

## Research conference showcases AllerGen HQP

Over 170 delegates gathered in the Fairmont Waterfront Hotel in downtown Vancouver to participate in AllerGen's 8<sup>th</sup> Research Conference: *Connecting and Collaborating: Globalizing Advances in Allergic Disease Research*, which ran May 29 through June 1, 2016.

This was AllerGen's first conference since the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program confirmed its funding through to 2019—guaranteeing the Network a full 14 years of support. Following AllerGen tradition, trainees' and research staff's research was showcased throughout the conference, and several activities were held to facilitate HQP networking and career development.

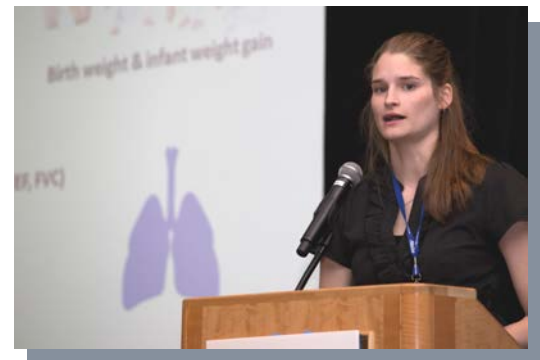
Fifty-three trainees and research staff, representing 14 universities and affiliated institutions participated in the poster competition, which included poster viewing and adjudication, and *1-Minute / 1-Slide* lightning round oral presentations. New to this year's competition was the addition of a KT poster category where participants were judged on their ability to communicate the purpose, findings and importance of their research in a manner that is understandable and captivating to a non-scientific audience. Cash prizes, totaling \$5500, were awarded in six categories.

The Conference program also included an HQP mentoring lunch, and a networking dinner featuring Professor Timothy Caulfield, who spoke about celebrity "pseudo" science and its influence on the health-related decision-making of individuals and groups.

AllerGen's 9<sup>th</sup> and final Research Conference is being planned for 2019.



**Danay Maestre-Battle**  
The University of British Columbia



**Aimee Dubeau**  
The Hospital for Sick Children



**Bassel Dawod**  
Dalhousie University

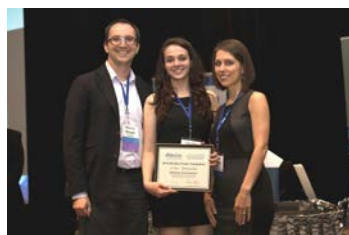


**Poster Winners — Back (L to R):** Stuart Turvey (Judge), Bahar Torabi, Marie-Claire Arrieta, Andréanne Morin, Jasmine Yang, Ted Konya, Judah Denburg (Sci. Dir.), Meghan Azad (Judge) **Front (L to R):** Laura Feldman, Min Hyung Ryu, Sarah Svenningsen, Lisa Steacy, John Paul Oliveria, Mark Tenn, Sofianne Gabrielli, Leila Mostaço-Guidolin, Amrit Singh, Olivia Cheng, Melanie Emmerson

**vancouver2016**  
May 29 | *Innovation from*  
–June 1 | *Cell to Society*<sup>8</sup>

**Thank you to AllerGen Poster Competition Co-chairs Drs Meghan Azad and Stuart Turvey, and the judging panel which included:**

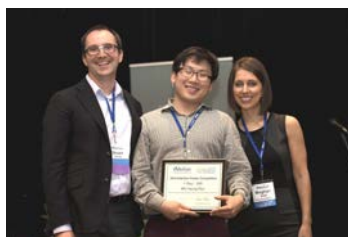
Darryl Adamko, Barbara Ally, Dean Befus, Philippe Bégin, Louis-Philippe Boulet, Michael Brauer, Deborah Danoff, Terry Delovitch, Delbert Dorscheid, Sylviane Duval, Susan Elliott, Anne Ellis, Gail Gauvreau, John Gordon, Laurie Harada, Meaghan Jones, Michael Kobor, Anita Kozyrskyj, Chris Mody, Danuta Radzioch and Olga Pena.



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Undergraduate:**  
**Melanie Emmerson,**  
University of Waterloo



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Masters:**  
**Sofianne Gabrielli,**  
McGill University



**1<sup>st</sup> Place PhD:**  
**Min Hyung Ryu,** The  
University of British Columbia



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Open:**  
**Sarah Svenningsen,**  
Western University



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Research Staff:**  
**Olivia Cheng,** The Hospital  
for Sick Children



