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**The Institute of Infection and Immunity** provides national leadership and creates programs that promote innovative research aimed at reducing the global burden of infectious diseases and disorders of the immune system.

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## Message from the Scientific Director



It is always with great pleasure that I am contacting you with this newsletter. One priority of the Institute Strategic Plan is to prepare for and respond to emerging threats. We responded to pandemic influenza, to Ebola and now to Zika (see p.2). Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is receiving unprecedented visibility, and the Institute has already made a number of calls in drug development and diagnostics. We are also participating in a Pan-Canadian task group on AMR research and innovation. We recently convened a meeting with Merck Canada Inc. on antibiotic stewardship (see p.3) and are preparing a research call on strategies to protect and

better use antibiotics (see p.4).

The HIV file is under the scientific leadership of the Institute and one recent priority has been on vaccines, with workshops that are now informing two distinct requests for applications (see p.4 and 5).

One large investment in immunity has been in Inflammation in Chronic Diseases (ICDI) with three components: microbiome, transplantation and team grants. We are following progress on these three investments and a meeting of the ICDI teams and trainees is planned early next year with partnered CIHR institutes. A new multi-institute initiative has now emerged following considerable consultation in the field of human immunology (see p.3). The initial focus is on standardization of the methodologies and, in a second phase, teams working on autoimmune diseases will leverage this standardization core.

The Institute has always believed in the mentoring and success of the new generation of researchers. One recurrent event is our New Investigator Forum (details are provided on p.6). With other institutes, we are also working on a bioinformatics summer school that will be announced soon.

At the end of this newsletter, you will find some funding decisions and funding opportunities that we believe could be of relevance to the III community. I congratulate all successful applicants of the previous competitions and I wish you the best of luck for future applications.

The end of 2016 is in sight. I wish you all the best for the upcoming festive season and a very productive 2017.

Marc Ouellette

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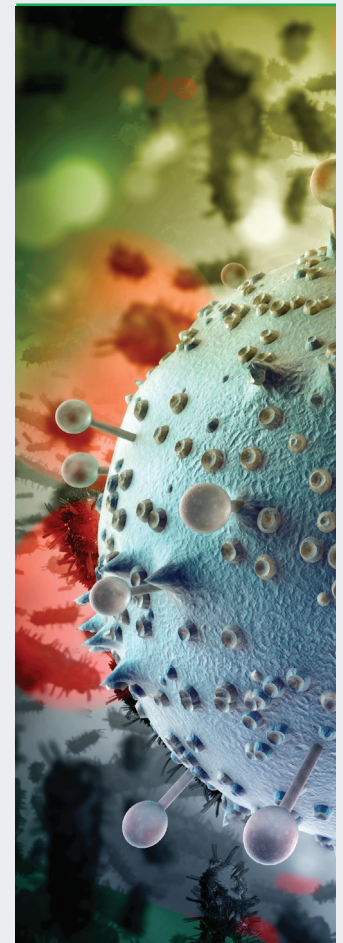
## Le programme de recherche IRSC-CRDI sur le virus Zika Canada-Amérique latine et Caraïbes

The Canadian Institutes of Health research (CIHR) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) launched, last May, a funding opportunity on Zika virus in response to the virus outbreak in the Americas and the Caribbean. This funding opportunity was coordinated with other calls from members

of the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness ([GloPID-R](#)). We are proud to report that three collaborative teams ([Diagnostics](#), [Pathogenesis](#) and [Vector studies](#)) have received funding as of October 1, 2016 (see page 6).



The Institute and IDRC facilitated the participation of the three teams in a meeting held at the University of São Paulo, November 30 to December 2, 2016, as part of the Zika virus research workshop organized by the CIHR, the IDRC, the European Commission, and the University of São Paulo. This networking meeting was to provide opportunities for coordination and collaboration between the CIHR-IDRC teams and other international networks.



*Zika meeting in Brazil. From left to right: Serge Desnoyers, Assistant Director, CIHR-III; Marc Ouellette, Scientific Director, CIHR-III; His Excellency Rick Savone, Ambassador of Canada to the Federative Republic of Brazil; Roberto Bazzani, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; Zee Leung, Program Officer, IDRC; Liz Stirling, Project Lead, CIHR.*





## Pre-announcement

### Human Immunology Initiative: Standardization and its Application in Autoimmune Diseases Research

The [Institute of Infection and Immunity](#) (III), in collaboration with the [Institute of Gender and Health](#) (IGH), the [Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis](#) (IMHA) and the [Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes](#) (INMD), are planning to launch the Human Immunology Initiative: Standardization and its application in autoimmune diseases research.

