

# Agenda

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## Welcome New AllerGen Board Chair

AllerGen congratulates Dr. Howard Bergman on his appointment as Chair of the AllerGen Board of Directors (BOD) for a three-year term, effective June 26, 2012 to October 25, 2015.

Dr. Bergman has been a member of the AllerGen Board of Directors since February 15, 2010. He is currently the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, Professor of Medicine, Family Medicine and Oncology and the first Dr. Joseph Kaufmann Professor of Geriatric Medicine at McGill University and the Jewish General Hospital. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Health Administration, Université de Montréal and an Invited Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, Université de Lausanne in Switzerland, as well as the Faculty of Health Sciences, Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva, Israel.

Dr. Bergman is widely recognized as a force of change in the Canadian health sciences community. As a medical student, he co-

pioneered the precursor to Québec's CLSCs (local community service centres) and Family Medicine Groups – les Cliniques populaires – and has remained a fervent champion in the areas of primary care, aging, chronic disease, frailty and health services throughout his career. He co-founded and co-directed Solidage, a McGill University-Université de Montréal Research Group on Frailty and Aging. He was also co-founder and co-director of the Jewish General Hospital-McGill University Memory Clinic and Research Program. He is internationally recognized for his research on integrated care, frailty and chronic disease, with over 150 publications.

Dr. Bergman is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. He is a Past President of the Canadian Geriatrics Society, which awarded him the Ronald Cape Distinguished Service Award. He is the past Scientific Director of the Québec Network for Research in Aging funded by the Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec (FRSQ). He was also Past President of the Consortium of Canadian Centers for Clinical Cognitive Research (C5R) and past Chair of the Advisory Board of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Institute of Aging.

Dr. Bergman is a member of the Board of Directors of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, and serves as a consultant to Regional Health Boards, provincial Ministries in Canada and other countries, as well as to industry.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Bergman as AllerGen's new Board Chair!



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of Excellence of Canada | d'excellence du Canada

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AllerGen Administrative Centre is located at:

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

Tel: 905.525.9140 x26502

## Mr. Graham Scott, AllerGen's Outgoing Board Chair



AllerGen extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Graham Scott for serving as chair of AllerGen's Board of Directors from March 10, 2008 to June 25, 2012. Mr. Scott succeeded Dr. Lynton R. Wilson, who

was AllerGen's inaugural Board Chair from 2004 to 2008.

Graham Scott is CEO of Graham Scott Strategies Inc., and has extensive experience in public policy, governance and accountability in the voluntary sector and in the assessment of boards and management teams, with a particular emphasis on healthcare policy and issues.

Mr. Scott was born and raised in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and in 1966 received his law degree from Western University (formerly the University of Western Ontario). He has been involved in the amalgamation, restructuring and governance processes of more than 40 hospitals across Ontario.

Under his leadership, AllerGen successfully passed its NCE mid-term review in 2008, and continued to build a robust research program, generate significant research results and experience continued growth in numbers of both researchers and HQP. Mr. Scott was also instrumental in leading AllerGen through the full renewal process, resulting in a second seven years of NCE funding for AllerGen, which will take the Network through to the maximum 14 years of support available within the NCE program, from 2012 to 2019.

## AllerGen Welcomes New Board Members

The AllerGen Board of Directors ensures that management pursues appropriate corporate directions and develops, maintains and implements appropriate policies and strategic plans. The Board oversees Network decision-makers to confirm that actions and investments align with approved priorities, policies and processes.

AllerGen would like to welcome five new Board members whose tenure commenced in 2012:



**Glenna Carr** brings corporate expertise to the Board of Directors. Ms. Carr is currently the Board Chair for five boards and has experience from residing on 13 Boards including international and publicly traded companies. Ms. Carr has provided leadership across sectors, including energy, transportation, technology, infrastructure, environment, health consumer products and public safety. Some of her public office roles included Secretary of Management Board of cabinet - Chair of Civil Service, Deputy Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and Deputy Minister of Skills Development.



**Charles Frankish, MD**, is a highly respected allergist practicing in Ottawa and a past President of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology. Dr. Frankish is a member of the Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation.



