



Vol. 16, No. 12 - December 2016
ISSN 2291-1111

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

Connections

Message From Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



DREAM co-investigators (Manitoba)

Last month, I was privileged to participate in an event held at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba to mark Diabetes Awareness Month and announce research funding awarded to a dynamic group of researchers committed to addressing type 2 diabetes, with a focus on Indigenous youth. The theme of the 5th annual DREAM (Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba) Team diabetes research symposium was *The Emerging Science of Big Data: Using Omics Approaches and Large Datasets in Diabetes and Health Research*. The symposium highlighted CIHR-funded research on type 2 diabetes in Indigenous youth, and the potential underlying roles and interactions of environmental, epigenetic, and genetic factors in disease. The symposium, including the 3rd annual Dr. Heather Dean Lecture presented by Dr. Silva Arslanian (Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh), highlighted higher rates and earlier development of the complications of diabetes in affected youth. The unveiling of a moving and compassionate iCARE

(Improving renal Complications in Adolescents with type 2 diabetes through REsearch) **video** developed by affected youth in Manitoba was a high point of the symposium. Congratulations to DREAM co-directors, Drs. Jon McGavock and Grant Hatch, and their trans-disciplinary research team!

Best wishes for the holiday season and the coming New Year.

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



From left: Drs. Robert-Falcon Ouellette (MP, Winnipeg Centre), Jon McGavock, Grant Hatch and Philip Sherman

Health Canada Consultations

On October 24, 2016, the Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, launched the **Healthy Eating Strategy for Canada**. As part of this strategy, Canadians are invited to provide **input** on Health Canada's proposal to prohibit the use of partially hydrogenated oils in foods sold in Canada. Canadians are also invited to provide comments on Health Canada's proposed front-of-package nutrition labelling **consultation**. Please provide your input by **January 13, 2017**.

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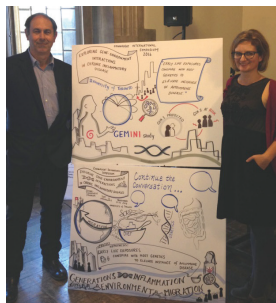
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Research Profile

CIHR-INMD Programmatic Grant In Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease (EGCD): The GEMINI Study



Dr. Ken Croitoru and Jennifer Gommerman, Univ. Toronto

The GEMINI Study (Generational differences in Environmental exposures caused by Human Migration: Impact on INcidence of INflammatory Disease) aims to assess how environmental and genetic factors contribute to the risk of developing inflammatory diseases. Specifically, the team has found that while first-generation South-Asian immigrants to Canada are protected from developing IBD and asthma, second generation South-Asians born in Canada

lose this disease protection. This research seeks to identify modifiable environmental risk factors and potential policy interventions that could improve the urban Canadian environment to lower the risk of inflammatory diseases in genetically susceptible individuals. Along with funding from CIHR, the GEMINI study has received support from the Connaught Global Challenge. On November 21-22, Nominated Principal Investigators Drs. Jennifer Gommerman and Ken Croitoru (Univ. Toronto) and members of the GEMINI research team gathered with an outstanding panel of Canadian and international speakers for the Connaught International Symposium 2016: *Exploring the Critical Issue of Gene and Environmental Interactions In Chronic Inflammatory Diseases*.

Current And Future Perspectives On Food Insecurity Research



Dr. Valerie Tarasuk, Univ. Toronto

INMD was pleased to sponsor a Workshop on *Advancing Food Insecurity Research in Canada* held in Toronto November 17-18, 2016. The meeting was organized by Dr. Valerie Tarasuk (Univ. Toronto) and her colleagues, and was

part of knowledge translation activities related to her CIHR-funded programmatic research grant on food insecurity policy research in Canada, entitled **PROOF**. The cross-jurisdictional, interdisciplinary Workshop attracted a large number of interested participants from across Canada, the United States, and Western Europe. Sessions addressed food insecurity in relation to health outcomes, Canadians living the north, international perspectives, and specific populations.

Check Out These SPOR Chronic Disease Networks Updates!

Diabetes Action Canada is pleased to announce the launch of their new [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) accounts. INMD encourages you to follow Diabetes Action Canada today! Also visit the [Can-SOLVE CKD](#) website! Can-SolveCKD, which stands for Listening, Learning, Leading: Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease is a pan-Canadian, patient-oriented kidney research network. Diabetes Action Canada and Can-SOLVE are supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research under Canada's [Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research \(SPOR\)](#).



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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CIHR Funding Announcements

KRESCENT/CIHR New Investigator Award and the KRESCENT/CIHR Fellowships

INMD is pleased to announce the Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training Program (KRESCENT) 2017 funding opportunities in partnership with The Kidney Foundation of Canada (KFOC) and the Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN). Please visit [ResearchNet](#) for details about the [KRESCENT/CIHR New Investigator Award](#) and the [KRESCENT/CIHR Fellowships](#).

CIHR Pre-Announcements

Human Immunology Initiative: Standardization and its application in autoimmune diseases research

The Institute of Infection and Immunity, in collaboration with the Institutes of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes, and Gender and Health are planning to launch the *Human Immunology Initiative: Standardization and its application in autoimmune disease research*. The goal of this initiative is to create a coordinated work force in human immunology research and build capacity to develop standardized methods to test novel therapeutic approaches to modulate the immune system in the context of autoimmune diseases. The initiative will be divided in two distinct funding opportunities. The first funding opportunity will support the establishment of a Standardization Core, to fund a collaborative team that will develop standard operating procedures (SOP) for autoimmune disease research in the field of human immunology. A second funding opportunity, to be launched at a later date, will support research teams that will apply the SOP developed by the Standardization Core and perform research on autoimmune diseases in the context of human immunology. The anticipated launch of the Standardization Core funding opportunity is **March 2017**.