



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

June 30, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120,
McMaster University 1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dear Dr. Denberg:

It is my distinct pleasure to confirm my support for AllerGen NCE renewal application and in particular their research training program. I have had the privilege to work with Dr. Miriam Stewart, for the past 4 years, first helping with data analysis, then as project coordinator, and now as a Research Associate with the Social Support Research Program at the University of Alberta. In the past four years, we have completed two highly successful AllerGen funding research projects and our third project (examining the support needs Aboriginal children with chronic respiratory problems and adolescents and their parents) is well underway. These projects are all focused on overcoming geographic, social, and cultural barriers and health inequities experienced by children with severe allergies and asthma including. Through AllerGen's training process, I now have experience in the entire research process: writing proposals, working with experienced multi-site multidisciplinary teams, managing projects, and translating research into knowledge useful for children with asthma and allergies. Moreover, Dr. Stewart has given me the opportunity to be co-author on several papers based on this work, all published in respected refereed journals.

Dr. Stewart is a dynamic and creative scholar whose work bridges the health sciences and social sciences. Her commitment and contributions to reducing health inequalities and to designing and testing innovative population health interventions that have implications for health services and health policies has given me opportunities and perspectives for which I am eternally indebted. This opportunity would not have been available without AllerGen's highly successful training program.

I would be delighted to provide further information if that would be helpful.

Yours Sincerely,

Sharon Anderson MEd, MSc
Research Associate
Social Support Research Program
University of Alberta
780-492-8945



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Edmonton, AB T6G 2T4
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Montreal QC H3A 1A9

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO, AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West, Hamilton ON L8S 2A5

June 29, 2011

Dear Dr. Denburg,

I am writing with regards to the AllerGen Network and its impact upon my training and career. As a recipient of the AllerGen CAIDATI training award, I have benefited tremendously from this opportunity, which has provided funding support during my postdoctoral fellowship and given me the opportunity to interact with its network of Canadian researchers.

Mentorship is one of the key factors, if not the key factor, in propelling postgraduate medical residents into a career in research. My excellent training and guidance under the supervision of Dr. Ann Clarke, a lead AllerGen investigator, has exposed me not only to the scientific complexity of research but also the logistic and administrative intricacies that entail a career in academia.

Providing a positive introduction to research and a nurturing environment for prospective new investigators and academics is fundamental to founding the next generation of Canadian researchers. Most medical students have inquiring minds, but may feel that pursuing a career in research is not feasible due to financial, family or time constraints. The monetary support provided by the AllerGen Network is imperative to furthering the knowledge and training required for a career in research.

Along with fostering young Canadian investigators, the AllerGen Network is integral to allergy research in Canada by encouraging collaboration between researchers across a variety of fields who otherwise might not have the opportunity to meet. The network's extensive membership throughout Canada has allowed me to interact with AllerGen investigators who are in a variety of areas, from clinical allergists to benchwork geneticists. Medical research, particularly in genetics, has become increasingly collaborative, and these types of connections are vital to promoting joint efforts that span basic and clinical science and cross medical specialties.

The AllerGen Network is essential to Canadian allergy research and the training of the next generation of Canadian medical researchers. I strongly support its renewal, and sincerely hope that the opportunities made available to me by this network will be present for future generations of young Canadian researchers.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yuko Asai', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Yuko Asai,
BSc, MD, DABD, FRCP(C)
MSc (candidate), Epidemiology, McGill University

Meghan B. Azad, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Pediatrics
University of Alberta
meghan.azad@ualberta.ca

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc:
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

June 20, 2011

Dr. Denburg:

I am writing to express my strong support for the AllerGen NCE renewal application. I am a postdoctoral fellow training with AllerGen member, Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj, at the University of Alberta. Even as a relative newcomer to the field of allergy and immune disease, I already appreciate the integral role that AllerGen plays in the Canadian research community. Already, AllerGen has impacted my career in three important ways:

- 1) AllerGen funded my attendance at the 2011 AllerGen Annual Conference in Vancouver. I was highly impressed by the breadth and caliber of inter-disciplinary research presented at this meeting. I was provided the opportunity to network with scientists, clinicians and trainees from across the country, and to present and discuss my research with experts in the field.
- 2) As a trainee member of the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN), I received travel funding to facilitate my attendance at the 2011 American Thoracic Society International Conference in Denver, Colorado.
- 3) I have applied to AllerGen's Canadian Allergy and Immune Diseases Advanced Training Initiative (CAIDATI). This partnership funding program for trainees serves to increase Canada's research capacity in allergy, asthma and immune disease.

Canada's research community has clearly profited from AllerGen's research programs and funding initiatives over the last seven years. Personally, I have benefitted immensely from AllerGen's career development initiatives for trainees. These productive interactions will undoubtedly expand following AllerGen's renewal, which I support without hesitation.

Sincerely,



Meghan Azad, PhD

Montreal
July 4th 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.

Object: AllerGen letter of support

Dear Dr Denburg,

My name is Philippe Bégin. I am a PGY-5 fellow in Allergy and Immunology at the Université de Montréal. I am writing to express my gratitude and my support for the AllerGen training programs.

During my first year at Université de Montréal, I enrolled in summer research projects in my hometown of Chicoutimi. This is when I first got to work with Dr Catherine Laprise on Allergen funded projects on the genetics of asthma and atopy. I found allergy and immunology to be a fascinating domain that matched my personal interests perfectly. If it had not been for AllerGen support, I might not have been introduced so early on to the discipline and probably would not be where I am today. I can say without a doubt that this has clearly influenced my choice of specialty, as well as my desire to pursue a career in research.

From there, I was granted further support as an AllerGen support as a trainee, to complete a masters in biomedical research with Dr Laprise. Since, I have completed a residency in internal medicine and am starting my last year as a fellow in allergy and clinical immunology at the Université de Montréal.

I have recently been assured a faculty position at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, before which I plan to perfect my training in research on the mechanistic of tolerance in immunotherapy for food allergies.