**Jean-Francois Leprince** is Managing Director of CTI Life Sciences Fund. Mr. Leprince brings strategic and operational perspectives for investment opportunities from a Canadian and international point of view. Mr. Leprince comes to AllerGen from his position as President and CEO of Aventis Pharma Canada and he previously served in several management positions in Europe, the Middle East, Africa and France. Mr. Leprince currently sits on the Board of the Institute for Research in Immunology and Cancer – Commercialization of Research.



**Donald Stark, MD**, is an Allergy and Clinical Immunology and Internal Medicine specialist, as well as Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Stark is the Program Director of the Adult Clinical Immunology and Allergy training program at the University of British Columbia and past Chair of the Royal College Specialty Committee in Clinical Immunology and Allergy.



**Lorne Tyrrell, MD, PhD**, is Professor and CIHR/GSK Chair of Virology Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Alberta. Dr. Tyrrell was inducted to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2011, appointed to the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2000, became an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2002, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada since 2004.

## A sincere thank you to outgoing Board Members



Zave Chad, MD  
Allergist and  
Clinical  
Immunologist  
Ottawa,  
2004-2011



Tom Hudson,  
President and  
Scientific Director,  
Ontario Institute for  
Cancer Research  
2010-2011



Eric Leith, MD, Chair,  
Canadian Allergy,  
Asthma and  
Immunology  
Foundation and  
Allergist and  
Immunologist,  
Oakville, 2005-2011



Janice MacKinnon,  
PhD,  
Professor,  
University of  
Saskatchewan  
2011-2012



Kelly McNaghy,  
PhD  
Professor  
University of British  
Columbia  
2010-2011



Jennifer Protudjer, PhD  
Past President, ASNPN,  
2008-2012

## Continuing Board Members:

Judah Denburg, MD, Scientific Director, AllerGen NCE, and McMaster University, Hamilton  
Douglas Barber, PhD, PEng, Distinguished Professor in Residence, McMaster University, Hamilton  
Mark Bisby, MA, DPhil, Consultant, Ottawa  
Deborah Danoff, MD, Professor, University of Ottawa, Ottawa  
Patrick Deane, PhD, President and Vice-Chancellor, McMaster University, Hamilton  
John Gordon, PhD, Professor, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon  
Christine Hampson, PhD, The Sandbox Project, Toronto  
Paul Lucas, former President & CEO, GlaxoSmithKline, Mississauga  
Claude Roy, MD, Gastroenterologist and Professor Emeritus, Hôpital Ste-Justine, Montreal  
Elinor Wilson, Consultant, Vancouver

## ex-officio

Diana Royce, EdD, Managing Director and COO, AllerGen NCE, Hamilton  
Lianne Soller, MSc, PhD Candidate, President, ASNPN, Montreal

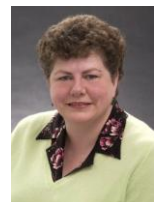
## AllerGen Welcomes New Committees Members

AllerGen is pleased to announce the appointment of new members to several committees:

### Research Management Committee (RMC):

This standing advisory committee to the Board of Directors comprising research leaders, technology transfer experts, policy makers and the leaders of major research teams, manages the Network's research and HQP investments, oversees and evaluates research progress towards approved milestones, manages networking and partnership development and is responsible for contributing to the development and implementation of board approved strategic and operational plans. Two new members are:

**Jean Marshall, PhD** is Professor and Head of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Dalhousie University. Dr. Marshall is an AllerGen Investigator and Co-Leader of AllerGen's Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CanFAST) Legacy Project.



**Kelly McNaghy, PhD** is Professor in the Department of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia and is an AllerGen Investigator and the Co-Leader of the Biomarkers and Bioinformatics (B&B) Enabling Platform.



