

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Graduate Student Research Awards fund innovative asthma research**

**TORONTO, ON**, February 26, 2018 – Asthma Canada and the Allergy, Genes and Environment Network (AllerGen NCE), a national Network of Centres of Excellence, are pleased to announce the inaugural Graduate Student Award recipients within Asthma Canada’s *National Research Program*.

Since 2014, Asthma Canada’s *National Research Program* has awarded and recognized established Canadian investigators involved in early-onset and late-onset asthma research. The program’s expansion to support outstanding student researchers will foster the next generation of leaders in the field of asthma.

**2018 Graduate Student Research Award recipients are:**

<p><i>Asthma Canada / AllerGen Bastable-Potts Graduate Student Research Award</i> \$20,000 to support investigations into late-onset asthma by a PhD student</p>
<p><b>Danay Maestre-Batlle</b> (The University of British Columbia) Supervisor: Dr. Christopher Carlsten, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine “Effects of phthalate inhalation on airway immunology: a controlled human exposure study.”</p>

<p><i>Asthma Canada / AllerGen Goran-Enhorning Graduate Research Award</i> \$20,000 to support investigations into early-onset asthma by a PhD student</p>
<p><b>Thomas Mahood</b> (University of Manitoba) Supervisor: Dr. Andrew Halayko, Professor, Departments of Physiology and Pathophysiology, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics &amp; Child Health “Understanding the role of protein prenylation in asthma.”</p>

<p><i>Asthma Canada / AllerGen Goran-Enhorning Graduate Research Award</i> \$10,000 to support investigations into early-onset asthma by an MSc student</p>
<p><b>Diana Pham</b> (University of Calgary) Supervisor: Dr. Richard Leigh, Professor and Department Head, Department of Medicine “The role of human rhinovirus infections in the pathogenesis of airway remodelling in asthma.”</p>

“Asthma is the third most common chronic disease in Canada,” said Vanessa Foran, President & CEO of Asthma Canada. “By investing in these young Canadian researchers and supporting their promising research, we ensure continued efforts to search for a cure for asthma, while making real strides towards better treatment options for the more than three million Canadians living with asthma.”

“These awards create value-added opportunities for the training, education, and professional development of graduate students who will strengthen Canada’s knowledge base and scope for clinical innovation,” added Dr. Judah Denburg, Scientific Director and CEO of AllerGen. “We are delighted to partner with Asthma Canada on this exciting initiative and to support the work of these exceptional students from across Canada.”

### **About Asthma Canada**

[Asthma Canada](http://www.asthma.ca) is a national organization that provides evidence-based, age-appropriate asthma information, education, management tools and support programs for Canadians with asthma. Asthma Canada also supports strategic research to improve the quality of life of people living with asthma, and ultimately, find a cure. More information about Asthma Canada’s *National Research Program* is available at [www.asthma.ca](http://www.asthma.ca).

### **About AllerGen NCE Inc.**

[AllerGen](http://www.allergen.ca) is a member of Canada’s Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program with a mandate to support research, networking, commercialization, knowledge mobilization and capacity-building activities that contribute to reducing the morbidity, mortality, and socioeconomic impact of allergic and related immune diseases.

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