This project would take place as collaboration between Université de Montréal and Stanford University. Thanks again to an AllerGen program, I can hope for significant support during this part of my training, as AllerGen offers the Emerging Clinician Scientist Fellowship Award which was created to support this type of initiatives. This kind of support makes a huge impact in the

Montreal
July 4th 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.

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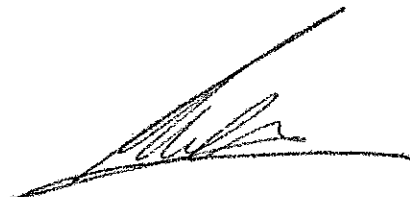
decision to pursue further training in research after a clinical fellowship. It also assures that one can dedicate himself entirely to the project and his training without having to worry about financial matters.

Finally, other than financial support, the AllerGen Network offers this assurance of continuous support after training. The ASNPN Network for former trainees is one example. But, as someone planning a career in research, I can assure you that to know that there is a network of centers of excellence for allergy and clinical immunology in Canada that will welcome me after my training, support my research effort, offer opportunities for collaboration and expertise sharing and help me establish myself as a researcher is priceless.

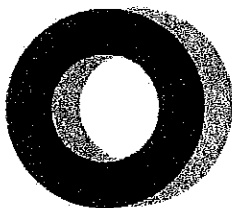
Allergies are increasing everywhere and there are very few allergists in the country and even fewer that dedicate themselves to research. However, despite our low number, the quantity and quality of research done in the country has been and remains impressive. To maintain such a level of excellence, I believe training programs such as those offered by AllerGen NCE are essential, as they can be used to interest medical students, residents and fellows to research in allergy, to support their efforts during training and to help them establish themselves as prominent researchers in the end.

I thank you for the support AllerGen has given me in the past and, I am sure, will keep giving me in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Philippe Bégin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Philippe Bégin MD, MSc, FRCP(C)



INSTITUT UNIVERSITAIRE
DE CARDIOLOGIE
ET DE PNEUMOLOGIE
DE QUÉBEC

Letter of Support

Québec, June 22, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dear Dr Denburg,

Through this testimonial, I would like to show my support to AllerGen NCE. I am a research assistant who has been involved in AllerGen studies since the beginning of the Network. AllerGen NCE has given me great networking opportunities, either by funding a specific multicenter research project, or through the Clinical investigators Collaborative (CIC) and the Allergic Rhinitis-Clinical Investigators Collaborative (AR-CIC).

Being involved in the CIC, I was asked to become an auditor, as part of the Quality Assurance Program. I have audited CIC sites to make sure they were performing the various clinical evaluations according to the CIC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). This has been a great experience for me, being able to share my knowledge and to standardize the procedures among sites. This has also given me occasions to discuss with others about the discrepancies and ways to improve clinical practice in multicenter studies.

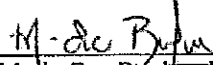
As my team was involved in the CIC and funded by AllerGen for an allergic rhinitis study, we were asked to be part of the AR-CIC. I attended the first meeting and it was a privilege for me to contribute to the development and elaboration of this research project.

AllerGen has organized many events in the past 7 years. Among them, the Annual Conference and the AllerGen Trainee Symposium for Students and New Professionals (ASNPN). I had the chance to attend these events a few times and have always appreciated these opportunities to network and to learn about the research programs in the rest of the country. Through the AllerGen Travel Award, AllerGen has also given me the chance to attend the Society of Clinical Research Associates (SoCRA) workshops and annual meetings, for which I have been certified since 2004. These conferences, workshops, and symposium have given me great opportunities to network and exchange with other research professionals from all over the world. In addition, they have given me great tools to improve my skills in clinical research and to implement important concepts in my day-to-day work. Furthermore, attending these events has helped me to further my knowledge in clinical project management.

As a research professional, I play an important role in study coordination and in graduate students' supervision and training. AllerGen recognizes this and gives us tools to facilitate our work.

In conclusion, AllerGen helps us obtain great visibility and facilitates collaborations between sites, helping researchers focus on what really matters to them: research!

Best regards,



Marie-Eve Boulay, MSc, CCRP

Research Assistant for Dr Louis-Philippe Boulet

Centre de recherche de l'Institut Universitaire de Cardiologie et de pneumologie de Québec

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Dr. Diana Royce, EdD,
Managing Director and COO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery
1200 Main Street West, Room 3120
Hamilton, ON L8N 3Z5

Dear Dr. Royce,

I am writing to inform you that as of November 2010, I have moved to the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia for a 3 years fellowship in immunology.

I want to express you my gratitude for your support during my time in Canada. It was an honor and a great learning and experience for me to have been an AllerGen trainee.

Some of the benefits and unique opportunities I experienced through AllerGen include: professional growth through my appointment at the Pulmonary Research Group, University of Alberta. Under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Cameron, I could study the relationship between genes-environment in asthma, in particular the role of the novel and important molecule CRTh2 (Chemoattractant receptor homologous expressed on Th2 cells), which was found to be associated with the development of allergies and asthma.

I am also very grateful for the trainee symposiums sponsored by AllerGen, events in where I could meet several colleagues, attend very interesting presentations and receive important and updated information to improve my performance in my work place as a researcher. Undoubtedly, the different experiences, conferences and support from AllerGen organization provided me the tools to develop my career as a scientist.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank AllerGen for its support and the AllerGen investigators for their commitment to the education of trainees.

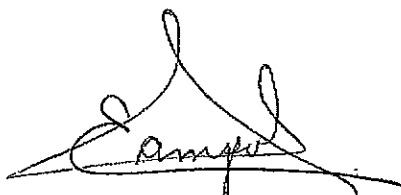
I hope we will stay in touch as I begin this new chapter in my career.

I wish you and all the members of AllerGen continued success in the future.

Respectfully yours,



The Wistar Institute is a National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center



Eduardo Campos-Alberto
Post-Doctoral Fellow

cc: Lisa Cameron, PhD, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta
Judah Denburg, MD, FRCP(C), Scientific Director and CEO, AllerGen NCE Inc.