The overall 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 while integrating sex and gender issues.

Following a number of [consultation workshops](#) with partner institutes and the research community, it was concluded that analysis of the human immune system lacks standardization. As such, there is an

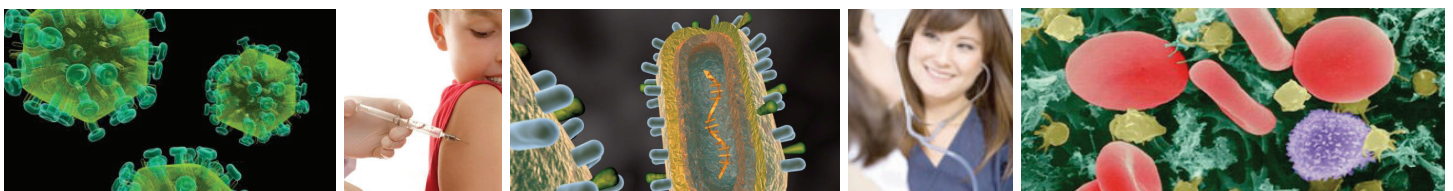
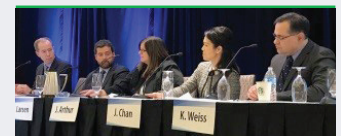
urgent need to develop and apply standard operating procedures (SOP) and common approaches for translational research in Canada.

The initiative will be divided in two distinct funding opportunities. The first funding opportunity will be the Standardization Core, which will support a collaborative team to develop SOPs 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 SOPs developed by the Standardization Core and perform research on autoimmune diseases in the context of human immunology.

Anticipated launch of the standardization core funding opportunity: March 2017

### Multi-Stakeholder Antimicrobial Stewardship Expert Forum

The [CIHR Institutes of Infection and Immunity](#) (III), of [Population and Public Health](#) (IPPH) and of [Health Services and Policy Research](#) (IHSPR), along with Merck Canada Inc., hosted a forum on antimicrobial stewardship in Toronto on November 17 and 18, 2016. The meeting was to set the Canadian landscape, but more importantly to look at gaps and future directions for innovation and research in antibiotic stewardship. A report is being prepared and some of the recommendations will be implemented in a future call (see p.4).



## Pre-announcement

### JPIAMR 5th Joint Call – Antimicrobial Resistance: Prevention and intervention strategies to control AMR infections

Call opens: January 2017  
Call closes: March 2017

The CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity (III) is pleased to announce its participation in the 5th joint call for proposals of the Joint Programming Initiative in Antimicrobial Resistance ([JPIAMR](#)) on intervention and stewardship to be launched in January 2017.

This call will involve over 13 participating countries and will support prevention, control, and intervention strategies research to prevent the development and transmission of AMR infections and to protect and prolong the usefulness of existing antimicrobials.

Further information may be found at:

<http://www.jpiaamr.eu/pre-call-announcementfifthcall/>

### CIHR Canadian HIV Trial Network (CTN)

CTN has put together a [resource](#) providing a summary of HIV cure research that is supported by the CTN back to the first study. It is not a complete roster of Canadian HIV cure research since much of the effort is in basic science or preclinical stages or is not supported by the CTN.

This is an initial step in knowledge translation (KT) work around CTN research areas and there is hope to develop other research areas in co-infection, HIV and aging, and prevention to name a few.

### CanCURE

The Institute and CIHR staff participated in the CanCURE Annual Meeting held on November 9 to 11, 2016 at the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM). The meeting gathered CanCURE researchers and trainees who presented their work on HIV.



### Operating Grant: Innovative Biomedical and Clinical HIV/AIDS Research – Vaccines

The [CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative](#) is pleased to announce the launch of the [Operating Grant: Innovative Biomedical and Clinical HIV/AIDS Research](#) funding opportunity.

The goal of this funding opportunity is to foster a culture of innovation in Canada by supporting innovative or high-risk biomedical and clinical projects related to preventive and therapeutic vaccines with potential for transformative advances in the area of HIV/AIDS.

#### Relevant Research Areas

1. Novel HIV vaccine strategies – including vector, antigen, adjuvant, and immune modulation.
  - a. Discovery to pre-clinical/animal to Phase 1 trials
2. HIV mucosal immunity – inflammation, resident cells, increase/decrease target cells
3. Correlates of protection
  - a. Use of existing cohorts for HIV vaccine research

Deadline for Applications: February 28, 2017

## CIHR-IAVI Research Partnership: Optimizing the VSV Vector towards an HIV Vaccine

The [CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative](#) with strategic leadership from the [CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity](#) (III) in partnership with the [International AIDS Vaccine Initiative Inc](#) (IAVI) is pleased to announce the launch of the [CIHR-IAVI Research Partnership: Optimizing the VSV Vector towards an HIV Vaccine](#) funding opportunity.