**1<sup>st</sup> Place Knowledge Translation:**  
**Leila Mostaço-Guidolin,** The  
University of British Columbia

# 2016 Poster Competition Awards

2016 AllerGen Research Conference, Fairmont Waterfront Hotel

Vancouver, BC, May 29 – June 1, 2016

| Place              | Prize | Category              | Name                    | Institution                        | Abstract Title  |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | \$500 | Undergrad             | Melanie Emmerson        | University of Waterloo             | Lung clearance index (LCI) in 3-year-old children with clinically assessed preschool asthma   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | \$500 | Masters               | Sofianne Gabrielli      | McGill University                  | Increased drug-induced anaphylaxis visits and factors affecting reaction severity: a 3-year follow-up study in two Emergency Departments in Montreal                |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | \$300 | Masters               | Mark Tenn               | Queen's University                 | Comparative outcomes of the Nasal Allergen Challenge model of the Allergic Rhinitis Investigator Collaborative versus the Environmental Exposure Unit               |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | \$200 | Masters               | Bahar Torabi            | McGill University                  | Maintenance milk oral immunotherapy at 9 months is associated with ongoing increases in casein-specific serum IgG4  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | \$500 | PhD                   | Min Hyung Ryu           | The University of British Columbia | Diesel exhaust and allergen co-exposure enhances mucin secretome in human airways   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | \$300 | PhD                   | Amrit Singh             | The University of British Columbia | Novel blood-based biomarkers panels of the late phase asthmatic response: from discovery to validation  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | \$200 | PhD                   | Andréanne Morin         | McGill University                  | Exploring rare coding and non-coding variants reveals new gene associated to lung obstruction   |
| Honourable Mention | \$100 | PhD                   | John Paul Oliveria      | McMaster University                | IgE+B cells increase in the airways following whole lung allergen challenge in mild allergic asthmatics   |
| Honourable Mention | \$100 | PhD                   | Jasemine Yang           | The University of British Columbia | The regulation of interleukin-13 receptor subunits in response to injury signals  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | \$500 | Open                  | Sarah Svenningsen       | Western University                 | What do MRI ventilation defects reveal about asthma control?  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | \$300 | Open                  | Tetyana Kendzerska      | Sunnybrook Research Institution    | Adverse long-term consequences associated with a history of asthma in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: an observational population cohort study |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | \$200 | Open                  | Marie-Claire Arrieta    | The University of British Columbia | Early life intestinal microbial alterations are associated with pediatric asthma in rural Ecuador   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | \$500 | Research Staff        | Olivia Cheng            | The Hospital for Sick Children     | Lung clearance index is elevated in asthmatic children with symptomatic control   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | \$300 | Research Staff        | Lisa Steacy             | Kingston General Hospital          | The Allergic Rhinitis Clinic Investigator's Collaborative (AR-CIC)- cytokine anaphylaxis of nasal fluid before and after nasal allergen challenges (NAC)            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>    | \$200 | Research Staff        | Theodore Konya          | University of Toronto              | Linking the indoor microbiome with atopy in the CHILD study: preliminary findings   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup>    | \$500 | Knowledge Translation | Leila Mostaço-Guildolin | The University of British Columbia | What is happening inside asthmatics lungs? New imaging techniques can help us to answer it.   |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>    | \$300 | Knowledge Translation | Laura Feldman           | University of Toronto              | Are children who were exposed to parental smoking as babies more likely to experience symptoms after eating certain foods?  |



## Dr. Christopher Mody recognized for 10 years of service

On December 31, 2015, Dr. Chris Mody stepped down as the Chair of AllerGen's Advanced Education and Training Opportunities Advisory Committee (AETOAC), after 10 years of service. Dr. Mody served on AETOAC since 2005, and filled the role of Chair beginning in 2008.

Both AllerGen's Board of Directors and the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network recognized Dr. Mody for his service at the AllerGen Research Conference in Vancouver, BC, expressing their sincere gratitude for his leadership to the Network's HQP Program and the AETOAC committee.

During his tenure, Dr. Mody chaired 20 AETOAC meetings and reviewed over 150 trainee grant applications.

The mandate of AETOAC is to conduct trainee award peer-reviews and to advise AllerGen's Research Management Committee on matters pertaining to HQP programming.



**L to R:** Board Chair Dr. Howard Bergman (McGill University) & Dr. Chris Mody (University of Calgary)

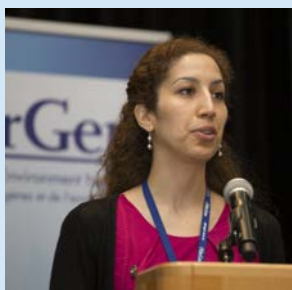
## Trainees present research during conference plenary sessions



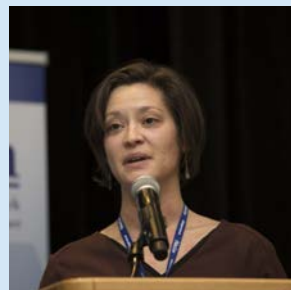
**Michelle North**  
(University of Toronto)  
speaking on *DNA methylation in specific cell types/organelles & the potential for epigenetic-motivated interventions*



**Elizabeth Simms**  
(McMaster University)  
speaking on *Ara h1 peptide immunotherapy: a new approach to treating peanut allergy*

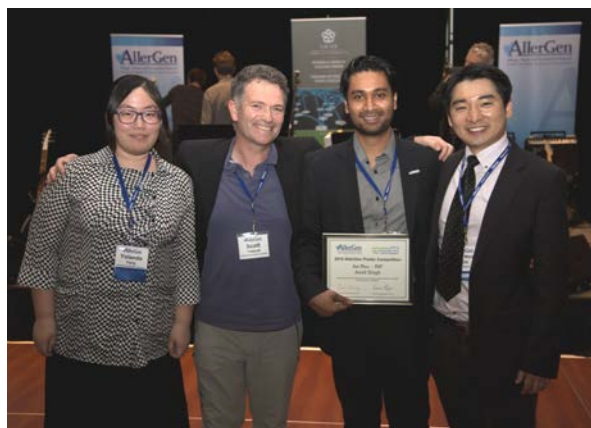


**Bahar Torabi**  
(McGill University)  
speaking on *Milk oral immunotherapy in Canada: lessons from the GET-FACTS cohort*



**Meaghan Jones**  
(The University of British Columbia)  
speaking on *DNA Methylation in the CHILD Study cohort*

## 2016 AllerGen Research Conference



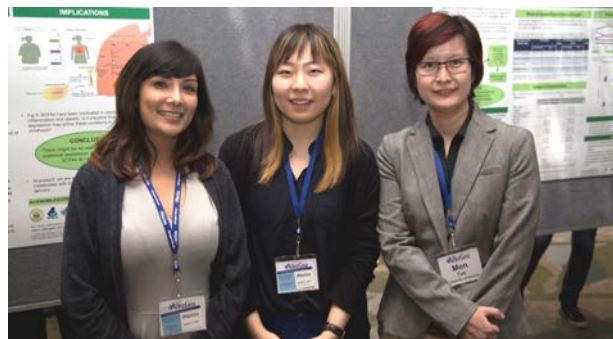
**L to R:** Yolanda Yang, Dr. Scott Tebbutt, Amrit Singh, Young Woong Kim (The University of British Columbia)