The Wistar Institute is a National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP (C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S2A5

June 20th, 2011

Re: Trainee Testimonial for AllerGen NCE Inc.

Having been an AllerGen HQP trainee since May 2008, I have received much support from AllerGen NCE. I first worked as a Research Assistant for the SCAAALAR project, which is funded partially by AllerGen. This role provided me with valuable insight into conducting primary research, which led to me continue my academic career in the field of food allergies. The thesis completed for my Masters degree is also funded by AllerGen. It focuses on food allergen labeling and consumers' perceptions of food allergen labeling in Canada.

AllerGen also holds annual symposiums organized for trainees. They provide excellent workshops to strengthen our presentation skills, grant writing skills, as well as interpersonal skills. Most importantly, these workshops allow for excellent network building, and I have met many fellow trainees through them. In addition, AllerGen's annual conferences are excellent opportunities to meet senior allergen and asthma researchers. The poster competitions hosted at these conferences provided a very good platform for me to present my work to fellow researchers and to obtain feedback.

AllerGen has also been a generous supporter to events outside of AllerGen. I have been a recipient of several AllerGen's Travel Awards. AllerGen has supported my attendance at two of Anaphylaxis Canada's conferences, as well as the International Medical Geographer's Symposium, to be held in July 2011 in Durham, England. Attendance at these conferences has been tremendously helpful to my career, as they have allowed for knowledge exchange and networking opportunities.

The AllerGen Network has been very important to my career. AllerGen has provided me with opportunities to meet fellow allergen and asthma researchers from across the country. It has also been a helpful resource to new skill development, and has been a generous supporter of my research, which extends beyond AllerGen hosted events. I sincerely appreciate AllerGen's support of my work over the past 3 years, and wish AllerGen every success in the funding renewal process.

Bonnie Chow
AllerGen HQP Trainee since 2008
M.A. Candidate
McMaster University
Hamilton, ON
chowb2@mcmaster.ca

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June 24, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dear Dr. Denburg

I am delighted to provide this letter of support for the AllerGen Network. My doctoral research is embedded within the AllerGen funded "Traffic-related air pollution as a risk factor for the development of childhood asthma (TAG)" Canadian-led global initiative. In addition to furthering the understanding of etiologic factors of allergic disease, this project also promotes the development of close and effective relationships among the many collaborating institutes involved in TAG. I am currently carrying out a component of my research at one of these institutes, the Helmholtz German Research Center for Environmental Health in Munich, Germany, and plan on completing short-work terms at other locations in Europe (for example, the Karolinska Institute in Sweden)

AllerGen's 6th Annual Research Conference was my first real opportunity to familiarize myself with the Network's goals and members. I was impressed by the high quality and interdisciplinarity of the research presented, and was motivated by the challenges put forth. Most importantly, the knowledge and support offered by its members to the trainees reassured me of the resources available. I plan to present the results of a candidate gene study on the association between traffic-related air pollution, allergic rhinitis, and select single nucleotide polymorphisms at the upcoming 2012 AllerGen Conference.

Throughout the first year of my PhD research, AllerGen has supported my attendance to numerous unique scientific and professional development opportunities. In October 2010, I attended a TAG project meeting in The Netherlands at which I was able to meet the other researchers and trainees working on this initiative. In June of this year, an AllerGen Travel Award supported my attendance to the Montreal Spring School of Population Genomics and Genetic Epidemiology. This capacity building workshop provided good practical training in genetic epidemiology, which can be difficult to find. Furthermore, it was an excellent opportunity to network with both Canadian and international attendees researching allergic diseases and genetics. I also plan on participating in the Gene-Environment Workshop jointly hosted by AllerGen and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden at the end of August of this year.

Undoubtedly, being a trainee of this high-impact initiative has greatly contributed to my academic and professional development. I look forward to continuing to be an active member of the AllerGen NCE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elaine Fuertes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elaine Fuertes, MSc
PhD Candidate
School of Population and Public Health
University of British Columbia

THE BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE



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July 7th, 2011

Dr. Judah A. Denberg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dear Dr. Denberg.

It is my pleasure to offer my support for the AllerGen NCE program and its application for renewal. The AllerGen Network is essential in maintaining Canada's qualitative edge in advanced asthma and allergy research, and its continued funding would allow the further development of our fruitful research collaborations both within the AllerGen network and with our international partners in Sweden and Australia.

I have been fortunate enough to be awarded a CAIDATI award by AllerGen (Canadian Allergy and Immune Disease Advanced Training Initiative), which was an enormous help in funding my studies, especially due to the decreased availabilities of federal and provincial funding opportunities. The continued funding of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows is essential in preparing the next generation of academic researchers in Canada, and AllerGen has done a phenomenal job supporting students through fellowship awards and travel grants. I have also been privileged with the opportunity to support AllerGen through my role as a Regional Director for the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN). This position offers me an outlet to give back to the organization that has helped me immensely in my early formative years as a graduate student, as well as provide me with new experiences and skills that are crucial for my transition into an independent investigator in the Canadian research community.

Sincerely,

Matthew Gold
Ph.D. Candidate, McNaghy Lab
Biomedical Research Centre
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6T 1Z3

Dr. Judah Denburg
Scientific Director,
AllerGen-NCE Inc.
MDCL - 3120
McMaster University
1280 Main St. W.
Hamilton, ON, L8N 2A5

June 22, 2011

Re: NCE application

Dear Dr. Denburg,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of AllerGen's NCE funding renewal application. I have been involved in the AllerGen network as a doctoral trainee since September 2007, working under the supervision of Dr. Susan Elliott in Research Programme C: Public Health, Ethics, Policy & Society. During this time, AllerGen has provided substantial support for my own professional development, and emerging research programme. In particular, AllerGen has been extremely generous in funding travel to several conferences in my particular field (health geography), in addition to five consecutive annual network meetings. These opportunities are crucial for trainees, who are in the beginning stages of their career, and many of these would not have been possible without the dedication of AllerGen to developing and supporting Highly Qualified Personnel.

