



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

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INMD *Connections*

Message from INMD Scientific Director



From left: Dr. Jean-Pierre Després, Hon. Jane Philpott, Drs. Gary Lewis and Catherine Whiteside

On March 31, 2016 it was my great pleasure to attend the announcement of the five successful CIHR **Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Networks in Chronic Disease**. The Honourable Jane Philpott, Minister of Health, pictured above with the SPOR Network in Diabetes and Related Complications leadership team, made this announcement at McMaster University Health Science Centre in Hamilton. CIHR President, Dr. Alain Beaudet, stated that these networks will produce innovations that improve the health of Canadians and position Canada as a global leader in research on these chronic diseases. He also thanked all the partners supporting these networks for their strong commitment and generous contributions, including Crohn's and Colitis Canada, the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation, JDRF and Merck Canada, who were present at the announcement. Nominated Principal Investigators (NPIs) Dr. Paul Moayyedi of the IMAGINE-SPOR Network and Dr. David Buckley of the Chronic Pain Network, were featured at this event. I wish to personally congratulate all of the ambitious Network grant recipients and their teams, and I look forward to learning about their future research successes.

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

2017 Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada International Knowledge Translation Platforms (NCE-IKTP) Initiative Competition

The goal of the NCE-IKTP initiative is to support international collaborations between networks, centres, consortia and their partners to accelerate knowledge translation in areas of mutual strategic interest. For more information please click [here](#).

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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SPOR Networks in Chronic Disease

Nominated Principal Investigator	Co-Principal Investigators	Title
David Buckley (McMaster Univ.)	Maria Hudspith; Manon Choinière; Karen Davis; Luda Diatchenko; G. Finley; Pierre Fréchette; Ian Gilron; Alfonso Lorio; Margot Latimer; Joy Macdermid; Patricia Poulin; Cyril Schneider; Bonnie Stevens; Jennifer Stinson	<u>Chronic Pain Network</u>
Adeera Levin (Univ. British Columbia)	Evan Adams; Rebecca Harvey; John Pawlovich; Brendan Barrett; Kevin Burns; Amit Garg; Brenda Hemmelgarn; Andreas Laupacis; Barbara LeGay; Braden Manns; Michael McCormick; Norman Rosenblum; Marcello Tonelli; Cathy Woods	<u>Listening, Learning, Leading: Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease (Can-SOLVE CKD)</u>
Gary Lewis (Univ. Toronto)	Adalsteinn Brown; David Maberley; Paula Rochon; Frank Sullivan; Mathieu Bélanger; Michael Brent; Joseph Cafazzo; André Carpentier; Jean-Pierre Després; Michael Farkouh; Paul Fernyhough; France Légaré; Jonathan MCGavock; Bruce Perkins	<u>SPOR Network in Diabetes and its Related Complications</u>
Annette Majnemer (Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre)	Eyal Cohen; Daniel Goldowitz; Jan Willem Gorter; Christopher Kirton; Lucyna Lach; Ariane Marelli; Patrick Mcgrath; Steven Miller	<u>CHILD-BRIGHT: Child Health Initiatives Limiting Disability-Brain Research Improving Growth and Health Trajectories</u>
Paul Moayyedi (McMaster Univ.)	Douglas Howse; Premysl Bercik; Charles Bernstein; Stephen Collins; Johannes Eksteen; Richard Fedorak; Gilaad Kaplan; Paul Kubes; Glenda Macqueen; Anthony Otley; John Rioux; Michael Surette; Stephen Vanner	<u>Inflammation, Microbiome, and Alimentation: Gastro-Intestinal and Neuropsychiatric Effects: the IMAGINE-SPOR chronic disease network</u>

20th Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW)



From left: Drs. Phil Sherman, Nicola Jones, Jane Aubin, and Jon Meddings

The 20th Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW) was held in Montreal, QC on February 26-29. The CDDW is an annual scientific conference of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL) offering clinical and basic science

sessions, research symposia, poster sessions, and many interesting and informative lectureships. This year, I was delighted to have Drs. Jane Aubin (Chief Science Officer at CIHR), Dean Jon Meddings (Univ. Calgary), and Nicola Jones (Sick Kids, Toronto), join me in presenting a symposium on *Precision Medicine as an Emerging Tool in Gastroenterology*. CIHR-INMD was also pleased to support the CIHR-CAG Symposium, *The Role of Nutrition in Gastroenterology* with speakers Peter Gibson (Monash Univ.,

Australia), Jean-Claude Moubarac (Univ. Montreal), Leah Gramlich (Univ. Alberta), and Khursheed Jeejeebhoy (Univ. Toronto). The CIHR-CAG Young Investigator Award Lecture was given by François-Michel Boisvert (Univ. Sherbrooke; profiled in the March 2016 INMD Newsletter). Among the many excellent lectures, were the CAG Research Excellence Award Lecture given by Bruce Vallance (Univ. British Columbia); the CASL-Canadian Liver Foundation (CLF) Gold Medal Lecture for outstanding contribution to the field of Hepatology given by Morris Sherman (Univ. Toronto) and the Hinda Kopelman memorial lectureship presented by Dr. Anne Griffiths (Sick Kids, Toronto). The R.D. McKenna Memorial Lecture, recognizing significant lifetime contributions to gastroenterology, was presented by Johan D. Söderholm, who trained in Canada and is now Dean of Medicine at Univ. Linköping (Sweden).

The CLF announced sobering statistics on the increasing burden of liver disease in Canada. New statistics indicate that nearly 1 in 4 Canadians may be affected by liver disease, driven by an increasing incidence of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). CLF has released a short promotional [video](#) to help get this message to the public.

World Health Day

April 7, 2016 was World Health Day, marking the birth of the World Health Organization (WHO). Diabetes—one of several non-communicable diseases that present a major burden and threat to the global population – is the theme of World Health Day. The WHO estimates that 422 million people in the world currently have diabetes, including 2.4 million people in Canada. To learn more, 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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