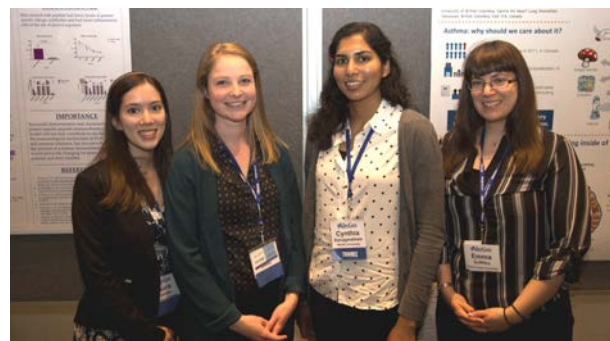
**L to R:** Dr. Meghan Azad (University of Manitoba), Marie-Claire Arrieta (The University of British Columbia), Dr. Stuart Turvey (The University of British Columbia)



**L to R:** Dr. Catherine Laprise (Université du Québec à Chicoutimi) and Andréanne Morin (McGill University)



**L to R:** Manjeet Kumari, Liane Kang, Mon Tun (University of Alberta)



**L to R:** Laura Feldman (University of Toronto), Elizabeth Simms (McMaster University), Cynthia Kanagaratham (McGill University), Emma Griffiths (Simon Fraser University)

MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!



### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual AllerGen Trainee Symposium

May 3-5, 2017

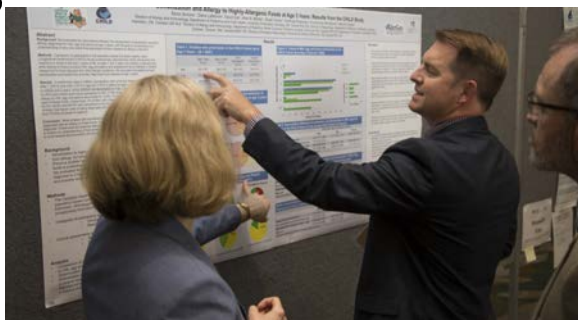
Waterfront Hotel, Burlington ON

Located on Lake Ontario, halfway between  
Toronto and Niagara

Registration opens – January 2017



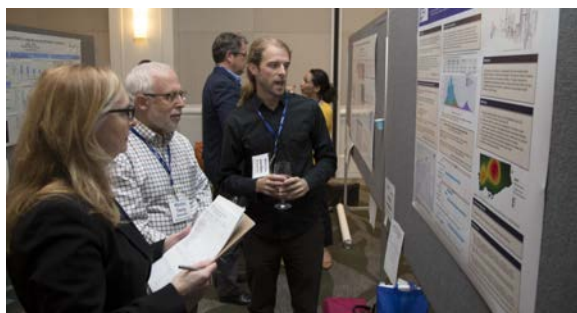
# 2016 AllerGen Research Conference



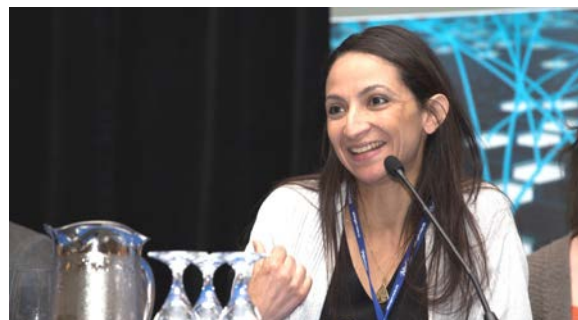
**L to R:** Elinor Simons (University of Manitoba) & Judge Dr. Darryl Adamko (University of Saskatchewan)



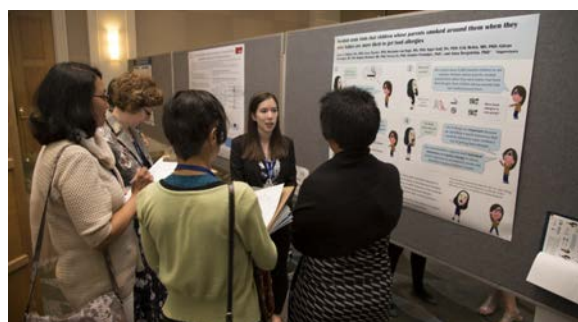
Joseph Okeme (University of Toronto)



**L to R:** Judge Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj (University of Alberta), Judge Dr. Terry Delovitch (Western University) & Jordan Brubacher (Simon Fraser University)



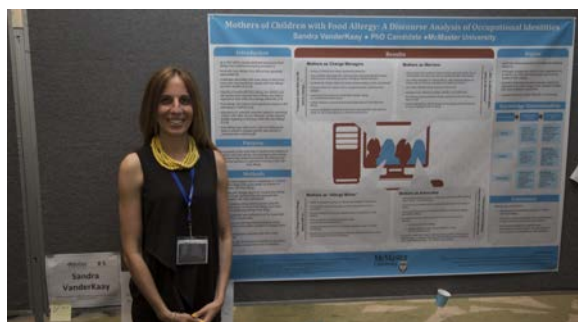
Hind Sbihi (The University of British Columbia)



Laura Feldman (University of Toronto) & KT poster judges



Adil Adatia (University of Alberta)



Sandra VanderKaay (McMaster University)