I believe that AllerGen is worthy of this funding renewal through the Networks of Centres of Excellence program. I can say with confidence that they will continue to play a major role around allergic disease from genetics to social impacts in Canada, and internationally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D Harrington'.

Daniel Harrington, B.Sc. (Hons.), M.A.
PhD Candidate
School of Geography and Earth Sciences
McMaster University
(905) 525 9140 x20440
harrindw@mcmaster.ca

June 29, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dear Dr. Denburg,

I am writing this letter in support of AllerGen NCE Inc. and how it has added great value to my research and career.

I am an AllerGen Trainee investigating allergic inflammatory mechanisms involving environment- progenitor cell interactions within AllerGen's Programme B, "Diagnostics and Therapeutics".

Through my research I have been investigating laboratory methods to characterize the phenotype and function of hematopoietic stem cells, especially eosinophilic/basophilic progenitor cells. I am also performing functional assays and progenitor cell phenotyping in allergic inflammation, atopic dermatitis and asthma.

By way of AllerGen's Travel Grant Awards, I have been able to attend many conferences and workshops that have benefited and added value to my research. I was able to attend the AAAAI annual conference for the past 2 years. It is the premier international venue for allergy/asthma, and as such provided me an excellent opportunity to attend and discuss my work with a global audience of peers and colleagues.

The AllerGen Travel Award has also allowed me to attend a Multicolor Flow Cytometry course at the University of British Columbia. This course has opened up the world of Flow Cytometry and allowed me to look at a vast array of receptors on progenitors cells all at once.

AllerGen NCE has helped facilitate my career development, elevate my educational background in the allergy/asthma field, as well as allowed me to network with other trainees and investigators, and initiate collaborative opportunities.

I would like to thank you and AllerGen NCE for the amazing opportunities you have provided me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Delia Heroux", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Delia Heroux
Research Technician
McMaster University

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dr. Judah Denburg,

Hello my name is Jeremy Hirota. I am currently a post-doctoral fellow at the University of British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Darryl Knight, within the James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre. In the summer of 2010, I was fortunate enough to receive funding from AllerGen NCE for a Canadian Allergy and Immune Diseases Advanced Training Initiative (CAIDATI) Fellowship. Despite my relative immaturity within the AllerGen NCE as a CAIDATI fellow, I have been presented with numerous opportunities to engage and integrate myself into this network of Canadian and International investigators that probe relationships between environmental exposures allergic diseases. Specifically, I have met with Dr. Paul Foster (University of Newcastle, Australia) to discuss pre-clinical models of allergic diseases, Dr. Sven-Erik Dahlen (Karolinska Institute, Sweden) to discuss inflammatory lipid mediators, Dr. Frances Silverman (University of Toronto, Canada) to discuss ambient air pollution exposure models, and Dr. Tim Takaro (Simon Fraser University, Canada) to collaborate on a pre-clinical model of phthalate exposure. In addition to helping establish collaborations that are crucial for my success as a young post-doctoral fellow, AllerGen NCE has also provided trainee symposiums for development of the next generation of researchers within Canada focusing on allergens, genes, and the environment. Collectively my experiences within AllerGen have been entirely positive and I wish that fellow colleagues and future young researchers are also able to benefit from the AllerGen NCE program.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Alexander Hirota
CIHR Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
CIHR-IMPACT Strategic Training Program Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
AllerGen CAIDATI Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
St. Paul's Hospital - UBC James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre
Institute for Heart + Lung Health
email - jeremy.hirota@hli.ubc.ca
email 2 - jeremyahirota@gmail.com
mobile - 905-518-0745

Winnipeg, MB, June 20th, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dear Dr. Denburg,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to you to support the request for funding to secure the continuing labor of Allergen. To me, Allergen has been an excellent network that pursues not only the development of science, but also the development of scientists.

The goal of Allergen, when it comes to trainees, has been to help us reach our potential by offering us with spaces to discuss our research, means to develop our science, and tools for our personal growth. Networking has been one of the best assets I have received from Allergen for it has provided me with contacts and interactions with other researchers that are undertaking similar endeavours as I am, and also to benefit from the experience of others in my field.

One of the activities I have treasured the most has been the Trainee Meetings. In these meetings we have been given access to well-renowned research scientists who have shared valuable experiences in their fields. We have also found out the reality of fields other than academia that could benefit from our expertise, should we decide to pursue such a future.

I am truly thankful to Allergen for encouraging us to continue and achieve our goals in science, and to gain recognition among the scientific community through our investigations.

Sincerely yours,



Ramses Ilarraza, Ph D
Postdoctoral Fellow,
Department of Immunology
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, MB

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

RE: Allergen NCE Application

Hello my name is Bianca Malouf, I am an Masters of Science at the University of British Columbia in the School of Population and Public Health.

My Supervisor is Dr. Christopher Carlsten and I am part of an AllerGen team working on a project titled The Effects of a Controlled Diesel Exhaust Exposure on Asthmatic and Healthy Subjects. We attempt at characterizing the role of diesel exhaust exposure on airway oxidative stress by monitoring lung function parameter, biomarkers in sputum and exhaled breath condensate samples as well as assess the epigenetic effects through DNA analysis. Lastly, we are attempting to assess the effectiveness of antioxidant treatment on the effects of diesel exhaust exposure.

From my perspective, the value-added of my participation in the AllerGen Network is unique in that it provides the best opportunity to meet and learn from incredible individuals in my field of research. My graduate program is related to occupational and environmental hygiene and as such does not expose me to these people under normal circumstances. In this way, the Allergen network is vital in my evolution as a student, researcher and professional. For example, in early June of this 2011 year, a meeting was held in Halifax with all the new trainees for a research symposium. Not only did I meet amazing students from across the country and created new connections, but I also learnt the value of scientific knowledge translation, ethical research behaviour and effective presentation skills which would have not been instilled in me with my graduate program. Indeed, my graduate program is more of a hands on industrial/occupational sampling masters degree and so being able to clearly identify my research goals with regards to the aforementioned issues is very important to me. Communicating effectively, making sure of ethical behaviour and presentation skills are not the type of issues that just come to easily to me, it helps to be guided by other colleagues in this realm of uncertainty.