## **Continuing RMC Members:**

Judah Denburg, MD, Scientific Director, AllerGen NCE (Chair)  
Dean Befus, PhD, Professor, University of Alberta  
Jeff Brook, PhD, Senior Scientist, Environment Canada  
Tim Caulfield, LLm, Research Chair in Health Law & Policy, University of Alberta  
Ann Clarke, MD, Professor, McGill University  
Terry Delovitch, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Western University  
Susan Elliott, PhD, Professor, University of Waterloo  
Paul O'Byrne, MB, Professor, McMaster University  
Mark Raizenne, ScD, Director General, Centre for Food-borne, Environmental and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Public Health Agency of Canada  
Andrew Sandford, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia  
Malcolm Sears, MB, Professor, McMaster University  
David B. Shindler, PhD, President and CEO, Pro-Bio Associates  
Stuart Turvey, MBBS, DPhil, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia  
Randall W. Yatscoff, PhD, Executive Vice-President, TEC Edmonton

## **ex-officio**

Diana Royce, EdD, Managing Director and COO, AllerGen NCE  
Pia Reece, PhD Candidate, Vice President, ASNP

## **Network Supported Intellectual Property (NSIP) Advisory Committee:**

This standing advisory committee undertakes detailed expert review of AllerGen's Knowledge and technology exchange and exploitation (KTEE) opportunities, strategies, plans, programs and initiatives, and provides funding and strategic advice to the RMC. It meets regularly with Network investigators for question and answer sessions that assist researchers in developing sound IP development, protection, commercialization, partnership and financing strategies that accelerate commercialization of research results.



AllerGen welcomes **Dr. David Brener** to the NSIP. He brings more than 30 years of senior experience including start-ups, multinational enterprises, contract research organizations, academia and government. He is a leader in the identification, development, management and delivery of innovative vehicles enabling R&D commercialization and knowledge translation in both the private and public sectors.

## **Continuing NSIP Members:**

Diana Royce, EdD, Managing Director and COO, AllerGen NCE (Chair)  
Dean Befus, PhD, Professor, University of Alberta  
Thierry Bourgeois, M.Sc.A., Adjoint au vice-recteur à la recherche et à la création, Université Laval  
Judah Denburg, MD, Scientific Director, AllerGen NCE  
Kevin O'Brien Fehr, PhD, Consultant, Kincora Innovation  
Brian Underdown, PhD, Managing Director, Lumira Capital  
Randall W. Yatscoff, PhD, Executive Vice-President, TEC Edmonton  
Arlene Yee, DVM, MSc., Director, Industry Partnerships and Commercialization, Corporate Ventures, Hospital for Sick Children



## **Thank you to outgoing NSIP Member:**

Terry Delovitch, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Western University

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## **AllerGen's Advanced Education and Training Opportunities Advisory Committee (AETOAC):**

The AETOAC reports to the RMC on strategies to increase capacity building for Network trainees and new professionals and recommends programming that will increase the knowledge, skills and ability available in Canada to conduct and apply cutting-edge research in the area of allergy and asthma and related immune diseases. AllerGen welcomes two new members to this advisory committee:



**Fiona Brinkman, PhD**, is a Professor in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at Simon Fraser University (SFU). She is also a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Senior Scholar and received the Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women Award in 2009 presented by the Women's Executive Network. Dr. Brinkman is the Co-Director of the SFU/University of British Columbia/BC Cancer Agency Bioinformatics Graduate Training Program and a core mentor of the Bioinformatics Graduate Program.



**Richard Warrington, MD**, is past-President of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and is Professor of Medicine and Immunology at the University of Manitoba. He is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the past Chief Examiner for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

## **Continuing AETOAC Members:**

Chris Mody, MD, Professor, University of Calgary (Chair)  
Thomas Issekutz, MD, Professor, Dalhousie University  
Oxana Latycheva, PhD, Vice-President Programming, The Asthma Society of Canada  
Irvin Mayers, MD, Professor, University of Alberta  
Danuta Radzioch, PhD, Professor, McGill University  
Lianne Soller, MSc, PhD Candidate, President, ASNPN  
Wendy Ungar, PhD, Senior Scientist, The Hospital for Sick Children  
Susan Waserman, MD, Professor, McMaster University

## **ex-officio**

Diana Royce, EdD, Managing Director and COO, AllerGen NCE

## **Introducing AllerGen's 2012-2016 Research Leaders**

Since 2005, AllerGen's research program structure has evolved significantly. However, one constant has been strong leadership throughout the years. AllerGen would like to introduce and welcome the next generation of leaders who will guide the Network's research through to mid-term in 2016 and to completion in 2019, as well as acknowledge and thank outgoing Research Leaders.