This funding opportunity supports the development of safe, effective, globally available HIV vaccines through enhancement of a leading replicating viral-vector based candidate: VSV-HIV.

The specific objectives of this funding opportunity are to:

- Accelerate the development of a safe, effective and globally available VSV-HIV vaccine.
- Link Canadian researchers and trainees to the global HIV vaccine effort.

Deadline for Applications: February 7, 2017

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** A webinar was held to address the most recent VSV-HIV results and plans for future development supported by a global network. For a copy of the slides or recording of the webinar, please contact the CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative ([HIVAIDS-VIHSIDA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:HIVAIDS-VIHSIDA@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)).

## Collaborative Centres of HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research

The [CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Initiative](#) with strategic leadership from the [CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity](#) (III) and the [CIHR Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health](#) (IAPH) is pleased to announce the launch of the [Collaborative Centres of HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research \(CBR\) funding opportunity](#).

The goal of this funding opportunity is to fund Centres that will build HIV/AIDS CBR capacity across Canada, to create new and sustain existing partnerships between communities and academia, and to foster the development of new HIV/AIDS CBR research projects and the translation of resulting evidence.

Deadline for Full Applications: February 7, 2017

## Team Grant : Impact of Gender on Knowledge Translation Interventions

The [Institute of Gender and Health](#) is pleased to announce the [Team Grant : Impact of Gender on Knowledge Translation Interventions](#). Given that social norms affect behaviour, gender-specific differences may explain variation in outcomes or impacts of knowledge translation (KT) interventions.

The aim of this funding opportunity is to create new knowledge about the integration of gender considerations into knowledge translation interventions involving human participants.

Registration Deadline : January 17, 2017

or all inquiries regarding the funding opportunities, please contact:

**CIHR Contact Centre**

Telephone: 613-954-1968

Toll Free: 1-888-603-4178

Email: [support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:support@cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

## The 7th IIR New Investigator Forum

The Institute of Infection and Immunity (IIR) is pleased to announce the Institute's 7th New Investigator Forum. The Forum aims to strengthen infection and immunity research by facilitating the formation of peer networks of new investigators and by providing opportunities for both formal and informal interactions with renowned senior scientists within the mandate of the Institute. The program will feature informative workshops, presentations of cutting-edge science and information on tools and mechanisms which support research in Canada. The forum will be held from May 26 to 28, 2017 at Le Manoir du Lac Delage, located in Lac Delage, near Québec City.

This conference is intended for new investigators in the field of Infection and Immunity. You must be within the first 5 years of your independent appointment. If you meet the

eligibility criteria and are interested in attending, please send the following information to [Serge Desnoyers](#), IIR Assistant Director: Name, complete contact information (name of institution and department, mailing address with postal code, phone number), email, year and month of first academic nomination, actual research area, CIHR research theme (biomedical, clinical, health system, population health), and your department head's name. **Please send your expression of interest by January 31, 2017 at the latest!** Confirmation of your participation at the forum will be sent by email following the review of your eligibility. Once you have received confirmation of your registration, details on how to book your travel will be provided. IIR will cover accommodations, meals and travel expenses for all attendees.

## Search Launched for a Chief Science Advisor – Ministry of Science

Canada's Science Minister Kirsty Duncan [launched the search](#) for a Chief Science Advisor. As a key priority in her mandate letter, the Prime Minister called on Minister Duncan to lead the process for creating this position. The Chief Science Advisor will report to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Science and will be available to the Govern-

ment to provide scientific advice on key issues.

The position is now open to all Canadians. The full job description and information on applying can be found on the [Governor in Council website](#). The application process is expected to close on January 27, 2017.

## Funding Decisions

We would like to congratulate the members of the IIR community that have been successful in the latest competitions.