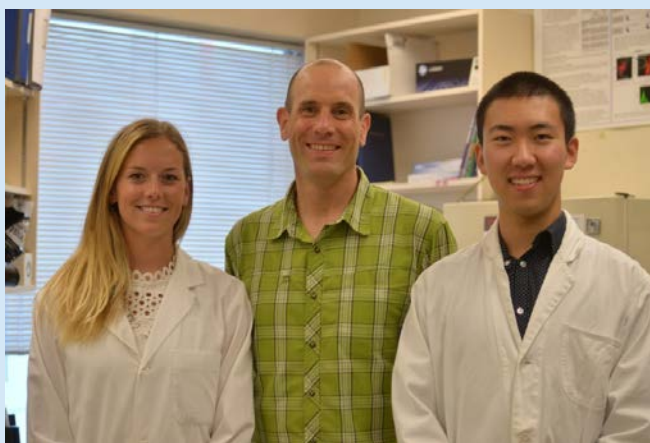


Emmanuel Osei (The University of British Columbia)

# 10 Undergraduates receive AllerGen research awards

The Network's investment in developing the next generation of allergic disease researchers and clinicians-scientists begins at the undergraduate level. AllerGen's *Undergraduate Summer Studentships*, valued at \$7,000 each, provide undergrads with the opportunity to work on a summer research project with AllerGen investigators and research teams.

Since 2011, AllerGen has awarded 52 Summer Studentships to young scientists with an interest in allergies, asthma and anaphylaxis.

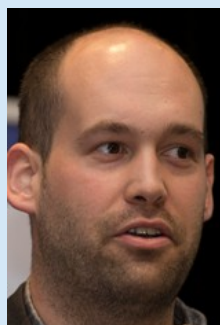


**L to R:** Denise Wooding (University of Toronto), Dr. Chris Carlsten (The University of British Columbia) and Jason Zhou (The University of British Columbia)

## Congratulations to the 2016 AllerGen Undergraduate Summer Studentship recipients!

| Name             | Institution                    | Supervisor        | Research Topic  |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Asif Ahmed       | University of Manitoba         | Meghan Azad       | Time trends and sex differences in lung function in the Canadian Asthma Primary Prevention Study      |
| Sarah Almas      | University of Alberta          | Paige Lacy        | Cytokine trafficking in eosinophils   |
| Michael Chen     | McGill University              | James Martin      | Inhaled organic dust induces changes in macrophage phenotype via a Nrf2-dependent mechanism           |
| Melanie Emmerson | University of Waterloo         | Padmaja Subbarao  | The role of pulmonary function testing in the early diagnosis of preschool asthma                     |
| Evelyn Liu       | University of British Columbia | Kelly McNagny     | Group 2 innate lymphoid cells in chronic lung inflammation and remodelling                            |
| Sruthi Thomas    | McMaster University            | Parameswaran Nair | Investigating autoimmune mechanism underlying eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis           |
| Maxwell Tran     | McMaster University            | Malcolm Sears     | Infant feeding practices and food sensitization in a Canadian birth cohort                            |
| Lara Witt        | University of Saskatchewan     | John Gordon       | Regulatory dendritic cell suppression of human autologous asthmatic Th2 responses                     |
| Denise Wooding   | University of Toronto          | Chris Carlsten    | Effects of air pollution on neutrophil function in patients with chronic respiratory disease          |
| Jason Zhou       | University of British Columbia | Chris Carlsten    | Role of particulate fraction within traffic-related air pollution in augmenting allergic inflammation |

# AllerGen announces 2016 partner award recipients



## The Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS)

Congratulations to **Dr. Philippe Bégin**, MD, PhD, FACPC on receiving an FRQS/AllerGen Clinical Research Scholars - Junior 1 Career Award for his work on desensitization and re-establishment of oral tolerance in patients with severe food allergies. Dr. Bégin ranked first out of 31 applicants in his category. The FRQS-AllerGen award supports young clinical investigators in the province of Quebec pursuing research in the areas of allergic and related immune diseases.

## Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)

From a highly competitive pool of 154 applications, two AllerGen trainees were among 28 outstanding post-doctoral researchers selected to receive 2016 MSFHR Trainee Awards.



**Dr. Christopher Rider, PhD**  
**Supervisor: Dr. Chris Carlsten**

*Does diesel exhaust exposure alter epigenetic signatures in individuals with specific allergies? A translational study to understand the role of particulate matter*



**Dr. Aida Eslami, PhD** -  
co-funded in partnership with  
AllerGen  
**Supervisor: Dr. Denise Daley**

*Development of a hierarchical algorithm to investigate the role of long non coding RNA regions in the etiology of asthma*

With a maximum term of three years, these fellowships awards will support Drs Rider and Eslami as they establish their careers while training alongside AllerGen investigators at The University of British Columbia. Seven (25%) of this year's trainee awards were co-funded in association with partner organizations.

## Canadian Respiratory Research Network (CRRN)

CRRN and AllerGen awarded the second of two *Emerging Research Leaders Initiative* (ERLI) research allowance grants to **Dr. Azadeh Yadollahi**, PhD, from the University Health Network in Toronto. The award is an establishment grant program for researchers at the transition stage from post-doctoral fellow to early career professional stage in the areas of cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and/or respiratory health research. Dr. Yadollahi's research will investigate the role of fluid shift on the pathophysiology of asthma.

## Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation (CAAIF)

Congratulations to **Dr. Catherine Biggs**, MD (The University of British Columbia) and **Dr. Nicholas Jendzjowsky**, PhD, (University of Calgary) on receiving a 2016 CAAIF-AllerGen Research Fellowship.

The CAAIF-AllerGen Research Fellowship will allow Dr. Biggs to work with AllerGen investigator and pediatric immunologist Dr. Stuart Turvey (UBC) to examine a rare mutation in the Janus kinase 1 (JAK1) gene, which leads to high eosinophil levels and organ system inflammation. Dr. Jendzjowsky will work with Dr. Richard Wilson at the University of Calgary to study the origins of asthma in the central nervous system and neural interactions with lung inflammation.