## **The 2012-2016 AllerGen Research Leaders are:**

### **Legacy Projects:**

#### **The Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study**

Dr. Malcolm Sears, McMaster University

#### **The Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC)**

Dr. Paul O'Byrne, McMaster University

#### **The Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CanFAST)**

Dr. Jean Marshall, Dalhousie University, and  
Dr. Ann Clarke, McGill University

### **Enabling Platforms:**

#### **Gene-Environment Interactions**

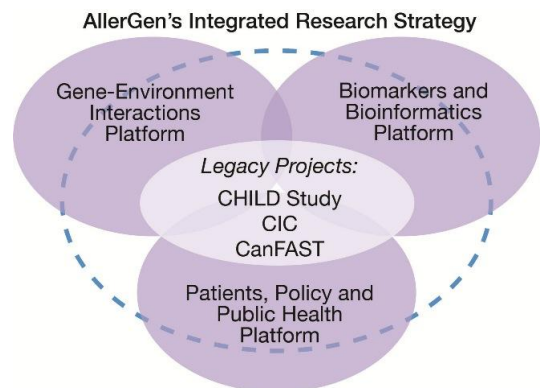
Dr. Jeff Brook, Environment Canada and University of Toronto, and  
Dr. Andrew Sandford, University of British Columbia

#### **Biomarkers and Bioinformatics**

Dr. Dean Befus, University of Alberta, and  
Dr. Kelly McNagny, University of British Columbia

#### **Patients, Policy and Public Health**

Projects in this Research Platform will be overseen by the appropriate leaders in the teams noted above.



# Agenda

During the first NCE funding cycle, AllerGen's research program went through two phases of evolution, as illustrated in the diagram below.

AllerGen extends its appreciation to the Network Research Leaders since 2005, whose early investments envisioning an innovative research agenda and implementing Network renewal provided the foundation for AllerGen's current success.

