



IMHA On the Move!

CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

Summer (July/August) 2015

Message from the Scientific Director



We like to think that work slows down for the summer, but with all the changes happening at CIHR and a host of new initiatives in development, the staff at CIHR-IMHA is working steadily. All this activity has made it very hard for us to say farewell to our Ottawa-based staff, Liz Stirling and Tanya Gallant. Liz had been with CIHR-IMHA for eight years and was a wealth of important knowledge and

advice. Tanya had worked with the Institute for the past seven years and was an invaluable resource of information to help the Institute run smoothly. We will truly miss their guidance. As of July 8th, both will be settling in to new positions as will many other staff at CIHR with the start of the new changes. Though we lose two good people, we would like to extend a warm welcome our new Integrated Institute team members. This group of Ottawa-based specialists is dedicated to assisting several institutes, and will be a great help to us as we advance our new initiatives. We look forward to working with them.

Currently, CIHR-IMHA is involved with several ongoing Signature Initiatives including the Oral Health exemplar of the Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples, the Inflammation in Chronic Disease Initiative, for which we are co-leads with the Institute of Infection and Immunity, Healthy and Productive Work, and Personalized Medicine.

It is always a challenge to bring together our seemingly disparate areas of research focus, but as we look to the future we are always conscious of the past, specifically of the legacy of Dr. Cy Frank, who as the first Scientific Director of CIHR-IMHA, was able to bring together the areas of health research related to bones, connective tissue, joints, muscles, skin and teeth. Cy's legacy will be celebrated this coming October at a special symposium being hosted by the Arthritis Alliance of Canada at their Annual Meeting. CIHR-IMHA is pleased to be hosting a special forum for Young Investigators alongside this meeting, and hopes to pass the torch in some way to the next generation of researchers.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind our community to please share your news with us. This newsletter reaches over 1,500 people interested in CIHR-IMHA's areas of research focus, so please let us know about research news related to these areas.

Please submit any questions or comments to IMHA@umanitoba.ca, and please also follow me on Twitter [@HaniElGabalawy](https://twitter.com/HaniElGabalawy).

Sincerely,

Hani El-Gabalawy MD FRCPC, FCAHS
Scientific Director
CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis

Funding Opportunities

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

Program Name: Team Grant : Pathways Implementation Research Team – Component 2

Application Deadline (Phase 2: Application only): September 15, 2015

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

Program Name: Operating Grant- Population Health Intervention Research (Fall 2015 Competition)

(Population Health Intervention Research to Promote Health and Health Equity)

Application Deadline: October 15, 2015

(Funding News Continued on page 2.)

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Funding News

Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples Announcement: Population Health Intervention Research (PHIR)

The [CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health](#) and the CIHR Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples Initiative (Pathways), in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, is pleased to announce the launch of the [Population Health Intervention Research funding opportunity](#). The CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, would like to encourage all members of the oral health research community to consider applying for this funding opportunity.

Application deadline: October 15, 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

For questions about this initiative and research priorities, please contact:

[Erica Di Ruggiero](#)

CIHR-Institute of Population and Public Health
Tel: 416-524-0111

For questions about the Pathways initiative and research priorities, please contact:

[Sarah Viehbeck](#)

CIHR-Institute of Population and Public Health
Tel: 613-562-5800 ext 1925

What is Pathways? New Video

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will help improve the health of Métis, First Nations, Inuit and Urban Aboriginal Peoples through its signature initiative, Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples. A [new video](#) explaining the signature initiative is now available to watch on the CIHR Youtube channel. A [French version](#) is also available. Stay tuned for updates about the Pathways initiative on the [CIHR Pathways webpage](#).



Healthy and Productive Work Initiative – Funding Opportunity Launch

Application Deadline: November 30, 2015

CIHR and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) have launched a joint initiative: [Healthy and Productive Work](#), aimed at driving innovative, evidence-informed and gender responsive solutions to work and labour market challenges to improve the health and productivity of Canada's diverse workforce. Details of the initiative and application requirements can be found on the [CIHR website](#).

CIHR Fellowship Program Deadline change

The CIHR Fellowship awards competition deadline has moved to **November 2, 2015** (rather than November 15). The anticipated notice of decision will remain as it was in previous years, on April 30, 2016. The eligibility of candidates will not be impacted by the changed deadline date for this competition. Should you have questions regarding the program and how to apply, we encourage you to consult the [CIHR website](#) for details or to contact the program delivery team at fellowships@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Updates to the Canadian Common CV (CCV)

Please note that effective **June 29, 2015**, the following changes have been implemented:

Record selection management capability

Users who submit a [Canadian Common CV](#) to different organizations or to different competitions within the same organization are now able to manage their record selection for each individual Funding CV template. This enhancement allows users to:

- Create, edit and save versions of each Funding CV template, each with its own customized record selection. This feature is particularly useful to users who need to submit the same type of Funding CV to multiple competitions;
- Preserve the record selection made in each individual Funding CV template version;
- View the number of records selected for submission while updating the record selection in each section of CV template versions.

Please note that when loading a template for the first time after June 29, 2015, or when creating a new template version, the record selection will be based on the Generic CV. Any changes in record selection thereafter will be version specific and will not impact any other templates or versions in the CCV. It is important to note that modifications to the CCV dataset (e.g. creating or deleting records, entering or deleting data in individual fields) will still be reflected across all templates and versions created by a user.

Re-organization of Student/Postdoctoral Supervision records

To enhance the clarity of the Student/Postdoctoral Supervision section in the PDF output of the CCV, all records are now grouped based on the Study Level, followed by descending chronological order. We appreciate your continued support. For any questions or comments, please contact CIHR at ccv-cvc@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Webinar for students in health research

Students in health research and university staff are invited to an online information session to learn about CIHR student awards programs, funding opportunities and how to apply. Sessions are planned between September 8-10. [Register online](#).

