



Vol. 17, No. 6 - June 2017
ISSN 2291-1111



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

Connections

Message From Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



(From left to right): Front row: Dr. Julio Montaner; Dr. John Dick; His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada; Dr. Charlotte Loppie; Dr. Gregory Steinberg; Back row: Dr. Steven Hoffman; Dr. Paul Lasko; Dr. Roderick McInnes; Dr. Nadine Caron; Dr. Anne Martin-Matthews. Photo credit: Rob Faubert, CIHR.

CIHR presented inaugural Gold Leaf prizes to recognize excellence in health research and its translation into benefits for Canadians. These prizes were awarded to four outstanding Canadian health researchers at a **recognition ceremony held at Rideau Hall on May 16, 2017**. Dr. Gregory Steinberg (McMaster Univ.) was awarded the *CIHR Gold Leaf Prize for Outstanding Achievements by an Early Career Investigator*. Gregory is also receiving the 2017 American Diabetes Association International Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award for research contributions that have “significantly shaped our understanding of how lipid metabolism, insulin sensitivity and energy sensing

are intimately linked and contribute to the development of type 2 diabetes”. Congratulations Greg!

Other awards have been presented to outstanding health researchers also working in INMD mandate areas: Drs. Brenda Hemmelgarn and Braden Manns (Univ. Calgary) received the Kidney Foundation of Canada Medal of Research Excellence as leaders in the Canadian kidney research community. The Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS) recognized Dr. Stephanie Atkinson (McMaster Univ.) with the 2017 Khursheed Jeejeebhoy Award for outstanding contributions in clinical nutrition, Dr. Valerie Tarasuk (Univ. Toronto) with the 2017 Earle Willard McHenry Award for distinguished service in nutrition, René Jacobs (Univ. Alberta) with the Young Investigator Award, and JoAnne Arcand (Univ. Ont. Inst. Technology) with the CIHR INMD-CNS New Investigator Partnership Prize. Congratulations to all of these accomplished award recipients!

Enjoy the summer season,

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

JUNE 2017

WANTED

INMD Scientific Director

The search is on for the next Scientific Director of INMD. The ideal candidate will possess a passion for science and a strong track record in health research, demonstrated leadership in his or her field and the ability to work in partnership with health charities and research organizations. If qualified, please consider this opportunity. Details are available on the [CIHR website](http://www.cihr.gc.ca).

CONTACT US

Philip M. Sherman, 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

Follow @CIHR_INMD

Programmatic Grants in Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease Team Profile

Gene Environment Team on Brown/beige Adipose Tissue (GET_BAT)



The GET_BAT Team

More than 5 million Canadians have obesity, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD) and type 2 diabetes (T2D) and their prevalence in the population is rapidly increasing. Drs. Greg Steinberg (featured on page 1 of this newsletter) and Katherine Morrison, and their team, which includes Drs. André Carpentier, Alison Holloway, Waliul Khan, Andrew McArthur, Kei Sakamoto, Jonathan Schertzer, Deborah Sloboda, and Michael Surette, are working to understand the underlying causes of these chronic, interrelated diseases. Brown adipose tissue (BAT), frequently characterized as the body's furnace, has the unique capability to burn large amounts of sugar and fat, and

effectively dissipates this energy as heat. In individuals with obesity or T2D the ability to switch on BAT is compromised, but the reasons for this are not well understood. The GET_BAT team is examining how agricultural and food processing practices may regulate BAT metabolic activity, directly, or indirectly by altering the gut microbiome. These studies will help us develop new strategies to enhance BAT activity that may be effective for treating and preventing obesity, NAFLD and T2D.

CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grants - Institute Community Support

INMD is delighted to congratulate successful applicants who received [Planning and Dissemination Grants – Institute/Initiative Community Support \(Winter 2017 Competition\)](#):

Nominated Principal Investigator	Institution	Project Title
Bénédicte Fontaine-Bisson	Univ. Ottawa	Periconceptional intake of folic acid among low-risk women: aligning prenatal supplement content with current expert guidelines
Jess Haines	Univ. Guelph	Engaging the forgotten parent: Conference of experts on fathers' role on children's weight and related behaviours
Hassanali Vatanparast	Univ. Saskatchewan	Refugee crises, access to food and health, time for action!
Michelle Vine	Univ. Waterloo	Developing a research agenda for school nutrition policy in Ontario: A planning meeting including key stakeholders from across Canada
David Wright	Univ. Guelph	Saltin international PhD course in clinical and exercise physiology

A Food Policy for Canada

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister, Lawrence MacAulay, announced that the Government of Canada is launching consultations to support the development of A Food Policy for Canada. An [online survey](#) is now open, Canadians are encouraged to share their input to help shape a food policy that will cover the entire food system, from farm to fork. Canadians can share their views on four major themes: increasing access to affordable food; improving health and food

safety; conserving our soil, water, and air; and growing more high-quality food. In addition, a wide range of stakeholders will be invited to Ottawa for A Food Policy for Canada Summit, to take place June 22-23, 2017. The Summit is designed to provide a space for stakeholders, experts, and key policy makers to share views on the development of A Food Policy for Canada. **Online consultations close July 27, 2017.**

CIHR Funding Opportunities

Innovative Clinical Trials in Type 1 Diabetes

CIHR and JDRF Canada are pleased to announce funding for Innovative Clinical Trials (iCT) in type 1 diabetes. As part of [SPOR](#), the [\(iCT\) initiative](#) aims to build capacity and increase the intensity of iCT research. This funding opportunity is focused on the type of innovative clinical trials that involve comparative effectiveness research and/or implementation science research. For more information, please visit [ResearchNet](#).

Canadian Epigenetics, Environment and Health Research Consortium (CEEHRC) Phase II

The **Impact Grant** program is intended to support significant progression in epigenetic research where there is the potential to overcome significant challenges or hurdles to translation. **Application Deadline: August 15, 2017.** The **Team Grant** supports collaborative research teams that have the capability to transform epigenetics research. **Letter of Intent Application Deadline: August 15, 2017.** Visit [ResearchNet](#) for more information.

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.

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Comments](#)