



Vol. 17, No. 2 - February 2017  
ISSN 2291-1111



Institute of Nutrition,  
Metabolism and Diabetes  
Institut de la nutrition,  
du métabolisme et du diabète

# Connections

## Message From Philip Sherman, INMD Scientific Director



In anticipation of the completion of my term as Scientific Director of INMD at the end of 2017, INMD is undergoing a formal review and evaluation. This evaluation and management response will inform the future of INMD and recruitment of the next Scientific Director.

The *CIHR Act* directs Governing Council (GC) to “review the mandate and performance of each Health Research Institute at least every five years after it is established and determine whether its mandate or the policies respecting its role and functioning should be amended or whether it should be merged with another Health Research Institute or terminated.” The International Review Panel mandated to evaluate CIHR’s performance noted in its 2011 report the importance of a periodic “review of the slate of Institutes to ensure that CIHR is supporting an evolving research landscape” and recommended that GC form “a working group to examine whether the slate of CIHR Institutes is appropriate”.

As a result of an Institute Model Review initiated by GC in 2014, GC approved the *CIHR Institute Evaluation Framework* in November 2015.

The evaluation framework enables the CIHR Executive Management Committee (Evaluation Committee and the CIHR Head of Evaluation) to identify the rationale, need and timing for the evaluations to inform and align with extensions or transitions of CIHR Institutes.

The institute evaluation is led by an Expert Panel made up of national and international members and will be supported by staff in the CIHR evaluation unit. The Chair of the Expert Panel will be responsible for drafting the INMD Evaluation Report that will be sent to the CIHR Executive Management Committee for a response, and then to GC. The framework consists of evaluation questions addressing the four key issues of institute relevance, transformative impact, convener and catalyst and operational effectiveness; and indicators, data sources and collection methods.

As part of this evaluation, stakeholders, including INMD partner organizations and researchers, may be asked to complete a survey or interview. I trust that if asked, you will participate in this process.

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

## SPOR Chronic Disease Networks Updates

**Diabetes Action Canada** is pleased to announce that the French website is up and running!

Also visit the **Can-SOLVE CKD** website for their latest news. Can-SolveCKD, which stands for Listening, Learning, Leading: Canadians Seeking Solutions and Innovations to Overcome Chronic Kidney Disease is a pan-Canadian, patient-oriented kidney research network.

Diabetes Action Canada and Can-SOLVE are supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research under Canada’s **Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR)**.



### CONTACT US

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

**Keeley Rose, MSc, PhD**  
Project Manager

**Mary-Jo Makarchuk, MHSc, RD**  
Assistant Director

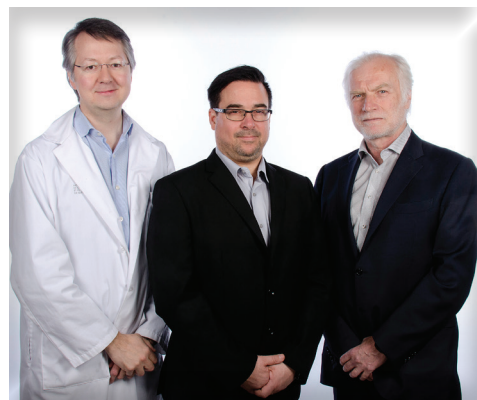
**Denise Haggerty**  
Administrative Coordinator

**Vera Ndaba**  
Business Officer & Event Planner

Follow @CIHR\_INMD

# Research Profile: Bariatric Care Team Grant

*The REMISSION team: investigating the clinical impact of three bariatric operations and mechanisms underlying their effects*