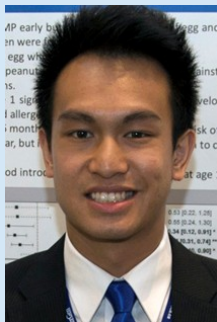
# ASNPN Success Stories



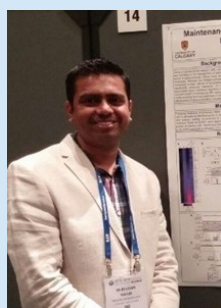
Congratulations to **Laura Feldman** on successfully completing a Masters of Public Health (MPH) at the University of Toronto. Laura received the Donald Fraser Memorial Award, which honours the MPH graduating student with the highest GPA, and the W.H. LeRiche Award for the highest academic standing in degree-required epidemiology courses. Laura also received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship valued at \$15,000. This competitive, merit-based scholarship emphasizes students' research contributions and future research plans. Laura's involvement with AllerGen and, in particular, her visit to the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden supported by an AllerGen *International Research Visit Award*, helped position her as a competitive candidate for this scholarship.



Congratulations to former ASNPN President **Lianne Soller**, PhD, on joining Dr. Edmond Chan's research team at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Lianne received her Doctorate in Epidemiology from McGill University in 2015, where she trained under the supervision of AllerGen investigator Dr. Ann Clarke on *Surveying the Prevalence of Food Allergy in All Canadian Environments* (SPAACE), an AllerGen-funded project. Dr. Chan, also an AllerGen investigator, is Clinical Associate Professor and Head of the Division of Allergy and Immunology, Department of Pediatrics, at The University of British Columbia, and the Head of Allergy and Immunology at BC Children's Hospital.



**Maxwell Tran**, a fourth-year BHSc student at McMaster University, was awarded a 2016 American Thoracic Society (ATS) Abstract Scholarship from the Assembly on Allergy, Immunology and Inflammation for his abstract *Effects of Infant Feeding Practices on Food Sensitization in a Canadian Birth Cohort*. The abstract presents findings from the CHILD Study, showing that the early introduction of cow's milk, egg white and peanut to infants reduces their risk of becoming sensitized to these foods by age one. The ATS issued a press release about the abstract that generated international media interest, with Maxwell and the CHILD Study researchers quoted in *The Globe & Mail*, *The National Post*, *CTV News*, *The Toronto Star* and *Newsweek*, among other outlets.



**Suharsh Shah** successfully defended his PhD on May 3, 2016. As a member of Dr. Robert Newton's research team at the University of Calgary, Suharsh investigated the molecular mechanisms of anti-inflammatory action by glucocorticoids.

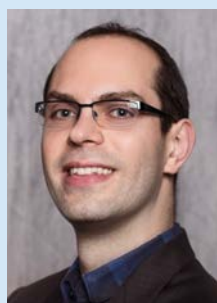
Suharsh's abstract, *Maintenance of IRF1 by IL1B and Dexamethasone in Human Pulmonary Epithelial Cells: Role of the Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase Phosphatase, DUSP1*, was chosen as one of only 30 Canadian abstracts for inclusion in the Canadian Thoracic Society's poster competition held at the American Thoracic Society (ATS) conference. Suharsh also received an ATS Travel Award.



**Nami Shrestha Palikhe's** paper on *Elevated levels of circulating CD4+CRTh2+ T cells characterize severe asthma* was published in the June 2016 *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* and highlighted in the Editor-In-Chief Editorial. Nami completed her postdoctoral training at University of Alberta under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Cameron. Nami is now employed as a Research Associate in Dr. Harissios Vliagoftis' laboratory at the University of Alberta.



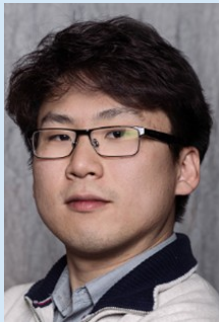
Congratulations to **Lisa McEwen** on receiving a CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships Doctoral Award (CGS-D) for her project *Unraveling the link between human DNA methylation and longevity*. Additionally, Lisa's abstract *DNA Methylation-Derived Age-Related Cell Type Differences in the Novel Longevity Population of Nicoya, Costa Rica*, received top honours and was selected for an oral presentation at the UBC 100 Epigenetics Workshop held April 27-29, 2016. Lisa is training in the Kobor lab at The University of British Columbia.



Congratulations to **Chris Rider** on being selected to deliver an oral presentation at the 2016 ATS Conference in San Francisco. The presentation, *Effects of Controlled Diesel Exhaust and Allergen Co-Exposure on miRNA and Gene Expression in Humans: Modulation of Lung Inflammatory Markers Associated with Asthma*, described work recently published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*. Chris is a postdoctoral fellow at The University of British Columbia supervised by Dr. Chris Carlsten, and he recently received a 2016 MSFHR Trainee Award.



**Dominik Nowak** (McMaster University) received the Medical Student Award from the Hamilton Academy of Medicine. The award recognizes a medical student who has advocated for the medical profession on a national, provincial and regional level. Dominik is currently completing his residency in Family Medicine at McMaster University.



**Min Hyung Ryu**, a PhD student at The University of British Columbia's Centre for Occupational and Environmental Respiratory Disease, was recognized with a Rising Star Award by the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI). The award is given to outstanding VCHRI research trainees who demonstrate research excellence, foster research understanding through effective communication, and contribute to the VCHRI research environment in a meaningful way. Min works in AllerGen investigator Dr. Chris Carlsten's Air Pollution Exposure Laboratory and focuses on understanding the link between traffic-related air pollution and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.



Congratulations to **Rozlyn Boutin**, an MD/PhD student working in Dr. Brett Finlay's lab (UBC) on her recent publication, *Microbiota-Mediated Immunomodulation and Asthma: Current and Future Perspectives in Current Treatment Options in Allergy*. Using epidemiological and murine model data, Rozlyn's research supports the microflora hypothesis by suggesting that early life microbial exposure and colonization of the intestinal tract with symbiotic bacteria impact allergic asthma susceptibility later in life. Rozlyn is the recipient of a received a CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships.