## 2005-2007

### Theme I: Genes & Early-Life Determinants

Dr. Tom Hudson, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, and

Dr. Peter Paré, University of British Columbia

### Theme II: Environments, Pollutions & Society

Dr. Malcolm Sears, McMaster University, and

Dr. Francis Silverman, University of Toronto

### Theme III: Mechanisms & Biomarkers

Dr. Dean Befus, University of Alberta, and

Dr. Redwan Moqbel, University of Alberta

### Theme IV: Therapeutics & Drug Discovery

Dr. Paul O'Byrne, McMaster University, and

Dr. Louis-Philippe Boulet, Laval University

### Theme V: Prevention, Control & Public Policy

Dr. Allan Becker, University of Manitoba, and

Dr. Cameron Mustard, Institute for Work Health and University of Toronto

## 2007-2012

### Programme A: Gene-Environment Interactions

Dr. Jeff Brook, Environment Canada and University of Toronto,

Dr. Peter Paré, University of British Columbia,

Dr. Andrew Sandford, University of British Columbia,

Dr. Malcolm Sears, McMaster University, and

Dr. Francis Silverman, University of Toronto

### Programme B: Diagnostics & Therapeutics

Dr. Dean Befus, University of Alberta, and

Dr. Paul O'Byrne, McMaster University

### Programme C: Public Health, Ethics Policy & Society

Dr. Allan Becker, University of Manitoba,

Dr. Louis-Philippe Boulet, Laval University,

Dr. Susan Elliott, University of Waterloo, and

Dr. Ann Clarke, McGill University

## Cross-Programmatic Research Teams and Platforms (2007-2012)

### Canadian Group on Food Allergy Research (CanGoFAR)

Dr. Jean Marshall, Dalhousie University

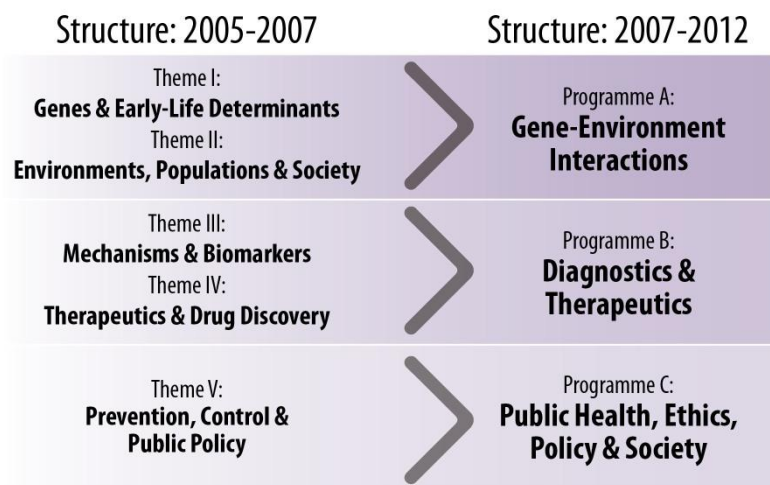
### The Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study

Dr. Malcolm Sears, McMaster University, and

Dr. PJ Subbarao, The Hospital for Sick Children

### Occupational and Work-related Allergy and Asthma

Dr. Diane Loughheed, Queen's University



## Introducing AllerGen Administrative Centre's New Administrative Coordinator, Communications and Knowledge Mobilization

Lyndsay Foisey joined AllerGen in June 2012 as the new Administrative Coordinator, Communications and Knowledge Mobilization (KMb). Lyndsay reports to the Manager, Research and Partnerships and the Manager, Communications and KMb. She provides communication and knowledge mobilization support to both departments.

Lyndsay brings experience in knowledge dissemination in both professional and community-based settings, journal article and literature reviews, grant writing, and developing and executing various presentations and events. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology and a Master of Science in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (Health & Aging).



Her contact information is [lyndsayfoisey@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:lyndsayfoisey@allergen-nce.ca) or by phone at 905-525-9140 x21672

## AllerGen's Lengthy Road to Renewal to 2019

The process for NCE funding renewal began back in March of 2010 and would last for over two years to ensure a successful application and continued funding through to 2019. On behalf of the Scientific Director, Managing Director and Administrative Centre team, we would like to again thank everyone involved for their contributions throughout this process.

In 2010, the critical path for the renewal process was approved by the RMC and Board of Directors. A Research Strategic Planning Retreat took place in July 2010, from which a detailed report was written and Research Leaders compiled detailed project outlines for the next seven years. To inform the Strategic Plan, AllerGen embarked on a series of six cross-Canada regional stakeholder engagement meetings, which helped AllerGen to better understand its partners' strategic priorities and research needs and enabled AllerGen to share its research, commercialization and knowledge mobilization priorities. Also at this time, work began on the Progress Report, which constituted Book 1 of the written application.

During 2011, discussions took place to prepare the draft Strategic Plan. Research Leaders refined proposed projects and worked with Network investigators in their programme areas to finalize research priorities. In May 2011, the AllerGen Administrative Centre organized a mock expert panel to mimic the full review and receive critical feedback on the full application including the draft Progress Report, Strategic Plan and presentations by key Network representatives. This event proved to be very valuable and led to the convergence of Network research activities into three integrated Legacy Projects and three

supporting Enabling Platforms. The full application was submitted to the NCE Secretariat on August 11<sup>th</sup>, and the in-person NCE Expert Panel Review meeting took place on September 20, 2011.

On March 23, 2012, at McMaster University, the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Gary Goodyear, made the official announcement of AllerGen's successful renewal through to 2019 with a grant of over \$36 million. Adhering to the Strategic Plan, implementation began by launching a Call for Proposals for detailed research projects - 2012 to 2016. Simultaneously, members of the International Scientific Excellence Advisory Committee (ISEAC) were selected to review each proposal to ensure academic excellence of AllerGen-funded research moving forward. In May, full proposals were submitted to the Administrative Centre and subsequently forwarded to ISEAC members for review. The ISEAC review was conducted on June 23-24, 2012. ISEAC's report generated a series of important recommendations that ensured all projects AllerGen invested in were world class in stature. This report was shared with Research Leaders who ensured that the recommendations were reflected in the amended project proposal submissions before Network funding was distributed to AllerGen teams.

This process has positioned AllerGen on a path to 2019 that is directly aligned with its strategic priorities. By ensuring that research projects were peer reviewed by the ISEAC Expert Panel, all AllerGen's research investment decisions are transparent, and will have the potential to deliver the highest impacts and benefits to Canadians living with allergic disease and asthma.