Overall, this network has helped me hone my research goals in a multifaceted way, not just centered on fundamental research but also on the growth of new trainees as researchers and professional individuals. I would not have had this type of exposure in any other setting and so I really appreciate this opportunity.

All the best,
Bianca Malouf, MSc Candidate
UBC School of Population & Public Health
604 365 3718 || bianca.malouf@mail.mcgill.ca || fax: 604.822.4994 || www.spph.ubc.ca

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Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

June 27, 2011

Based on my involvement with the AllerGen Network NCE, I would like to provide support for the upcoming funding renewal. As a PhD student, I worked under Dr. Kelly McNagny at UBC on an AllerGen-funded project focusing on the roles of mast cells and eosinophils in allergic disease. AllerGen funding provided direct support for my research, resulting in a number of publications (including manuscripts in *Blood*, *The American Journal of Pathology*, *PLoS ONE* and *BBA Reviews in Cancer*). Without AllerGen's support, this research would not have been possible.

In addition, I attended 5 AllerGen annual conferences and AllerGen travel awards allowed me to travel to 3 international conferences. This conference attendance would not have been possible without AllerGen's support and led to 5 presentation prizes and numerous opportunities for networking and collaboration. As a direct result of these conferences, I met Dr. Paul Foster (University of Newcastle, Australia) and will be starting a post-doctoral position with him. In fact, due to my involvement as a regional representative with the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN) and the international recognition of AllerGen research, I have been offered a 3-year post-doctoral fellowship to join the University of Newcastle as a Level 1 Lecturer in November, 2011.

For all these reasons and many more, AllerGen Network NCE has shaped me into the researcher I am today and I owe much of my success to their support and strongly encourage the renewal of this valuable Canadian program.

Dr. Steven Maltby

Post-doctoral Fellow
The Biomedical Research Centre
University of British Columbia
2222 Health Sciences Mall
Vancouver, BC
V6T 1Z3
Phone: 604 822 7828



June 27th, 2011

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DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL
AND MOLECULAR SCIENCES

Botterell Hall, Stuart Street
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Dear Dr. Denburg,

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know what an important difference the AllerGen N.C.E. has made in my career as a trainee in the field of Allergy and Immunology. Because of the AllerGen Network I have enjoyed the opportunity to engage in professional development opportunities I otherwise would not have had access to.

I have attended five of the annual AllerGen Trainee Symposia. From my perspective, these symposia represent value-added, as they always provide a refreshing program of professional development that focuses on areas such as mentorship, career paths, and public speaking skills, that are not included in most conferences. I have found that the Trainee Symposia are specifically designed to meet needs that are not well addressed by graduate training alone. I have also found that membership in the AllerGen Students and New Professionals' Network has also provided me with many benefits, including the opportunity to provide input on the organization and content of these meetings. These annual meetings, and other ASNPN events, have also provided me with the opportunity to engage with other trainees studying allergic disease across Canada.

Additionally, I have attended all six of AllerGen's annual research conferences. These conferences have provided me with the opportunity to present my research and to be exposed to the work of other Canadian scientists in the field of allergy and immunology. My PhD supervisors, AllerGen investigators Dr. Jeremy Scott and Dr. Frances Silverman, encouraged my involvement in these meetings since the beginning of my graduate training. These annual conferences have played a very important role in my career development. Meeting other

AllerGen investigators and receiving feedback from them on my work has been very rewarding. The atmosphere of AllerGen conferences also openly encourages collaboration. I have really appreciated getting to know the prominent researchers in allergic disease in Canada while receiving my training. Through the AllerGen network I met my current Post-Doctoral Supervisor, Dr. Anne Ellis. Without the networking opportunities that the AllerGen Network provided throughout the years I may not otherwise have met her and secured a Post-Doctoral fellowship in her laboratory at Queen's University.

I also enjoyed the special equipment training sessions that have been offered periodically by AllerGen, in partnership with different AllerGen investigators. The workshop held in collaboration with Dr. Kelly McNagny at the University of British Columbia was very interesting and practical and certainly represents added value for my involvement in the Network. The Clinical Workshops for Non-Clinicians, in 2009 at Montreal General Hospital, and in 2010 at the Hospital for Sick Children, also provided me with an opportunity to explore how my research can be applied to improve the lives of Canadians living with allergic disease. These HQP programmes have been very valuable to my career.

I would like to thank you, Dr. Denburg, as well as other AllerGen staff and the N.C.E. program for working so hard to provide these wonderful opportunities for trainees such as myself. I would like you to know that they have made a big difference and are greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,



Michelle North, PhD
Post-Doctoral Fellow
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David Préfontaine M.Sc., Ph.D. Candidate
Ex-member of the ASNPN Leadership Committee
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Clinical Research Associate (CRA)
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June 27th, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
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Letter of Support to AllerGen NCE Inc.

I joined AllerGen NCE Inc. and the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN) as a trainee at the beginning of my doctoral degree of Pathology (Meakins-Christie Laboratories, McGill University), in 2006. Some of the research projects undertaken under the supervision of Drs. Qutayba Hamid and Bruce Mazer were then funded by the network.

In the course of my degree, I attended several AllerGen Annual meetings and Trainee symposiums. These events were invaluable opportunities to considerably develop my professional network in the allergy research community across the country. I have kept in touch with several trainees for years now and I have also discussed the possibility of undertaking post-doctoral fellowships in the laboratory of mentors I met throughout the network. To my knowledge, the AllerGen Annual meeting is the highest impact allergy research meeting in the country and, and therefore consists of the best tribune for trainees to disseminate their research findings, to get critical feedbacks and to learn from experienced researchers. The Trainee symposiums provided junior researchers with a unique setting to develop a variety of skills required for succeeding in a career in allergy and biomedical research. In the course of my doctoral degree, I was selected twice as a participant to the Strategic Training in Allergy Research (ST*AR) program of the American Academy of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology. I must admit that the AllerGen Trainee symposiums compares advantageously to its American counterpart in terms of quality of content and opportunity to network with peers. These symposiums provide professional support and continuing education to trainees about communication skills, networking and translational research matters, publications in peer-reviewed journals, grant writing, career panels and career counseling. Such additional training definitely contributed to the success I had as a doctoral candidate at the scientific level, but also at the excellence awards and fellowships levels.