[Operating Grant: Innovative Biomedical and Clinical HIV/AIDS Research](#)

[Operating Grant: Innovative Biomedical and Clinical HIV/AIDS Research - New Investigators](#)

[Planning and Dissemination Grants – Institute/Initiative Community Support \(Summer 2016 Competition\)](#)

[Catalyst Grant: HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research - Aboriginal Stream](#)

[Catalyst Grant: HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research - General Stream](#)

[Other: Travel Awards - Institute Community Support \(Summer 2016\)](#)

[New Investigator Salary Award: Winter 2015 Priority Announcement \(Specific Research Areas\) - Infection and Immunity](#)

Team Grant: Canada-Latin America-Caribbean Zika Virus Program

[Diagnostics](#)

[Pathogenesis](#)

[Vector studies](#)

[Operating Grant: Ebola Vaccine Rapid Response - Duration of Immunity](#)

[Team Grant: Environments and Health: Intersectoral Prevention Research :](#)

[Agri-food](#)

[Resource development](#)

[Urban form](#)

[IWK/TEK/TEs approaches](#)



## Funding Opportunities

*In the event of a discrepancy between the information provided here and the information on [ResearchNet](#), the latter shall prevail.*

*For a complete list of all the current opportunities, please click [here](#).*

### [Foundation Grant: 2016-2017](#)

For those who applied to stage 1  
Anticipated Notice of Decision - Stage 1: 2017-02-02  
Application Deadline - Stage 2: 2017-03-14  
Anticipated Notice of Decision - Final Assessment Stage: 2017-08-03  
Funding Start Date: 2017-07-01

### [Project Grant \(Spring 2017\) : Overview](#)

Registration Deadline: May 30, 2017  
Application Deadline: June 13, 2017  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: November 23, 2017  
Funding Start Date: October 1, 2017

### **Of particular interest for the Ill community**

#### [Operating Grant: Innovative Biomedical and Clinical HIV/AIDS Research \(2017\)](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-02-28  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-06-29  
Funding Start Date: 2017-06-01

#### [Operating Grant: Optimizing the VSV Vector towards an HIV Vaccine](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-02-07  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-04-27  
Funding Start Date: 2017-04-01

#### [Other: Collaborative Centres of HIV/AIDS Community-Based Research](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-02-07  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-04-06  
Funding Start Date: 2017-07-01

#### [Travel Awards - Institute Community Support \(Winter 2016-17\)](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-01-24  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-03-27  
Funding Start Date: 2017-04-01

### **Of general interest for the Ill community**

#### [Catalyst Grant: Indigenous](#)

Registration Deadline: 2016-12-20  
Application Deadline: 2017-01-17

Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-03-30  
Funding Start Date: 2017-03-01

#### [Catalyst Grant: Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-01-10  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-02-28  
Funding Start Date: 2017-03-01

#### [Chair: GlaxoSmithKline Partnered 2015-2016](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-04-28  
Funding Start Date: 2017-07-01

#### [Operating Grant: Sugar and Health](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-01-17  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-04-27  
Funding Start Date: 2017-04-01

#### [Other: Best Brains Exchange Travel Awards \(2016-2017\)](#)

Deadline Date: Various

#### [Other: CIHR-IPPH Trailblazer Award](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-01-10  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-03-16  
Funding Start Date: 2017-03-01

#### [Other: Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement \(2016-2017\)](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-02-02  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-03-10  
Funding Start Date: 2017-02-01

#### [Team Grant: Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative \(HeLTI\) – India](#)

*For those with successful LOI*  
Application Deadline: 2017-02-14  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-04-17  
Funding Start Date: 2017-04-01

#### [Team Grant: Impact of Gender on Knowledge Translation Interventions](#)

Registration Deadline: 2017-01-17  
Application Deadline: 2017-02-07  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-04-27  
Funding Start Date: 2017-04-01

#### [Undergraduate: Summer Studentship Award](#)

Application Deadline: 2017-01-17  
Anticipated Notice of Decision: 2017-03-23  
Funding Start Date: 2017-05-01

## Meetings of Interest

[6th Canadian Symposium on HCV](#), March 3, 2017, Banff, AB

[26th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research – CAHR 2017](#), April 6 to 9, 2017, Montreal, QC

[30th Annual Canadian Society for Immunology Conference](#), April 7 to 10, 2017, Banff, AB

[Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada. Annual meeting](#), May 3 to 6, 2017, Toronto, ON

[11th annual meeting of the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences \(OSSD\)](#), May 15 to 18, 2017, Montréal, QC

[67th Canadian Society of Microbiologists Annual Meeting](#), June 20 to 23, 2017, Waterloo, ON

## Health Research Data: Advancing Data Intensive Research

CIHR is committed to ensuring that health research and health-related data in Canada are effectively accessed, analyzed, linked, integrated, used, reused, stored and preserved to advance knowledge, expand research opportunities, and improve health services, products and outcomes. We recently launched a new web presence devoted to [Health Research Data](#). The pages include information on CIHR-funded data initiatives, strategies and policies, resources and data stakeholders. You can also stay up-to-date on Health Research Data by visiting the [News and Events](#) page.



*Season's greetings  
and best wishes for  
the New Year!*

*Marc Ouellette  
and the III Team*

