

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

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INMD *Connections*

Message from Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



From left: Kim Banks Hart (INMD), François Boudreau (CAG VP-Research Affairs), and Derek McKay (CAG President)

INMD was pleased to support and attend the Canadian Digestive Diseases Week held in Banff, Alberta February 27-March 2, 2015. This annual conference, co-hosted by the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL), brings together over 1,100 researchers, clinicians, and trainees from the gastroenterology and hepatology communities across Canada for four days of research symposia, state-of-the-art lectures, poster sessions, recognition awards, and networking. Represented by INMD Institute Advisory Board Member, Dr. Keith Sharkey (Univ. Calgary), INMD was pleased to meet with representatives from important partner organizations, including CAG, CASL, the Canadian Digestive

Health Foundation, Crohn's and Colitis Canada, and the Canadian Liver Foundation.

INMD was a proud co-sponsor of the **Research Topics in GI Disease** program developed for trainees, and the **Nutrition and Gut Microbiota** research symposium featuring speakers Deanne Gibson (UBC-Okanagan), Eytan Wine (Univ. Alberta), Kevin Rioux (Univ. Calgary), and Jeremiah Faith (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA). INMD also had the opportunity to officially congratulate successful awardees of the 2014 CIHR/CAG Fellowship and New Investigator competitions.

Congratulations to all of the award recipients!

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

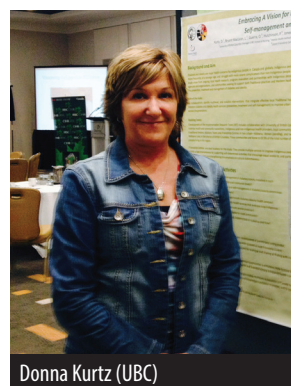
Aboriginal Peoples Health: Building Relationships for Moving Forward Together



Chief Matilda Ramjattan

INMD was delighted to participate in a meeting with Elders, Knowledge Keepers, relevant partners, and community-based and academic researchers at the Pathways to Health Equity for Aboriginal Peoples Annual Gathering held in Ottawa March 23-25, 2015. The meeting featured thoughtful panel sessions on indigenous ways of knowing, partnering, engagement, knowledge exchange, and ethical practices. In addition, the meeting

provided a forum to engage with Aboriginal people and relevant stakeholders in a breakout session that allowed for an exchange of knowledge about how to design, offer, and implement programs and policies that will reduce health inequities among Aboriginal people in relation to diabetes and obesity, which are areas of focus



Donna Kurtz (UBC)

for the **Pathways to Health Equity Signature Initiative**. The gathering also provided a venue for poster presentations by recently funded Pathways Implementation Research Teams, including Jennifer Taylor (UPEI) Food is Medicine: Addressing Obesity and Diabetes by Building Food Security and Food Sovereignty Among Prince Edward Island First Nations, represented by Chief Matilda Ramjattan, and Donna Kurtz (UBC) Embracing A Vision for Indigenous Health: Community Access to

Prevention, Self-management and Integrated Diabetes Services in the BC Interior. For more information about these research teams, please see: **Operating Grant: Pathways Implementation Research Team - Component 1** and **Operating Grant: Pathways IRT - Component 1 - Diabetes/Obesity**.

RESEARCHER PROFILE

Geoffrey Nguyen, MD, PhD 2015 CAG/CIHR Young Investigator Award Recipient



Geoff is a Physician-Scientist at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and an Associate Professor in the Dept. Medicine and Institute for Health Policy Management and Evaluation at the Univ. Toronto. He has a clinical focus on the treatment of inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), conducting health services and outcomes research and clinical epidemiological studies that complement his clinical interests in IBD. As an

adjunct scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Geoff conducts population-based studies focusing on access to specialists and their impact on outcomes for patients with IBD. After completing clinical training at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, Geoff obtained his PhD in Clinical Investigation from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Nguyen's research is supported by New Investigator Awards from the CIHR, an American Gastroenterological Association Research Scholar Award, the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG), and Crohn's and Colitis Canada (CCC).

Call for proposals: Intestinal Microbiomics



INMD in partnership with the Joint Programming Initiative: Healthy Diet Healthy Life (JPI HDHL), is

launching 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. **Pre-proposal submission deadline: April 28, 2015;** **Full proposal submission deadline: September 1, 2015.** Please visit the [JPI HDHL website](#) for more information.

SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease



Congratulations to those who submitted successful Letters of Intent (LOI) to the [Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research \(SPOR\) Networks](#)

[in Chronic Disease competition](#). Results of the LOI stage of the competition were recently announced; please visit the [CIHR website](#) for more information.

INMD Newsletter Survey Results

Many thanks to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to respond to the INMD Newsletter Survey sent out in February of this year. The majority of survey respondents indicated that they find the INMD monthly newsletter easy-to-read, timely, informative and relevant to their professional activities. Survey respondents indicated that they would like more information on funding opportunities, targeted initiatives, training awards, and good news features as well as project profiles. We are listening and we will incorporate these helpful suggestions in future issues of the INMD Newsletter.

CONTACT US

[Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC](#)
Scientific Director

[Mary-Jo Makarchuk, MSc, RD](#)
Assistant Director - Toronto

[Vera Ndaba](#)
Business Officer & Event Planner

[Keeley Rose, MSc, PhD](#)
Project Manager

[Kim Banks Hart, MA](#)
Interim Assistant Director - Ottawa

[Mélanie Bergeron](#)
Project Officer

[Denise Haggerty](#)
Administrative Assistant

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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