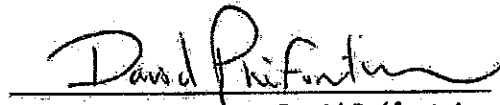
The AllerGen network also strongly encouraged trainees to step up and contribute to decision-making and management of the network activities. I decided to get involved and became the ASNPN Regional Representative for the Quebec/Atlantic region for the year 2009. My role was then to foster exchanges between trainees of the network. Later, I helped out organizing the Trainee symposiums and acted as the Vice-President of the ASNPN Leadership Committee in 2010. The same year, I was also invited to be part of the AllerGen NCE Inc. Research Management Committee, as an *ex officio* non-voting member. Such experiences as part of leadership committees gave me invaluable insights into the research management area.

In the last few decades, our societies have progressively realized the burden of allergic diseases on our health and productivity. The allergy and asthma epidemics are now well-described, especially among children. Several of the network initiatives enable AllerGen to face the challenges of our societies with respect to allergies. The CHILD Study, the Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC) and the CanGoFAR and SCAALAR studies are significant examples of AllerGen initiatives that will respectively enhance our ability to detect the early-life causes and signs of allergic diseases, to test new therapeutic targets in collaboration with pharmaceutical partners, and to impact on the awareness, the understanding and the management of food allergies.

I will be soon defending my Ph.D. thesis, and have been employed as a Clinical Research Associate in a hospital setting for more than 6 months now. From my perspective, the AllerGen network consists of a highly dynamic milieu where I developed scientific interactions as well as professional skills. The network greatly contributed both to my academic accomplishment and professional transition.

I can only salute and acknowledge all the efforts put on by the AllerGen network and staff to implement such a culture of excellence in the field of allergy research, to promote knowledge translation and to develop the trainees as the next generation of biomedical research leaders in Canada. I sincerely hope that AllerGen will continue pursuing his missions.

Yours truly,


David Préfontaine



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

Dr. J. Denburg, MD FRCPC
Scientific Director and CEO, AllerGen NCE
Michael DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery- Room 3120
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON
L8N 2A5

Dear Dr. Denburg,

I wish to express my deep gratitude to you and the management and staff at AllerGen NCE for your dedication and commitment to supporting and mentoring trainees in allergy and asthma research. As such, I am delighted to write a testimonial in support of AllerGen NCE's upcoming bid for renewal.

"Build it and they will come" is an oft-cited line from Kevin Costner's film, Field of Dreams. But, this statement could be extended from sports to science, and more specifically, the networks created within the scientific arenas. As a graduate student, the research and clinical skills that I have learned form the pillars for a future career in academia. Yet, these skills alone are not adequate now, and certainly won't be in the future. As an AllerGen NCE trainee, I have had the privilege of gaining a multiplicity of skill sets and opportunities that would not have been possible without AllerGen NCE.

Firstly, as a member of the AllerGen Students' and New Professionals' Network (ASNPN), **I have had many occasions to develop many important professional skills;** yet, these skills often receive little focus in traditional graduate training programs. In particular, the annual ASNPN Trainee Symposium has consistently focused on skills such as presenting and mentoring, as well as guidance on applying for funding and pursuing career paths. As the current president of the ASNPN, I am also a member of AllerGen's Advanced Education and Training Opportunities Advisory Committee and the AllerGen Board of Directors. Involvement in these capacities has provided insight into the peer review process, as well as the functioning and expectations of Networks of Excellence, and more generally, of networks.

AllerGen has also provided numerous unique opportunities that would not have been made available without its existence. As a MSc student, I received an AllerGen NCE stipend, which enabled me to dedicate nearly all of my time to research and coursework; without this support, I would have had to divide my time between these commitments and paid employment. AllerGen has also provided several travel awards which made it possible to attend conferences outside of this network (e.g. Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology; International Congress on Obesity), but which still contributed to my area of interest. Another unique opportunity with which I was fortunate to be involved was the AllerGen-Karolinska Institutet Highly Qualified Personnel Exchange. I participated in a six week exchange at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden in February/March 2010, during

which I worked with Associate Professor Catarina Almqvist Malmros, MD PhD. This short term exchange provided invaluable exposure to the research and culture of another institution. Moreover, a manuscript based on my work at the Karolinska Institutet is currently being drafted. But, perhaps the most noteworthy result of this exchange was the relationships that I forged with Swedish researchers interested in allergy and asthma. Subsequent to this exchange, several discussions have been centred around opportunities for future collaboration. At this early stage in my career, these relationships would not have existed without AllerGen NCE.

Yet, AllerGen NCE has provided networking opportunities beyond those established with Swedish colleagues. **Involvement in AllerGen has enabled me to establish contacts with allergy and asthma researchers from across Canada and beyond**, including Sweden and India. Annual research conferences and trainee symposia are wonderful opportunities to present and discuss emerging research with other allergy trainees. Likewise, I have been introduced to established researchers from a variety of disciplines, many of whom are Canadian and world leaders in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. I have no doubt that these networks would not have been established without AllerGen. At such an early point in my career, I am grateful that I already belong to this community of researchers and I recognize that this is a unique opportunity that will be beneficial both now and for many years to come.

My involvement with AllerGen has enabled me to participate in activities far beyond what I ever anticipated when I began my graduate training. I continue to marvel at the opportunities with which I have been privileged to be a part. This network of researchers has been built on excellence within the field of allergy and asthma. **As a trainee and future academic, I hope to further build on these skills, opportunities and networks that are the direct result of AllerGen NCE.** My experiences of the network can be summarized into a modified version of Kevin Costner's line: "Build it and they will build on it."