## CHILD takes part in CIHR's IHDCYH Strategic Planning Consultation



Between the months of April and June 2012, Dr. Shoo Lee, Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) embarked on a series of 11 forums across Canada as part of the Institute's Strategic Planning Strategy. Representing the CHILD Study, Dr. Malcolm Sears attended the May 8<sup>th</sup> session was held at the McMaster University Innovation Park in Hamilton.

This session was chaired by Dr. Peter Szatmari, Chedoke Health Chair in Child Psychiatry and Professor, Department of Psychiatry at McMaster University. In his opening remarks, Dr. Lee indicated that there was an opportunity to influence IHDCYH's future priorities and strategic directions.

The intent of these forums was to engage with the IHDCYH research enterprise on a Canada-wide, grassroots level and provide researchers and stakeholders, with an interest in maternal and child health research, an opportunity to share their needs and

interests with Dr. Lee and the IHDCYH Advisory Board. This helped the Institute gain further insight into the views of the community as it engages in its strategic planning for the next five years.

The three questions asked during the event were:

1. What are the three most important opportunities and challenges in reproduction, early development, childhood and adolescence in Canada in the next five years?
2. What areas of reproduction, early development, childhood and adolescence health should be studied in the next five years? and,
3. What type of capacity building is required to ensure we foster and develop a vibrant research community in this health area? What are your top priorities?

This event was very important for both AllerGen and the CHILD Study moving forward as it ensured that allergic diseases and its research will be captured in the mandate of IHDCYH in years to come. New collaborations and opportunities may become available as a result of these initial strategic planning sessions.

A final report from this series of meetings is currently being written and will be publicly available on the IHDCYH website by the end of 2012.

## 2012 Trainee Symposium, Calgary, Alberta

One of AllerGen's strategic goals is to create value-added opportunities for the training, education and professional development of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP). The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Trainee Symposium was held in Calgary, Alberta from Sunday, May 27 to Tuesday, May 29, 2012 and was organized by the AllerGen Administrative Centre staff under the leadership of the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNP) Executive Committee.

The Symposium provided attendees with unique professional development opportunities that are not normally part of their academic curricula and allowed for skill and knowledge acquisition that enhances career development and complements their academic and scientific training. In addition, the event fostered networking and collaboration amongst trainees and young professionals with a shared interest in the field of allergy and asthma research and clinical practice.

Fifty-one AllerGen trainees and ASNP members attended the symposium - the highest attendance to date - representing an increase of 16% over the previous year. Eleven academic institutions were represented by trainees

and new professionals from the University of Calgary (10); University of Manitoba (10), McMaster University (7), University of British Columbia (7), Queen's University (4), University of Alberta (3), Université Laval (2), Université de Montréal (2), University of Toronto (1), University of Waterloo (10) and the Karolinska Institutet (1).

The Symposium featured workshops on knowledge translation, networking, media, giving feedback, grant and journal writing, interviewing skills and intellectual property. In addition, a unique clinical Case Report was given by Dr. Philippe Bégin, an AllerGen HQP and a FIT at the Université de Montréal. A *Networking for Success* Dinner was held featuring invited senior researchers from the University of Calgary.

Attendance at this event is open to all active HQP and ASNP members. AllerGen encourages investigators to promote future AllerGen HQP events to their students as these events offer access to new capacity building and networking opportunities not typically offered in traditional academic settings.

## Dr. Judah Denburg receives McMaster University's Department of Medicine Award



Drs J. Bienenstock, J. Denburg and P. O'Byrne

On Tuesday, May 29, 2012, at the Department of Medicine Awards Dinner held at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club, Dr. Judah Denburg received the Jack Hirsh Award from the Department of Medicine at McMaster University. This award is given to a senior faculty member in the Department of Medicine for outstanding academic achievement and who has exemplified excellence in research or academic endeavours, has made outstanding contributions to the Department and the Faculty of Health Sciences, is a significant leader in their field and a significant ambassador for McMaster University.

