Welcome to the February edition of IMHA – On The Move! Since this is the first newsletter of 2013, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy and productive year!

IMHA activities have picked right back up again. At the end of January, IMHA and the Canadian Arthritis Network (CAN) held their Research Impact Story Advisory Committee meeting to select the top stories that will be included in the publication. This publication will celebrate excellence and impact in Canadian musculoskeletal, skin and oral health research. Through a national call, launched in October 2012, we received 34 stories showing the impact of musculoskeletal, skin and oral health research. The stories addressed all six areas of focus - arthritis, skin, oral health, MSK rehab, bone and skeletal muscle and all four CIHR research themes - biomedical; clinical; health systems services; and, social, cultural, environmental and population health.

We would like to thank the researchers who submitted stories. They all provided excellent examples of how musculoskeletal, skin and oral health research is creating new scientific discoveries, forming partnerships and networking, commercializing new products and developing knowledge translation projects.

At the end of this month, IMHA will hold its Institute Advisory Board meeting in Calgary. Board members will meet with the research community as well as the new CEO of Alberta Innovates- Health Solutions (as of April 1, 2013), Dr. Cy Frank. Dr. Frank was the first Scientific Director of IMHA. Throughout his career, he has played a significant role in bringing musculoskeletal health issues to the forefront, and is recognized as a leader in his field.

In funding news, CIHR has posted the Changes to CIHR’s Open Suite of Programs and Enhancements to the Peer Review Process on their website. All researchers and related health care organizations will want to read it to be informed about changes taking place over the next several years. The IMHA- led Inflammation in Chronic Disease Signature Initiative will communicate decisions on the letter of intent stage by March 1, 2013. Additional information about funding opportunities can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

If you have any questions about our newsletter, or if you would like to submit content, please contact us at imha.iala.cihr.irsc@utoronto.ca.

Sincerely,

Phillip Gardiner PhD, Interim Scientific Director
Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis
Funding Opportunities & Research News

IMHA FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
For information on current funding opportunities, please visit IMHA's Funding Opportunities.

- Operating Grant: Winter 2013 Priority Announcement
  - Musculoskeletal Health, Arthritis, Skin and Oral Health
  - Myotonic Dystrophy (Rachel Fund)
  Registration deadline: February 1, 2013
  Application deadline: March 1, 2013

- Dissemination Events: Winter 2013 Priority Announcement

- Planning Grants: Winter 2013 Priority Announcement

- Knowledge Translation Prize
  Application deadline: February 18, 2013.

- Catalyst Grant - Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease
  Application deadline: April 2, 2013

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Awards
Call for Nominations: CIHR Partnership Award

The CIHR Partnership Award, established in 2002, recognizes partnerships between organizations that exemplify excellence by bringing health research communities together to create innovative approaches to research, develop research agendas that are responsive to the health needs of Canadians and/or accelerate the translation of knowledge for the benefit of Canadians. The emphasis of the award is on innovative cross-sectoral partnerships between organizations that promote excellence.

See the Partnerships Award website for more information.
The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2013.
Contact: Rosa Venuta: rosa.venuta@cihr-irsc.gc.ca

Reminder
Update to the CIHR Open Access Policy

CIHR-funded researchers are required to make their peer-reviewed publications freely accessible within 12 months of publication – at the latest. January 2013 amendments to the CIHR Open Access Policy, formerly known as the Policy on Access to Research Outputs, modify previous requirements to provide the public with freely accessible research articles while aligning with other major funding agencies, such as the US National Institutes of Health.

The revised Open Access Policy is available on the CIHR website.

For further information, please contact access@cihr-irsc.gc.ca.

Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)

Canada’s Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) is a collaboration of researchers, provinces and territories, partners, health care providers, patients and families – all working in partnership to improve the quality and effectiveness of care provided to Canadians.

The SPOR National Steering Committee is inviting the health research community to provide input on research network capacity in Canada.

This call for expressions of interest is being held from January 11 to February 28, 2013. It is an opportunity for Canada’s researchers to provide information on the current network landscape.

The goal is to identify existing and emerging research network capacity in patient-oriented research in Canada that could align with the SPOR network objectives. Please note that this is not a formal letter of intent or a CIHR funding opportunity. It is an open dialogue with Canada’s research community and a venue for Canadian researchers to demonstrate where there is capacity to translate research evidence into better health care policies, therapies, and practices.

Detailed information on this call for expressions of interest and the submission process can be found on the SPOR webpage.

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
For application details regarding the following funding opportunities listed below, please visit the Arthritis Society website.

Investigator Salary Award
Deadline to apply: February 20, 2013

Clinic Teacher/Educator Award
Deadline to apply: February 20, 2013

Young Investigator Salary Award
Deadline to apply: February 20, 2013

Networking/KT Grant
Open Competition

Consumer Activity Grant
Deadlines to apply: January 30, 2013; April 30, 2013; July 30, 2013; October 30, 2013

IMHA - On the Move!
The January edition of International Innovation magazine is a focus on recent developments in Canadian health research — among them, a number of projects in IMHA relevant areas including bone and oral health.

Scientific Director, Dr. Phillip Gardiner discusses some of the ways in which IMHA — in collaboration with our research and stakeholder communities — is addressing health issues associated with musculoskeletal disease and conditions. See page 30 for the complete interview.