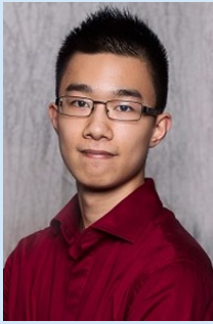


**Leila Mostaço-Guidolin** was awarded a 2016 ATS Abstract Scholarship for her abstract *Novel Non-Linear Optical Imaging To Understand The Composition Of Fibrillar Collagen And Elastin In Remodeled Asthmatic Airways*. The abstract was selected for oral presentation and took second place in the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) Poster Competition, held during the ATS 2016 International Conference. Leila is a postdoctoral researcher at the Heart and Lung Innovation Centre of The University of British Columbia, supervised by Dr. Tillie Hackett.



**Michael Chen**, a fourth-year BSc student at McGill University, was selected to attend the 2016 Lower Saxony International Summer Academy (LISA) for Immunology, at the Hannover Medical School in Hannover, Germany. The LISA selects highly-qualified students in the life sciences for an intensive, short-term course on current topics of immunology research and experimental techniques. Michael will attend one week of lectures followed by three weeks of lab rotations. Michael is supervised by AllerGen investigator Dr. James Martin.

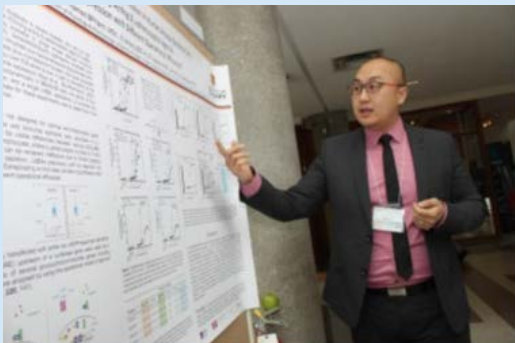




This year's winners of Food Allergy Canada's Pryde Family Travel Grants are **Mark Tenn** and **Kerstin Killer**. Mark, an MSc student working in Dr. Anne Ellis' laboratory at Queen's University, received a grant to attend the 2016 AllerGen Research Conference in Vancouver, BC. Kerstin, who is a Study Coordinator on Dr. Phillippe Bégin's research team at Sainte-Justine Hospital, will use her grant to attend the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Annual Meeting in 2017.



Congratulations to **John Paul Oliveria** on his success at the European Academy for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) Congress in Vienna, Austria (June 11-15, 2016). John Paul received top honours for: Best Junior Member Poster (*Category: Immunopathology and Inflammation in Allergic Airway Disease*); Best Abstract in a Thematic Poster Session; and Best Presentation in an Oral Abstract Session. In May, John Paul received a Graduate Program Outstanding Achievement Award and a Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Excellence Award from the Faculty of Health Sciences of McMaster University. John Paul is supervised by AllerGen investigator Dr. Gail Gauvreau.



**Dong Yan** attended the Canadian Student Health Research Forum held at the University of Manitoba from June 7-9, 2016. Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, the event provides a venue for health research trainees from across Canada to present their work, network, and be recognized for the excellence of their contributions. Congratulations to Dong on winning a Gold Award in the CIHR Poster Competition for his poster entitled  *$\beta$ 2-Adrenoceptor-Mediated Gene Expression In Human Airway Epithelial Cells: Can a Given Long-Acting  $\beta$ 2-Adrenoceptor Agonist Induce Gene Expression with Different Operational Efficacies?*



Congratulations to **Vivek Gandhi** on receiving a 2016-17 Studentship Award from The Lung Association, Alberta and NWT for his project *Regulation of Proteinase-Activated Receptor-2 on Airway Epithelium in Asthma*. Vivek is a PhD candidate at the University of Alberta, supervised by AllerGen investigator Dr. Harissios Vliagoftis.

# ASNPN Trainee Awards

**Congratulations to members of the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN) receiving provincial and national trainee research awards:**

| Name                      | Institution                        | Award Level    | Award Name   | Project Title   |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| <b>Liane Kang</b>         | University of Alberta              | Master's       | CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships | Impact of maternal pre- and postnatal distress on the infant gut microbiome, metabolome and immune system   |
| <b>Lisa McEwen</b>        | The University of British Columbia | Doctoral       | CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships | Unraveling the link between human DNA methylation and longevity   |
| <b>Lisa Reynolds</b>      | The University of British Columbia | Postdoctoral   | CIHR Fellowship  | Key bacterial species and the mechanisms by which they modulate allergic airway disease   |
| <b>Mark Tenn</b>          | Queen's University                 | Master's       | CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships | Deconstructing the atopic march – the role of filaggrin mutations in allergic rhinitis  |
| <b>Rozlyn Boutin</b>      | The University of British Columbia | MD/PhD Program | CIHR Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarships | Mechanistic determination of the protective effects of four constituents of the early-life gut microbiota against childhood asthma  |
| <b>Anne-Marie Boucher</b> | Université Laval                   | Master's       | FRQS Master's Training Award   | Methylome Study of CD4 + T cells in asthma family collection of Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean   |
| <b>Julyanne Brassard</b>  | Université Laval                   | Master's       | FRQS Master's Training Award   | The modulation of the expression of CD103 on dendritic cells in response to an inflammatory reaction  |
| <b>Arthur Owora</b>       | University of Manitoba             | Postdoctoral   | Research Manitoba  | A theoretically supported etiologic framework for asthma risk among children: influence of maternal and environmental factors mediated and moderated by breastfeeding practices |
| <b>Thomas Mahood</b>      | University of Manitoba             | PhD            | Research Manitoba  | The Role of Protein Prenylation in Asthma and COPD  |
| <b>Lorena Vehling</b>     | University of Manitoba             | PhD            | Research Manitoba  | Breastfeeding as protection against childhood asthma: research combining population health and human milk composition studies   |

# Welcoming New ASNP Members



**Highly Qualified  
Personnel (HQP)**  
participants in the  
Network since 2005

Trainees and new professionals working on AllerGen-funded research automatically become ASNP members. Students and new professionals not directly involved in AllerGen research, but training or working in the field of allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis, may apply for membership.