From left: Drs. Laurent Biertho, André Tchernof and Denis Richard, Univ. Laval

REMISSION stands for Reaching Enduring Metabolic Improvements by Selecting Surgical Interventions in Obese iNdividuals. While bariatric surgery is now widely recognized as treatment with long-lasting benefits for severe obesity, few clinical studies have formally compared the long-term effects

of currently employed surgical approaches on metabolic disease, such as type 2 diabetes. Drs. André Tchernof, Laurent Biertho and Denis Richard (Université Laval and Institut Universitaire de cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec, IUCPQ) are Co-Principal Investigators of

a CIHR-INMD funded Bariatric Care Team Grant that will investigate the determinants of metabolic recovery following surgical weight loss procedures such as the sleeve gastrectomy, gastric bypass, and biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch in both humans and in relevant animal models. The research targets three main areas: 1) metabolism, 2) intestinal microbiota, and 3) gut-brain interactions. There are two core components respectively providing clinical data and samples from patients undergoing the bariatric surgical procedures, and animal models to gain insights on the effects of the surgeries.

The research team involves investigators across Canada in three provinces and eight universities/research centres, as well as collaborators from the United States and Europe, including: André Carpentier (Univ. Sherbrooke), Alain Dagher (McGill Univ.), André Marette, François Dubé, Frédéric Picard and Paul Poirier (IUCPQ-Laval), Blandine Lafferère (Columbia Univ.), Marie-Claude Vohl (Univ. Laval), Tim Kieffer (Univ. British Columbia), Patric Cani (Leuven, Belgium), Jon Schertzer (McMaster Univ.), Émile Levy, Michel Bouvier and Stephanie Fulton (Univ. Montréal), and Al Fergusson (Queen's Univ.).

## CIHR Funding Opportunities

### **Catalyst Grant: Ethics (2016-2017)**

The purpose of this funding opportunity is to build capacity in ethics as it applies to health (including health research, health promotion and maintenance, clinical care, population and public health, health systems and services, policy and governance) by encouraging applications from new investigators as well as established investigators new to the field of health ethics. In order to be relevant, a systematic analysis of ethics issues associated with health must be a significant focus of the proposed study.

**Application Deadline: February 28, 2017.** For more information, please visit [ResearchNet](#).

### **Planning and Dissemination Grants (Winter 2017 Competition)**

INMD will provide support for planning and dissemination grants that are relevant to its mandate. This includes support for workshops and symposia. The maximum amount for a single award is \$20,000.

**Application deadline: February 28, 2017.** For more information, please visit [ResearchNet](#).

## Update on the Project Grant and Foundation Grant competitions

**Watch** Jeff Latimer, CIHR Associate Vice-President, answer questions from the research community regarding peer review quality, engaging early career investigators, competition schedules, and gender bias within the Project Grant and Foundation Grant competitions. Additional details about these competitions are available on the CIHR [website](#).

**The CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (INMD)** invests in research on diet, digestion, and metabolism. By addressing the causes, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of a wide range of conditions and problems associated with hormones, the digestive system, kidneys, and liver function, INMD seeks to improve health for all Canadians.

## CIHR Competition Launch

### **Human Immunology Initiative: Standardization and its application in autoimmune disease research**

The Institute of Infection of Immunity, in collaboration with the Institutes of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis, Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes, and Gender and Health is pleased to announce the launch of the *Human Immunology Initiative: Standardization and its application in autoimmune disease research*. The goal of this initiative is to create a coordinated work force in human immunology research and build capacity to develop standardized methods to test novel therapeutic approaches to modulate the immune system in the context of autoimmune diseases. The initiative will be divided in two distinct funding opportunities. The first funding opportunity will support the establishment of a Standardization Core, to fund a collaborative team that will develop standard operating procedures (SOP) for autoimmune disease research in the field of human immunology. A second funding opportunity, to be launched at a later date, will support research teams that will apply the SOP developed by the Standardization Core and perform research on autoimmune diseases. **Application Deadline for the Standardization Core Letter of Intent: June 6, 2017.** For more information, please visit [ResearchNet](#).

## Canadian Diabetes Association 2017 Research Competition

The Canadian Diabetes Association is pleased to announce the following 2017 Research Competitions: *Post-Doctoral Fellowships*, *New Investigator Award*, and *Diabetes Investigator Award*. **Application deadline: April 3, 2017.** For more information, please visit the Canadian Diabetes Association [website](#).