Featured Research

Restitution Enhancement in Arthritis and Chronic Heart Disease (REACH)

Dr. Jean Marshall is a co-principal investigator on one of the nine research teams that received grants under the [CIHR Inflammation in Chronic Disease Signature Initiative](#) in 2014. At a networking meeting held in Winnipeg in February, 2015, co-hosted by CIHR-IMHA and the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity (CIHR-III), Dr. Marshall kindly took some time to discuss her team's project and share her thoughts on the collaborative process among health researchers. This is the third in a series of interviews with the Inflammation researchers.



Dr. Jean Marshall is the head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Dalhousie University, and a basic scientist doing fundamental work in Immunology. She is the co-principal investigator on the Restitution Enhancement in Arthritis and Chronic Heart Disease, or REACH Program.

The REACH Program's focus is two chronic conditions: myocardial infarction (MI) (heart attack) leading to cardiac fibrosis (abnormal thickening of heart valves) known as post-MI inflammation; and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) which culminates in joint destruction. These major health conditions happen as a consequence of the human body's immune system responding improperly by causing inflammation. Costly to the healthcare system and challenging to treat, these conditions lead to disability from irreversible joint damage and death from heart failure.

The key question the REACH team is investigating, according to Dr. Marshall, is why some people get better in each of these situations, and why some progress to much more severe chronic disease. As she explained, the REACH team is looking at "what goes right" in patients whose health improves to help look for ways to develop new therapies.

"Inflammation is a natural process," she said. "We need inflammation to heal, we need inflammation to respond to infection, so inflammation isn't always a bad thing. It's only when inflammation is inappropriate or driven inappropriately or in the wrong setting that it's a bad thing." Rather than stopping inflammation, she said, researchers need to understand it in a way to regulate it appropriately, for the appropriate setting.

The REACH team is multidisciplinary and international, consisting primarily of clinician and basic scientists, with some statistical and analytical expertise to help with looking at large data sets. Besides the Canadian researchers, two investigators hail from Helsinki, Finland, and one from Stanford University.

Dr. Marshall explained that the international aspect of this team is very beneficial, allowing them to compare what they see in Canada to other populations and clinical settings, and also giving the team access to a wider range of research tools. Trainees also benefit from exposure to different research environments and different ways of thinking.

The end result of working in such a team, Dr. Marshall observed, is a more thought out, patient-relevant approach. "For example," she said, "as a basic scientist I wouldn't think of some of the things that come to the table by working with my clinician colleagues on the same project." The most important thing about working in teams, she said, is to ensure open lines of communication with all partners, stakeholders, and investigators involved.

The REACH team's work has wide-reaching implications: "Literally millions of people suffer from these diseases and in the case of arthritis it's a disease that hits people in the prime of their life and can be enormously debilitating with high morbidity," she said. As for heart disease patients, survivors of heart attacks may experience progressive heart failure, which prevents a return to normal life. Discovering something that can delay, slow down or prevent that process would be a tremendous advance, said Dr. Marshall.

Meetings of Interest

[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

[6th Annual Military and Veteran Health Research Forum](#)

November 23-25, 2015 Quebec City, QC

[Sparkling Population Health Solutions: Research for a Healthier Future – An International Summit](#)

April 25-28, 2016 Ottawa, Canada

[10th World Biomaterials Congress 2016](#)

May 17-22, 2016 Montreal, QC

[9th International Scientific Conference on the Prevention of Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders \(PREMUS2016\)](#)

June 20-23, 2016 Toronto, Canada

Research News

In keeping with CIHR-IMHA's mandate of supporting ethical and impactful research to enhance active living, mobility and oral health and to address the wide range of conditions related to bones, joints, muscles, connective tissue, skin and teeth, IMHA On the Move! strives to connect its community of stakeholders by sharing news. Please send your community's research news to the Institute [Communications Project Officer](#).

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](#).

Arthritis Consumer Experts

[JointHealth](#) is the ACE's newsletter, providing up-to-date research based information about all aspects of the most common forms of arthritis, plus some rarer forms.

The Arthritis Society

First Arthritis Society-funded study into medical cannabis announced

The Arthritis Society is pleased to announce a three-year research grant to Dr. Jason McDougall of Dalhousie University to investigate medical cannabis and its impact on arthritis pain and disease management. Dr. McDougall is one of the world's foremost pain researchers. Please see the full story on The [Arthritis Society website](#).

Canadian Dental Association

[CDA Essentials](#) is the official print publication of CDA, providing dialogue between the national association and the dental community. It is dedicated to keeping dentists informed about news, issues and clinically relevant information. The latest issue is now available on the [CDA website](#).

Top Canadian forensic dentist, Dr. David Sweet, OC, was [profiled in Trek](#), the UBC alumni magazine. The story of his career as a forensic odontologist is inspiring to oral health researchers.

Canadian Dermatology Association

The [Canadian Dermatology Association](#) website contains news and resources for both members of industry and the public regarding skin health.

Network for Canadian Oral Health and Research

Read the latest news about Oral Health research in Canada on the [NCOHR website](#).



THE COCHRANE
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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 e-newsletter, *Relay Cochrane!* published three times a year, and a [Training and Events e-newsletter](#) published twice a year.

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

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 the [Communications Project Officer](#).

Contact Us

Be a part of the CIHR-IMHA community! Please send news and information and subscribe to our newsletter mailing list by emailing the Institute [Communications Project Officer](#).

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