With warm regards,

Jennifer LP Protudjer, PhD(c), MSc
Departments of Applied Health Sciences and Human Nutritional Sciences
University of Manitoba
Manitoba Institute of Child Health
President, AllerGen Students' and New Professionals' Network

Pia Reece Testimonial for AllerGen

My name is Pia Reece and I am completing my PhD studies at McMaster University. Since I am investigating innate immune mechanisms of infant allergic disease, I was able to join the AllerGen network as a trainee. My involvement with this organization has been such a phenomenal experience in my graduate career. One of the best aspects of this organization is their emphasis on networking and sharing of scientific ideas. Because of this, I have been able to meet a number of researchers who are investigating mechanisms of allergy (in different and/or similar ways) which has greatly influenced how I analyze and interpret my data, but has also allowed me to reach out to them when I require that second expert opinion. For example, as part of my thesis now, I am investigating the mechanisms by which progenitor cells in the cord blood of infants develop into eosinophils, a major effector cell of allergy. I was able to share and gain advice on my data analysis by Dr. Kelly McNagny, an AllerGen researcher from British Columbia. If I did not attend the annual AllerGen conferences, I would not have met Dr. McNagny, and therefore I would not have been able to receive his advice on my flow cytometric data analysis. This is definitely one of the best examples of the positive aspect I have experienced through the networking environment of this organization! Secondly, since AllerGen promotes the sharing and communication of scientific ideas, I have been able to present my AllerGen funded thesis work at the annual conference, where I have not only received positive feedback and advice about future directions, but I have grown as a researcher with improved presentation and critical analysis skills; a skill set which will be vital during my scientific career in science! Besides these opportunities afforded to me by the AllerGen annual conferences, AllerGen also has travel scholarships which are available to its trainees. I have been fortunate to be awarded this scholarship which has allowed me to travel to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) annual conference where I again presented AllerGen funded work. Presenting my data on an international stage allows me to again, to network with different researchers which, just recently, resulted in the development of a collaborative/educational relationship with Pannee Khoury, who also studies progenitor cell function. At this meeting, Pannee and I discussed the methylcellulose assay since she was having difficulty growing colonies (the read out of this assay). We have, since the conference, had email communications, where I am teaching her how I do the assay in our lab (concentrations, reagents etc) so that she may also grow colonies in her own work. I look forward to learning of her success on the project!

This network without a doubt has contributed to my growth as a scientist, and in this last AllerGen symposium we have had in Halifax Nova Scotia, has really excited me about a future in science. I have made so many great connections with other AllerGen trainees that I look forward to seeing them every year for the symposium. This organization is really one of a kind, and has completely influenced my career and interest in scientific research. I am deeply indebted to all AllerGen has done for me throughout my graduate career, and look forward to the future opportunities I will have with AllerGen as I go further with my career in science!

AllerGen's Testimonial

Pawan Sharma, B Pharm, M Pharm

PhD Candidate, Department of Physiology,
Biology of Breathing Group, Manitoba Institute of Child Health,
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada

It is a great pleasure for me to write in support of AllerGen NCE Inc. I've been associated with AllerGen for more than 4 years - right from the very first year of my graduate training. Though my project is not directly funded by AllerGen, I got attracted to join AllerGen because of the one common goal - to study allergic diseases such as asthma. In my very first year with AllerGen, I got the excellent opportunity to be a part of the inaugural student leadership committee popularly known as ASNPN. It was a unique initiative to bring all Canadian trainees working in allergy & asthma at one common platform and develop and organize several key events for AllerGen. As an inaugural student secretary/treasurer of the ASNPN at AllerGen I got a solid platform to develop my leadership skills by organizing and planning for two trainee symposiums one held at Victoria and the other at Montreal in 2008 and 2009.

My graduate training has been immensely enhanced by AllerGen's - trainee program. I've been able to network with several leading researchers across Canada and other countries at meetings directly organized by AllerGen or at the meetings for which AllerGen provided travel support. It is because of the AllerGen's travel grant program (matching funds) that I'm able to attend several key meetings in my field -to name a few American Thoracic Society, American Society for Cell Biology, Indian Pharmacology Society, Canadian Society of Allergy & Clinical Immunology. More recently AllerGen funding helped me to attend a key meeting in London, UK on *Chronic Airway Diseases* organized by Prof. Holgate.

In my opinion AllerGen NCE Inc in Canada is an important partner for many Canadian researchers and investigators to foster allergy & asthma training and to build a line of trainees equipped with skills and techniques to do a cut throat research in respiratory

AllerGen's Testimonial

biology. AllerGen has also provided several training sessions such as Flow workshop, Spirometry workshop for non-clinical trainees over past few years. I would like to strongly recommend AllerGen's candidature for renewal as it is one of the centers of excellence in allergy & asthma and has drastically changed the course of training not only for me but for several trainees throughout Canada.

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Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

July 4, 2011

Re: Letter of Support for AllerGen Renewal

Dear Dr. Denburg,

I would like to thank AllerGen NCE for the opportunities that it has provided to me over the past two years, including trainee funding, abstract presentations, conference attendance and other educational events. These experiences have greatly enhanced my knowledge of allergy and immunology research and contributed to the development of my research career in Canada.

I am currently a Clinical Epidemiology doctoral student at the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), and my clinical training is in the field of Pediatric Allergy and Asthma. In 2009, I was awarded an AllerGen Canadian Allergy & Immune Diseases Advanced Training Initiative (CAIDATI) Award, which provided part of my funding in my first year of doctoral training and enabled me to successfully apply for full funding from the Canadian Thoracic Society for my second year.