Recipients of this award are selected through a nomination process, which is reviewed by a selection committee, including a number of faculty who currently hold key roles in the Department of Medicine as well as one faculty member from another department to represent the Faculty of Health Sciences. This award was the seventh annual presentation. Past recipients include Dr. Salim Yusuf, Dr. Stephen Collins, Dr. Jeffrey Weitz, Dr. Deborah Cook, Dr. Gordon Guyatt, and Dr. Parveen Wasi.

## AllerGen Awards Ten Undergraduate Summer Studentships

The *AllerGen Undergraduate Allergy, Asthma and Anaphylaxis Summer Studentships Research Training Awards* program provides capacity building opportunities for students specializing in biomedical, health, social and/or natural science and engineering research relevant to allergy, asthma and related immune/inflammatory processes and diseases. The Summer Studentships are intended to foster interest in allergic and related immune disease research among students at the undergraduate level of study by recruiting top undergraduate students to work with established AllerGen research teams. It is hoped that this experience will spark an enduring interest in allergic disease research and clinical practice among these students, which will ultimately lead them to pursue advanced studies in these areas.

A total of 26 applications were received for 10 available awards totaling \$30,000, representing a significant increase in the number of applications over previous years. Recipients and their respective projects are shown in order of highest to lowest ranking.

**Juliana Xie**, McMaster University, supervised by Dr. Manel Jordana  
*Impact of iLC depletion on PN Allergy and Anaphylaxis*

**Janet Xu**, University of British Columbia, supervised by Dr. Delbert Dorscheid  
*Expression and Modulation of Surfactant Protein D in the Airway Epithelium of Asthmatics*

**Ting-I (Tina) Wang**, University of British Columbia, supervised by Dr. Stuart Turvey  
*Role of RIG-I in Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection*

**Madelaine Yona**, McGill University, supervised by Dr. Bruce Mazer  
*Ability of CD8a+ CD11c+DCs in Potentiating the Recruitment of Treg*

**Sina Rusta-Sallehy**, McMaster University, supervised by Dr. Judah Denburg  
*Identify the Mechanisms Involved in Increasing Eosinophil Lineage Commitment of CD34+ HP in Response to TSLF Stimulation in the Presence of the Hemopoietic Cytokine IL-5*

**Nicole Tsao (Declined)**, University of British Columbia, supervised by Dr. Larry Lynd  
*Health Care Utilization and Costs Associated with Asthma Management in British Columbia*

**Valérie Gagné-Ouellet**, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, supervised by Dr. Catherine Laprise  
*Role of 1L1R2 in Allergic Asthma*

**Kiho Son**, University of Alberta, supervised by Dr. Dean Befus  
*Evaluation of mRNA Expression in the Lung*

**Tin-Shan (Tim) Chung**, University of Alberta, supervised by Dr. Brian Rowe  
*Acute Management of Anaphylaxis*

**Danielle Tougas**, University of Alberta, supervised by Dr. Dean Befus  
*The Roaring Adventures of Puff Knowledge Translation Project*

**Laura Feldman**, The Hospital for Sick Children supervised by Dr. Teresa To  
*The Burden and Spatial Distribution of Fatal and Severe Asthma in Ontario*

**Congratulations to all!**

## Funding Opportunity

### CIHR's Institute of Infection and Immunity (III)

#### Team Grant

The first funding opportunity of the Roadmap Signature Initiative: Inflammation in Chronic Disease, Health Challenges in Chronic Inflammation Initiative (Team Grant) is now open.

#### [Team Grant: Health Challenges in Chronic Inflammation Initiative](#)

The overall goal of the Roadmap Signature Initiative - Inflammation in Chronic Disease is to develop a unified Canadian strategy on inflammation that will support health research for the discovery and validation of common biomarkers, therapeutic targets, and inflammatory mechanisms among chronic diseases. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to prevent and /or treat

chronic disease by reducing inflammation and pain through novel interventions.

AllerGen was one of the partners who worked together with CIHR's III to develop the Request For Applications (RFA) to ensure that research in this area will have a positive impact on inflammation research in Canada and abroad.

#### Funding Available:

The total amount available for this funding opportunity is \$22,950,000. The maximum amount for a Team is \$500,000 per year for up to five years.

