



A Newsletter from the CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes

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INMD *Connections*

Message from INMD Scientific Director



CIHR President, Alain Beaudet, with members of the JPI HDHL Management Board

On May 3-4, 2016 INMD was pleased to host members of the Management Board of the Joint Programming Initiative, A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL) in Ottawa. Representatives from 12 countries across Europe attended the meeting, which included a presentation from CIHR President, Dr. Alain Beaudet.

Most Management Board members stayed in Canada to participate in the Food for Health Workshop on *Global approaches to food, nutrition and agricultural research partnerships to align research agendas and improve public health*. The workshop ran in conjunction with the 2016 Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS) annual conference held May 5-7, 2016 in Gatineau, Quebec and was sponsored by INMD, CNS, and the International Life Sciences Institute North America. The objectives of the workshop were to: (1) consider the alignment of food, nutrition, and agriculture research agendas within and between countries; (2) encourage greater collaboration and partnerships in research on the impact of diet and lifestyle on health and its connection with agriculture; and (3) support a culture of international collaborations and alignment in support of the Food for Health agenda and translation of the research to promote human health. The workshop featured speakers from Europe, the United States, and Canada, including Drs. Pamela Byrne (Ireland), Chair of the JPI HDHL, and Edith Feskens (Univ. Wageningen, Netherlands), Vice-Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of JPI HDHL. Presentations from this workshop are available [online](#).

The CNS annual conference was also a great success, featuring a broad array of nutrition topics spanning nutrition research, food regulation and public health. Dr. Harvey Anderson (Univ. Toronto) delivered the 2016 Kursheed Jeejeebhoy Award Lecture on *Food intake control in children: physiology vs. environment*. Congratulations to the meeting organizers and leadership of the CNS for such a successful meeting!

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

CONTACT US

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC
Scientific Director

Keeley Rose, MSc, PhD
Project Manager

Mary-Jo Makarchuk, MHSc, RD
Assistant Director

Julia Levin, MSc, RD, CDE
Associate

Vera Ndaba
Business Officer & Event Planner

Denise Haggerty
Administrative Coordinator

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CIHR Funding Results

INMD congratulates the successful applicants who received Planning and Dissemination Grants in the last competition:

Nominated Principal Investigator	Co-Investigators	Project Title
Lise Gauvin Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal	Tracie Barnett Jean-Pierre Després	<u>Mobiliser les expertises, consolider les acquis et agir pour promouvoir les saines habitudes de vie dans le système de santé : une approche d'application des connaissances intégrée (ACI) au Québec</u>
Rulan Parekh Hospital for Sick Children	Diane Hebert	<u>International collaborative studies in childhood nephrotic syndrome</u>
Emile Levy Hôpital Sainte-Justine Montréal		<u>Les grands défis contemporains de la nutrition en relation avec les maladies cardiométaboliques</u>
Bilkis Vissandjee Université de Montréal	Ilene Hyman Kelley Kilpatrick	<u>Le partenariat intersectoriel:une stratégie gagnante pour la prévention et la gestion du diabète de type 2 en contexte de diversité</u>
Canadian Association of Gastroenterology	David Armstrong Paul Beck	<u>Clinical practice guidelines for the medical management of bile acid malabsorption</u>

RESEARCHER PROFILE

Mélanie Plourde, PhD

CIHR INMD-CNS 2016 New Investigator Partnership Prize



Dr. Plourde is an Associate Professor at Univ. Sherbrooke. She obtained her PhD in 2006 from Univ. Bourgogne and Univ. Laval, and then completed postdoctoral fellowships at Univ. Sherbrooke and Univ. Laval. Her research program is focused on the hypothesis that the omega-3 fatty acid docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) plays a role in human brain

function and cognition. DHA efficacy is modified by aging and carriage of the epsilon-4 allele of apolipoprotein E (E4), the highest genetic risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Plourde's research aim is to study gene-by-diet interactions in both knock-in mice for human E4 and humans during aging, with a focus on omega-3 fatty acids supported by a multidisciplinary group with expertise in lipid nutrition, physiology, aging, cognition, genetics and obesity. The research team has a focus on one nutritional strategy: to assess the effectiveness of DHA supplementation to prevent loss of cognition during aging and in E4 carriers.

Café Scientifique: Feeding your Brain

INMD was pleased to host a Café Scientifique on May 5, 2016 at the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum in Ottawa in conjunction with the annual Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS) conference. The Café focused on the role of certain foods in brain function, with a particular focus on omega-3 fatty acids. Many thanks to the dynamic speakers: Drs. Richard Bazinet (Univ. Toronto), Matthew Parrott (Rotman Research Inst., Baycrest Health Sciences Centre), and Mélanie Plourde (Univ. Sherbrooke) with a shout-out to the Café moderator, Dr. Catherine Field (Univ. Alberta).



From left: Drs. Catherine Field, Matthew Parrott, Mélanie Plourde, and Richard Bazinet

Funding opportunity: Researchers invited to analyze Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) data

Canadian researchers from all research areas are invited to submit health research projects that make use of available CLSA data. The selected projects will help find ways to improve the health of Canadians by better understanding the aging process and the factors that shape the way we age.

Application deadline: August 30, 2016. For more information, please visit the [CIHR website](#).

The Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD) supports research to enhance health in relation to diet, digestion, excretion, and metabolism; and to address causes, prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, support systems, and palliation for a wide range of conditions and problems associated with hormone, digestive system, kidney, and liver function.

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