In addition, one of our partner organizations — AboutFace, is recognized for their outstanding achievements through their Camp Trailblazer program which provides leadership training in a fun and supportive environment for children with congenital or acquired facial differences.

Lay language project

Did you know that your lay abstract becomes the ‘face’ of your research? Lay abstracts become publicly available on the CIHR website and allow the public, the media, and Parliament to learn about your research. Are you in the process of writing a grant for CIHR or plan to write one in the future? Did you know that the lay abstract piece of your grant submission becomes the ‘face’ of your research to the general public should your grant be funded? CIHR publishes the lay abstracts of all funded grants on their website and may share this information with Parliament and the media to inform them about the valuable research supported through public funds. As part of the application process, you are required to summarize your project in a lay abstract; it is among the most important parts of your application.

To encourage CIHR applicants to write excellent lay abstracts IMHA created the “IMHA Research Ambassadors Knowledge Translation Award”. This award is given to Principal Investigators who submit a superior lay abstract for an IMHA-funded grant or award. IMHA recognizes the importance of researchers being able to communicate their work to a general audience and a variety of stakeholders.

The judging of lay abstracts is done by the IMHA Research Ambassadors (RAs), a panel of non-scientist consumers identified by health charities relevant to IMHA, and who are members of IMHA’s Knowledge Exchange Task Force. The RAs are looking to select lay abstracts that are well written, easily understood by a lay audience, comprehensive and highly informative.

For examples of what should be included in a lay abstract and samples of excellent lay abstracts, please visit IMHA’s website at the Research Ambassadors Knowledge Translation Award.

Ethics

Best Practices for Health Research Involving Children and Adolescents

CIHR is pleased to announce the release of the Best Practices for Health Research Involving Children and Adolescents, as a result of a partnership with the McGill Centre of Genomics and Policy.

The Best Practices are meant to guide health researchers and Research Ethics Boards in the context of paediatric research.

The Best Practices are a complement to the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans.

New tool for evaluating & developing models of care

The Arthritis Alliance of Canada, together with the musculoskeletal stakeholder community and experts in models of care (MoCs), developed a worksheet for evaluating and developing models of care. It is intended to help model developers assess the completeness of MoCs, suggest improvements and view their readiness for expansion. It can be used for the planning, development or formative evaluation of MoCs.

To download the MoC tool please visit the Arthritis Alliance website.

Good News Stories

Dr. John Esdaile, receives American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Master Designation.

Congratulations to Dr. John Esdaile, IMHA advisory board member, and Scientific Director of the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada (ARC) who received the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Master Designation at the annual scientific meeting. Recognition as a Master of the ACR is one of the highest honours the College bestows. Please see the Arthritis Research Centre of Canada’s Consumer Advisory Board newsletter which talks more about Dr. Esdaile’s outstanding contributions to the field of arthritis.
The Cochrane Collaboration is celebrating twenty years of its existence throughout 2013.

As part of a series of events to mark this anniversary, a series of videos has been commissioned focusing on the ideas, achievements and people that have contributed to its growth since 1993.

Every two weeks throughout 2013, one of a series of twenty-four short videos (5-10 minutes each), based around nearly a hundred interviews with Cochrane contributors from all over the world, is being released. Follow the link to learn more about the history of the Cochrane Collaboration.

The IMHA website features a Cochrane Corner which lists Cochrane reviews relevant to IMHA’s mandate. The page has recently been updated with new reviews from the Musculoskeletal and Oral Health Groups.

Meetings of Interest

Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Meeting
February 13-16, 2013
Ottawa, ON

International Association for Dental Research
March 20-23, 2013
Seattle, WASH

The 10th International Congress on SLE – Lupus 2013
April 18-21, 2013
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Canadian Pain Society Conference
May 8-10, 2013
Winnipeg, MB

Canadian Physiotherapy Association Congress
May 23-26, 2013
Montreal QC

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Meeting
May 29-June 1, 2013
Victoria, BC

Canadian Connective Tissue Conference
May 29-June 1, 2013
Montreal QC

Healthy Bones and Joints: New strategies for maintaining your mobility

On Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. IMHA, in partnership with the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, and TELUS Spark is hosting a Café Scientifique featuring experts in bone and joint health. Join us for informative presentations, light refreshments, and stimulating discussion!

Moderator: Karen Owen, CTV News, Medical Watch

Speakers:

Dr. Derrick Rancourt, McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, University of Calgary; Dr. Rancourt’s research focuses primarily on using stem cells for bone and cartilage tissue engineering. His talk will focus on stem cells as a potential new treatment for bone and joint conditions.

Dr. Carolyn Emery, Co-Chair Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre, Faculty of Kinesiology, Alberta Children’s Hospital Research Institute of Child and Maternal Health, McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, University of Calgary; Dr. Emery’s area of research focuses primarily on injury prevention in sport, with a particular interest in the child and adolescent population. Her talk will focus on primary prevention strategies for reducing injury and consequences of injury.

Dr. Linda Woodhouse, Dr. David Magee Endowed Chair in Musculoskeletal Research, Scientific Director, Alberta Health Services Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Network, McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health, University of Alberta; Dr. Woodhouse has made significant contributions to the development and evaluation of models for inter-professional care for patients accessing hip and knee surgery. Her talk will focus on rehabilitation and the translation of these activities into clinical practice.