch the first phase of a two-phase Call for Applications under Healthy and Productive Work. For more information, please visit the [CIHR website](#).



THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION®

Cochrane Corner

Cochrane Reviews are an important part of knowledge translation. [The Cochrane Collaboration](#) works to disseminate knowledge to health research communities so as to benefit patients and the health care system as a whole.

Besides the Reviews, the Canadian Cochrane Centre has an newsletter, *Relay Cochrane!* published three times a year, and a [Training and Events newsletter](#) published twice a year.

Please see the CIHR-IMHA [Cochrane Corner web page](#) for new select reviews from the Cochrane Skin Group.

Interventions for vitiligo

Maxine E Whitton, Mariona Pinart, Jonathan Batchelor, Jo Leonardi-Bee, Urbà González, Zainab Jiyad, Viktoria Eleftheriadou, Khaled Ezzedine

Antistreptococcal interventions for guttate and chronic plaque psoriasis

Dupire G, Droitcourt C, Ferneiny M, Hughes C, Katsahian S, Le Cleach L

Interventions for rosacea

van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Carter B, van der Linden MMD, Charland L

Interventions for hirsutism (excluding laser and photoepilation therapy alone)

van Zuuren EJ, Fedorowicz Z, Carter B, Pandis N

Interventions for chronic palmoplantar pustulosis

Obeid G, Do G, Katsahian S, Kirby L, Hughes C, Le Cleach L

Interventions for necrotizing soft tissue infections in adults

Hua C, Bosc R, Sbidian E, De Prost N, Jabre P, Chosidow O, Le Cleach L

Sentinel lymph node biopsy followed by lymph node dissection for localised primary cutaneous melanoma (#126)

Kyrgidis A, Tzellos T, Mocellin S, Apalla Z, Lallas A, Pilati P, Stratigos A

Topical antifungals for seborrheic dermatitis

Okokon EO, Verbeek JH, Ruotsalainen JH, Ojo OA, Bakhoya VN

Partner News

CIHR-IMHA Partner organizations are invited to share their news with our research community. Please send your organization news to the Institute Communications Project Officer at: christine.mazur@umanitoba.ca

Congratulations Team Bernier!

On Sunday, 7 June 2015, a passionate group of trainees, staff, and faculty from Western University in London, Ontario participated in the annual **Walk to Fight Arthritis** to raise funds for **The Arthritis Society** in support of the over 4.6 million Canadians that live with arthritis. Each year the team, named Team Bernier, walks in memory of Dr. Suzanne Bernier to honour her contributions and commitment to arthritis research that continue to act as an inspiration to many. With the help of generous friends and colleagues, Team Bernier raised **\$12,000** this year and was ranked the top community team. Arthritis researcher Dr. Frank Beier fulfilled his promise of dyeing his hair purple upon reaching the \$10,000 goal. The team thanks everyone for their support and generous donations that made purple Frank a reality! For more photos, please see the team's [Flickr page](#). – Submitted by Team Bernier



Research News

Congratulations to all those researchers who received new or renewed Canada Research Chairs this April, 2015. Please see the [official announcement](#) and [recipient list](#) on the Government of Canada website.

Keep Up With The News

In this age of social media, it is important for members of a health research community to be knowledgeable about their health topics in the news. At IMHA, we have been collecting news clips relevant to our areas of research focus. If you would like to receive a bi-monthly mail-out of these **"Google Alerts,"** please email: christine.mazur@umanitoba.ca.

Featured Research

NADPH Oxidase Function in the Pathogenesis of Pediatric IBD and JIA

Dr. John Brumell is the Principal Investigator on one of the nine research teams that received grants under the [CIHR Inflammation in Chronic Disease Signature Initiative](#) in 2014. Representatives of the research teams attended an inaugural networking meeting in February, 2015 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, organized by CIHR-IMHA and the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity (CIHR-III). One of the meeting's objectives was to encourage collaboration among researchers studying different aspects of inflammation in chronic disease. At the meeting, Dr. Brumell kindly took some time to discuss his team's project and share his thoughts on the collaborative process among health researchers. This is the second in a series of interviews with the Inflammation researchers.



Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) and Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) are two of the most common inflammatory diseases in children in Canada. Children living with these diseases continue to suffer from them throughout their lives. Both IBD and JIA have complex origins stemming from a combination of genetic and environmental factors. Genetic studies have found a connection between

a person's susceptibility to these diseases and the presence of mutated or compromised NADPH oxidases in their genes. Dr. Brumell and his team of researchers at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children hypothesize that these variants underlie common reasons for what causes IBD and JIA. "The general objectives of the study," said Dr. Brumell, "will be to understand the role of these genes in disease and to come up with better treatments for patients with alterations in these genes to better treat the disease."

A basic scientist, Dr. Brumell describes his area of research focus as being on host pathogen interactions: "Basically, how bacteria interact with our cells" he said. "We've been studying the basic interaction of bacteria with human cells for many years," he explained. "In terms of a gap in knowledge, from many genetics studies, we realized that many of the genes linked to these inflammatory diseases are not known." By studying these pathways found in their basic research, the team believes they can come up with new candidates to look for genes in patients with inflammatory disorders.

Working in multidisciplinary teams brought together experts from different areas, Dr. Brumell observed. "We have clinicians, we have basic researchers, we have individuals studying the environment and they all bring a different perspective, different research approaches," he said, "and this is really bringing in lots of power to the project: things that we could never do individually, we can do as a team." Further, he said, working as a team enables a more rapid application of discoveries.

A major lesson learned from multidisciplinary teamwork that Dr. Brumell shares is the importance of thinking big: "We've seen fantastic examples here at this meeting of what a team can do when they work together. Really, it goes beyond your imagination. You have to think big from the start, set very big goals, and go after them."

A major inspiration for researchers attending the meeting was hearing from keynote speaker Sir Marc Feldmann about what success in research looks like. Another networking goal was to get advice from senior colleagues in terms of their experience and

what they have learned from other initiatives similar to this. "The best part is just putting the face to the name," he said. "A lot of these people I've heard of, I've read their papers, now I get to meet them, hang out with them and talk science, and how we can move together as a group of different teams."

According to Dr. Brumell, "Inflammation in general is the key medical challenge of our time and that as we move forward, we have to put a lot of resources into studying this particular issue in medical science. And this initiative that has been started is, I think, a fantastic step forward in this direction."

Meetings of Interest

[12th Annual World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology](#)
July 19-22, 2015 Montreal, QC

[Cochrane Collaboration Colloquium](#)
October 3-7, 2015 Vienna, Austria

[Arthritis Alliance of Canada 3rd Annual Meeting](#)
October 22-23, 2015 Kananaskis, AB

[4th International Conference on Orthopedics & Rheumatology](#)
October 26-28, 2015 Baltimore, Maryland, USA

[American College of Rheumatologists \(ACR\) Annual Meeting](#)
November 6-11, 2015 San Francisco, CA

[Sparking Population Health Solutions: Research for a Healthier Future – An International Summit](#)
April 25-28, 2016 Ottawa, Canada

[9th International Scientific Conference on the Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders \(PREMUS2016\)](#)
June 20-23, 2016 Toronto, Canada

Contact Us

Be a part of the CIHR-IMHA community! Please send news and information and subscribe to our newsletter mailing list by emailing christine.mazur@umanitoba.ca

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