## 54 new ASNP members joined the AllerGen network since December 2015:

| Name                   | Supervisor            | Category           | Institution                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Josée Laflamme         | Catherine Lemièr      | Research Assistant | Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal |
| Yaminee Charavanapavan | Padmaja Subbarao      | Research Assistant | Hospital for Sick Children         |
| Winnie Shen            | Padmaja Subbarao      | Research Staff     | Hospital for Sick Children         |
| Stephanie Delorenzo    | Padmaja Subbarao      | Research Staff     | Hospital for Sick Children         |
| Olivia Cheng           | Padmaja Subbarao      | Research Assistant | Hospital for Sick Children         |
| Mirjam Scaap           | Padmaja Subbarao      | Undergrad          | Hospital for Sick Children         |
| Elena Fiadzinu         | Padmaja Subbarao      | Postdoc            | Hospital for Sick Children         |
| Bahar Torabi           | Bruce Mazer           | MSc                | McGill University                  |
| Sofianne Gabrielli     | Moshe Ben-Shoshan     | MSc                | McGill University Health Centre    |
| Henry Yu               | Judah Denburg         | Undergrad          | McMaster University                |
| Tina Walker            | Manel Jordana         | Research Staff     | McMaster University                |
| Takeshi Morimoto       | Paul O'Byrne          | Postdoc            | McMaster University                |
| Raphael Hanna          | Judah Denburg         | Masters            | McMaster University                |
| Lana Rosenfled         | Susan Wasserman       | Fellow-In-Training | McMaster University                |
| Ernie Avilla           | Susan Wasserman       | Research Assistant | McMaster University                |
| Anne Burke             | Susan Wasserman       | Fellow-In-Training | McMaster University                |
| Sruthi Thomas          | Parameswaran Nair     | Undergrad          | McMaster University                |
| Sandra VanderKaay      | Sandra Moll           | PhD                | McMaster University                |
| Julie Shay             | Fiona Brinkman        | MSc                | Simon Fraser University            |
| Emma Griffiths         | Fiona Brinkman        | Postdoc            | Simon Fraser University            |
| Geoff Winsor           | Fiona Brinkman        | MSc                | Simon Fraser University            |
| Jordan Brubacher       | Tim Takaro            | Research Staff     | Simon Fraser University            |
| Andréanne Côté         | Louis-Philippe Boulet | Postdoc            | Université Laval - IUCPQ           |
| Azadeh Yadollahi       | n/a                   | Postdoc            | University Health Network          |



# Welcoming New ASNPN Members

| Name                 | Supervisor         | Category            | Institution                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mon Tun              | Anita Kozyrskyj    | Masters             | University of Alberta          |
| Mark Hayes           | Miriam Stewart     | Undergrad           | University of Alberta          |
| Manjeet Kumari       | Anita Kozyrskyj    | Postdoc             | University of Alberta          |
| Maeghan Toews        | Timothy Caulfield  | Research Staff      | University of Alberta          |
| Lisa Smithson        | Piush Mandhane     | PhD                 | University of Alberta          |
| Blake Murdoch        | Timothy Caulfield  | Masters             | University of Alberta          |
| Sarah Almas          | Paige Lacy         | UG                  | University of Alberta          |
| Nathaniel Brenneis   | Timothy Caulfield  | Research Staff      | University of Alberta          |
| Alessandro Marcon    | Timothy Caulfield  | Research Staff      | University of Alberta          |
| Zack Liang           | Stuart Turvey      | Research Technician | University of British Columbia |
| Will Kennedy         | Kelly McNagny      | Research Assistant  | University of British Columbia |
| Shannon Casey        | Scott Tebbutt      | Research Technician | University of British Columbia |
| Rozlyn Boutin        | Brett Finlay       | MD/PhD              | University of British Columbia |
| Marie-Claire Arrieta | Brett Finlay       | Postdoc             | University of British Columbia |
| Daniel Herod         | Stuart Turvey      | Research Technician | University of British Columbia |
| Sumaiya Islam        | Michael Kobor      | PhD                 | University of British Columbia |
| Lisa McEwen          | Michael Kobor      | PhD                 | University of British Columbia |
| Jason Zhou           | Chris Carlsten     | UG                  | University of British Columbia |
| Hamid Tavakoli       | Mohsen Sadatsafavi | Medical School      | University of British Columbia |
| Evelyn Liu           | Kelly McNagny      | UG                  | University of British Columbia |
| Denise Wooding       | Chris Carlsten     | UG                  | University of British Columbia |
| Rosaele Tremblay     | Nicole Letourneau  | UG                  | University of Calgary          |
| Lubna Anis           | Nicole Letourneau  | PhD                 | University of Calgary          |
| Lisette Machado      | Richard Leigh      | Research Assistant  | University of Calgary          |
| Hasantha Sinnock     | Meghan Azad        | MSc                 | University of Manitoba         |
| Asif Ahmed           | Meghan Azad        | UG                  | University of Manitoba         |
| Arthur Owora         | Meghan Azad        | Postdoc             | University of Manitoba         |
| Lara Witt            | John Gordon        | UG                  | University of Saskatchewan     |
| Linh Nguyen          | Miriam Diamond     | PhD                 | University of Toronto          |
| Melanie Emmerson     | Padmaja Subbarao   | UG                  | University of Waterloo         |

# HQP Capacity Building Programs

## **AllerGen Trainee Symposium**

AllerGen's annual capacity building symposium provides a unique value-added professional development opportunity that allows for skill and knowledge acquisition to enhance career development and complement academic and scientific training. The event aims to foster networking and collaboration amongst trainees and young professionals with a shared interest in the field of allergy and asthma research and clinical practice. Workshop topics are varied and include: career planning, mentoring, interview skills, knowledge translation, media relations, ethics and grant writing. AllerGen pays for travel and accommodation costs.