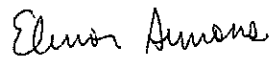
For the past 2 years, I have attended the AllerGen Annual Research Conference and presented at the trainee poster symposium; I also gave an oral abstract presentation at the 2011 conference. The critical and constructive feedback that I received from the faculty at these sessions has been extremely helpful for strengthening the calibre of my projects and guiding my future research efforts. The research I presented in 2010 has since been published in the Canadian Journal of Public Health and my 2011 project is in preparation for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

I also participated in last year's Trainee Symposium and greatly appreciated the opportunity to practice important aspects of research for which I had not received previous training, including how to incorporate knowledge translation in the early stages of project planning and how to communicate effectively with the media. I also thoroughly enjoyed the chance to network with my fellow trainees and colleagues from across Canada.

Thank you, once again, for these opportunities. I look forward to continuing to participate in AllerGen events and to using the feedback and knowledge gained to improve my research skills and enhance my current and future contributions to the understanding and management of childhood allergies and asthma.

If I can provide any further information that would be helpful in support of AllerGen's funding renewal process, please do not hesitate to contact me at elinor.simons@sickkids.ca.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elinor Simons".

Elinor Simons, MD MSc FAAAAI
Child Health Evaluative Sciences
The Hospital for Sick Children

Lianne Soller Testimonial

I have been a member of the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network since 2008, when I became a research assistant for Dr. Ann Clarke's SCAAALAR study, funded by AllerGen and Health Canada. I started off as a telephone interviewer and was quickly promoted to study coordinator. As a recent graduate of McGill University, I took a 1-year sabbatical from my education to work for Dr. Clarke and to try to figure out what I wanted to do: medicine or research. I was invited to attend the AllerGen Annual conference in Ottawa in February 2009. At the conference, I presented my first poster, and it was very well-received. I was chosen to present the project orally, and I won first prize in the trainee poster competition. This experience was incredibly rewarding, not only because I won the competition, but also because I had the opportunity to share some of the data that I had helped collect to Canadian allergy researchers and clinicians.

In the last two years, I have attended two AAAAI conferences in New Orleans and San Francisco, three AllerGen conferences in Ottawa, Quebec City and Vancouver, the annual meeting of the CSACI in Halifax, three trainee symposiums in Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax, and two AQAA meetings in Montreal. I was even given the opportunity to present some of the findings from the SCAAALAR project at an AQAA meeting and a press conference held in Montreal. All of the conferences I attended were either directly or indirectly supported by AllerGen funds. Without AllerGen's financial support, I would not have had the opportunity to attend so many conferences, learn so many new skills, or meet so many new people.

Over the years, I have become friends with several of the AllerGen trainees, sharing research ideas and stories about life as a graduate student. I have also been a member of the executive committee of the ASNPN both as Regional Director for Quebec/Atlantic in 2009-2010, and as Vice-President in 2010-2011. In this role, I have actively participated in the organization of two trainee symposia, and this year, I was invited to attend the Board of Directors/Research Management Committee retreat in Toronto, where I was one of only two trainees.

Because of the multidisciplinary nature of the research collaborations at AllerGen, I have been given the opportunity to work with medical geographers, policymakers and clinicians, and I have already begun to see the impact of our research at the policy level. I have become truly passionate about research in food allergy over the past few years, and I believe that this would not have happened without AllerGen. I have developed skills that have allowed me to think critically about research findings, develop my own research questions, and translate research findings to key stakeholders. If AllerGen is renewed for another seven years, I know that I will continue to grow as a graduate student and learn new skills which will help me become an independent researcher in the future, so that I may be at the forefront of food allergy epidemiology research long after AllerGen's mandate is complete.

July 11, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a PhD candidate in my fourth year of study. As an AllerGen Highly Qualified Personnel, I have been afforded opportunities that substantially enhanced the quality of my training and research.

As a part of the AllerGen Canadian Group on Food Allergy Research (CanGoFAR) I was able to travel to McMaster University and attend a training session on mouse anaphylaxis models and measurement. The technical skills that I acquired during this session have been critical to my research. Furthermore, this session provided an opportunity to communicate with other researchers in Canada about mouse anaphylaxis models and the common challenges encountered.

I have presented posters at two annual AllerGen research conferences, and these have provided me with opportunities to discuss research with my fellow Canadian trainees and researchers. The research conferences have led to valuable feedback on my work from experts in the field.

I have also attended two Trainee Conferences through the AllerGen Network. These conferences have allowed me to network with other trainees, which has led to scientific collaboration. Furthermore, I have acquired information about structuring a career in research from these conferences.

It is undeniable that the AllerGen NCE has had a significant role facilitating and enhancing my training as a PhD candidate.

Sincerely,

Matthew Tunis

PhD candidate, Dalhousie University



Centre universitaire de santé McGill
McGill University Health Centre

August 13, 2010

July 5, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Re: Allergen NCE – letter of support

Dear Dr. Denburg:

This letter expresses my enthusiastic interest in AllerGen NCE's application for funding renewal. AllerGen's vision, mission and goals are invaluable to research. I have witnessed how trainees have evolved by attending AllerGen NCE workshops; the knowledge and tools acquired at these workshops are invaluable to their careers. I look forward to continuing work with this important network enterprise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Elizabeth Turnbull'.

Elizabeth Turnbull, RN, CCRP
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July 5, 2011

Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director and CEO
AllerGen NCE Inc.
MDCL Room 3120, McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON L8S 2A5

Dear Dr. Denburg,

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of AllerGen's renewal application to be submitted to the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) of Canada program.

I have been involved with AllerGen NCE since 2008 in a Program Coordinator capacity in Program C: Public Health, Ethics, Policy and Society, working under the direction of Dr. Susan Elliott, Program Leader. My role has been mostly administrative in nature, and I have had the opportunity to coordinate several health policy related workshops, and to attend the AllerGen Annual Research Conference each winter. Participation in these events has been invaluable given that I am also a doctoral candidate and research coordinator in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University, working broadly in the area of social and health policy. AllerGen's activities have given me tremendous insight into the operations of a successful network.

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to work in such a capacity with AllerGen, and hope to continue to do so for another 7 years.

Sincerely,

Michelle Vine, MA
Research Coordinator
PhD Candidate

School of Geography and Earth Sciences
McMaster University