



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

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INMD *Connections*

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



In the past, CIHR has relied on end-of-grant reports as the sole indicator of results and outcomes of targeted funding. Now early and mid-funding networking meetings are part of the way that CIHR provides researchers who receive targeted research funds with more timely and constructive feedback on research results, and opportunities to exchange ideas and discuss challenges, in order to accelerate research. This approach also builds in knowledge translation as an integral part of the research process and provides an exceptional opportunity for researchers to network and to build potential future collaborations. Thanks to Dr. Hani El-Gabalawy, Scientific Director of the Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, and Dr. Marc Ouellette, Scientific Director of the Institute of Infection and Immunity for hosting this inspiring meeting.

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

The inaugural networking meeting of nine research teams funded through the **Inflammation in Chronic Disease Roadmap Signature Initiative** was held in Winnipeg on February 12-13, 2015. This meeting included a variety of stakeholders, such as patients, health charities, and international experts in the field. The meeting provided an excellent example of the new way of facilitating networking and providing oversight for large health research initiatives funded by CIHR.

News from the IOM:

Cross Sector Responses to Obesity—Workshop in Brief

For more information on the brief from the 1-day workshop titled, "Cross-Sector Responses to Obesity: Models for Change", click [here](#).

Call for proposals: Preliminary announcement of Intestinal Microbiomics



The JPI HDHL is going to launch a new joint transnational call for research proposals: "Intestinal Microbiomics". The main objective is to support multidisciplinary transnational research consortia using innovative and scientific approaches to increase knowledge on the effects of diet on human intestinal microbiota

and the impact of diet-related variations in the intestinal microbiota on human health and/or the development of non-communicable chronic diseases. The overall vision is to develop dietary interventions or guidance for modulation of the intestinal microbiome to promote health and/or prevent the development of non-communicable chronic diseases. The program should generate new knowledge to support health maintenance and/or new treatments. **Pre-proposal submission deadline: April 28, 2015; Full proposal submission deadline: September 1, 2015.** Download the [preliminary announcement](#) for more information.

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RESEARCHER PROFILE

Meghan Azad, PhD, University of Manitoba 2015 CMAJ Bruce Squires Award Recipient



Meghan Azad is a Research Scientist and Assistant Professor at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba and the University of Manitoba. With dual training in biochemistry and clinical epidemiology, Meghan conducts cross-pillar research on the developmental origins of chronic disease. As a Banting postdoctoral fellow with the CIHR-funded Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study and Synergy in Microbiota (SyMBIOTA) Research Program, she published evidence that delivery by cesarean section and breastfeeding are key determinants of the human infant gut microbiota. This paper received the 2015 Canadian Medical Association

Journal Bruce Squires Award for research "most likely to impact clinical practice". Meghan's subsequent work has established a link between the composition of the infant gut microbiota and early childhood overweight. Supported by INMD to attend the Experimental Biology meeting in 2014, she presented these findings and received a Knowledge Translation award for her video, "Breastfeeding: good for your baby and their gut bacteria". In addition to CIHR, Dr. Azad's research has been supported by the AllerGen NCE, the Parker B. Francis Foundation, the Killam Trusts, Alberta Innovates-Health Solutions, and the Manitoba Medical Services Foundation. Her current research program is focused on maternal diet, breastfeeding, and breast milk composition in the development and prevention of childhood obesity and allergic disease.

INMD University Mixer & Membership Reception at the ASN Scientific Sessions & Annual Meeting at EB 2015 in Boston



Join INMD and the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) on **Saturday, March 28 from 8:00-10:00 PM** for the *University Mixer*

and Membership Reception at the ASN Scientific Sessions & Annual Meeting at EB 2015. This "can't miss" event kicks off the annual meeting and provides a great opportunity for Canadian delegates to network. Additionally, this year's attendees will be able to learn about the new ASN/CNS Joint Membership offering, which invites ASN's nutrition colleagues in Canada to join both societies for a special rate of \$220 (CDN \$240). *Please note this offering is not available to current CNS members. If interested in the ASN/CNS joint membership offering, email mem@nutrition.org or stop by the INMD table at the ASN University Mixer and Membership Reception.

4th Canadian Obesity Summit



Join the Canadian Obesity Network (CON) and the Canadian Association of Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons (CABPS) for the 4th Canadian Obesity Summit—a unique interdisciplinary conference designed to share current understanding of the causes, complications, treatments and prevention approaches for obesity in Toronto on **April 28-May 2, 2015**. The Summit is as much

a networking event as it is a cutting-edge research conference, and it also features dedicated tracts for health practitioners and inspiring workshops organized by groups working in obesity. The preliminary program and registration details are available on the [CON website](http://conwebsite.com).

5th ICCR Congress on Chronic Societal Cardiometabolic Diseases



Organisé par: **Chaire internationale sur le risque cardiometabolique** / Organisé by: **International Chair on Cardiometabolic Risk**

5th ICCR CONGRESS ON CHRONIC SOCIETAL CARDIOMETABOLIC DISEASES

Joinez-vous à nous!
Québec
8 au 12 juillet 2015

Join us!
Québec City
8 to 12 July 2015

Un forum international et multidisciplinaire qui place les saines habitudes de vie au cœur de la prise en charge clinique et de la prévention des maladies chroniques sociétales.

An international multidisciplinary forum putting lifestyle and healthy behaviours at the core of clinical management and prevention of chronic societal diseases.

Offices de tourisme de Québec • Québec City Tourism

The International Chair on Cardiometabolic Risk (ICCR) is pleased to host the 5th Congress on Chronic Societal Cardiometabolic Diseases in Québec City from **July 8 to 12, 2015**. This meeting is an international multidisciplinary forum putting lifestyle and healthy behaviours at the core of prevention and clinical management of chronic societal cardiometabolic diseases. The **abstract submission deadline is March 29, 2015**. For more information, visit the [congress website](http://congresswebsite.com).

15th International Conference on Ulcer Research



The 15th International Conference on Ulcer Research, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (INMD) and the IUPHAR GI Section will be held in Ottawa on **October 1-4, 2015** at the Chateau Laurier Hotel. **Abstract deadline: May 1, 2015**. For more information, visit the [Inflammation Research Network of Canada website](http://InflammationResearchNetworkofCanada.com) or the [Canadian Association of Gastroenterology website](http://CanadianAssociationofGastroenterology.com).

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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