## **Research Skills Awards**

AllerGen funds workshops and individual training opportunities, including lab visits and equipment transfers that enable sharing and development of specialized technical and laboratory skills relevant to AllerGen research. The award must be matched 1:1 with non-AllerGen funding.

## **Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship**

The AllerGen *Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship* enables Canadian allergists and clinical immunologists to pursue academic research training immediately following their sub-specialty training. An award of \$100,000 plus a \$25,000 research allowance is bestowed in each of the two years of this Fellowship. Eligible academic foci include basic and/or clinical research related to allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis.

## **AllerGen Undergraduate Summer Studentships**

AllerGen's *Undergraduate Summer Studentships* are intended to foster interest in allergic and related immune disease research. Ten awards of \$3,000 are issued annually, matched 1:1 with non-AllerGen partner funding for a total award value of \$6,000. To be eligible, students must be working with an AllerGen Investigator on research aligned with AllerGen's mission and vision.

## **Travel Awards**

Travel Awards support attendance and participation in national and international conferences, symposia and workshops that are aligned with AllerGen's mission and vision. These events must provide an opportunity for networking, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, new skill development and learning opportunities. Awards of up to \$1,200 are available, subject to 1:1 matching funding provided by non-AllerGen sources.

Applications are accepted on a first come basis and must be received at least four weeks prior to travel.

## **AllerGen and Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS) Clinical Research Scholars**

AllerGen and FRQS jointly fund up to two Clinical Research Scholars - Junior 1 Career Awards per year. These awards are given to outstanding young clinical investigators who wish to pursue research in the areas of allergic and related immune diseases.

## **AllerGen and Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Research Awards**

AllerGen and MSFHR co-fund the highest ranking candidates working in allergic disease research within the MSFHR regular training grants competition.

## **International Research Visit Program**

This program will support Canadian trainees working on AllerGen-funded projects who seek to train with the most innovative researchers/clinician-scientists at laboratories around the world for a period of between six weeks to six months. Research visits must provide the opportunity for networking, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, new skill development, learning opportunities, and must be aligned with AllerGen's vision and mission. MOUs with international partners envision reciprocal investment in international students seeking to undertake research visits in Canada.

## **Internships**

AllerGen-funded internships provide opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to gain valuable workplace experience in short term, sector-specific employment and career-related training experiences in industry, not-for-profit, healthcare or government organizations.

## **AllerGen Poster Competition**

The trainee research poster competition and oral presentations are central features of AllerGen's HQP Capacity Building Programs. AllerGen Poster Competitions are held in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Annual Scientific Meeting and at AllerGen Research Conferences.

## **Visiting Professors Program**

This program enhances AllerGen's efforts to recruit clinicians into the allergy and clinical immunology sub-specialty and/or to the clinician-scientist career path. In collaboration with CSACI, AllerGen organizes half-day workshops at medical schools across Canada to expose more medical students and internal medicine and pediatric residents to the professional and research opportunities available to them in the fields of allergy and clinical immunology.

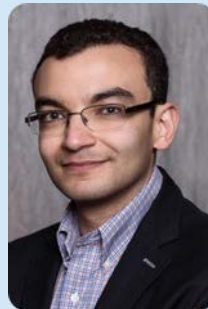
# 2015-2016 ASNPN Executive Committee



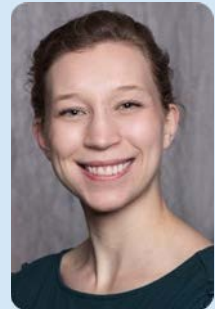
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British Columbia



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**COMMUNICATIONS  
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University of Calgary



# Administrative Centre

## AllerGen NCE Inc.

McMaster University  
1280 Main Street West, Room 3120  
Michael DeGroote Centre  
for Learning and Discovery  
Hamilton, ON L8S 4K1

Tel. 905-525-9140 ext.26502  
Fax. 905-524-0611

[info@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:info@allergen-nce.ca)  
[allergen-nce.ca](http://allergen-nce.ca)

### Dr. Judah Denburg

Scientific Director & Chief Executive Officer  
905-525-9140 ext. 26640

### Dr. Diana Royce

Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer  
905-525-9140 ext. 26502  
[dianaroyce@sympatico.ca](mailto:dianaroyce@sympatico.ca)

### Graziella Infanti

Executive Assistant  
905-525-9140 ext. 26502  
[graziellainfanti@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:graziellainfanti@allergen-nce.ca)

### April O'Connell

Research Administrator  
905-525-9140 ext. 26553  
[apriloconnell@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:apriloconnell@allergen-nce.ca)

### Cathy Jiang

Senior Accountant  
905-525-9140 ext. 26092  
[cathyjiang@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:cathyjiang@allergen-nce.ca)

### Michelle Harkness

Manager, HQP Training Program & Events  
905-525-9140 ext. 26633  
[michelleharkness@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:michelleharkness@allergen-nce.ca)

### Marshall Beck

Administrative Coordinator, Communications &  
Knowledge Mobilization  
905-525-9140 ext. 21672  
[marshallbeck@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:marshallbeck@allergen-nce.ca)

### Kim Wright

Director, Communications & Knowledge Mobilization  
905-525-9140 ext. 26641  
[kimwright@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:kimwright@allergen-nce.ca)



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