Letter of intent application deadline: **November 15, 2012**

Funding start date: April 1st, 2014

## AllerGen Investigator receives over \$6 million in NIH funding

Dr. Mark Larché received a prestigious \$6.4 million grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, to undertake a five-year study of cat allergy vaccine and the immune system. The study will investigate precisely how white blood cells that are targeted by the vaccine contribute to asthma.

Dr. Mark Larché is a global leader in the field of allergy and immunology and a Canada Research Chair recruited to McMaster University due to AllerGen's involvement. Upon his arrival to Canada, AllerGen also assisted Dr. Larché with the establishment of Adiga Life Sciences, a joint venture between McMaster University and Circassia, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical UK company.

Dr. Mark Larché is part of AllerGen's Legacy Project, the Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC), where he works with other researchers to develop immunotherapy vaccines.

The CIC is led by Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, McMaster University and is a multi-centre Canadian-based Phase II clinical trials group able to fast-track potential drug candidates for allergic

asthma. The CIC is unique in that the process it uses to study new therapies for allergic asthma provides highly reliable results in a short period of time, which enables small Canadian biotechnology start-up firms, as well as global

biopharmaceutical companies, to determine the relative effectiveness of their new compounds in asthmatics. It also informs Phase III clinical trial investment decisions. This team has resulted in Canada being recognized by pharmaceutical companies as the "go to" place to study new drugs for asthma. In addition to continuing work in Canada, the CIC is currently expanding to add a Severe Asthma CIC and an Allergic Rhinitis CIC. With new international sites in Sweden, Netherlands and the UK, the CIC will become a major asset for novel diagnostics and therapeutics in allergy and asthma in Canada and globally.



## Canadian Food Labelling Changes Now in Effect

In February 2011, Ottawa announced changes to the Canadian *Food and Drug Regulations* that will require food manufacturers and importers to clearly indicate certain food allergens, gluten sources and added sulphites on the labels of most prepackaged food products. Industry was given 18 months to implement the new regulations, and as of August 4, 2012, the required labeling changes came into force.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is reminding industry that it is now the law to declare in plain language the following food products allergens: almonds, Brazil nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, wheat and triticale, eggs, milk, soybeans, crustaceans, shellfish, fish and mustard seed.

For more information and resources: [Click Here](#)

## Industrial R&D Internship Program (IRDI)

The Industrial R&D Internship (IRDI) program began in 2007 as a federal program administered by the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) Program. It has provided over 1,000 internships across Canada in the past two years. Going forward, it is expected to support up to 1,000 internships annually.

The IRDI program aims to create opportunities for skilled graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to solve private-sector challenges and gain valuable industry experience by linking them with businesses that foster and use their talents. As a result, the program increases the science and technology capacity of businesses and creates new opportunities for highly qualified personnel.

Of the industry partners who participated in a project completion survey, 96% stated that the research advances, techniques or tools developed during these internships would be used by their organization. In fact, the outcomes of many of these internships directly resulted in commercialization of a product, service or process.

These programs provide outstanding opportunities for short-term, sector-specific employment and career-related training experience for AllerGen HQP, which exposes them to a range of issues relevant to future employment. AllerGen will continue to support participants in these programs to work in industry in roles relevant to allergy and asthma.

Targeting all academic disciplines, the program supports collaborative projects involving graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, their supervising professors, and industry partners. Companies share the cost of hosting interns, with additional funding obtained from provincial, academic, and other partners. Two of these programs are *Connect Canada* and *Mitacs Accelerate*.



Connect Canada is a national internship program that links graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with industry's research needs within Canadian companies

regardless of location or sector. Internships range in length from four to six months and cover all sectors and educational backgrounds. Each internship represents a research issue that has been vetted by a panel of industry and academic experts to ensure it offers a challenging and scientifically-rigorous opportunity. During the internship, a student will spend at least 50 percent of their time at the company and the remainder on campus. Companies receive a cost-effective way to conduct R&D, while interns gain relevant industry experience that enhances their graduate studies and practical skills. *Connect Canada* operates on a matched funding system resulting in total funding of \$10,000 per internship. [Learn more](#)



In partnership with industry, government or universities across Canada, the *Mitacs Accelerate*

internship training program provides graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with the opportunity to transfer their skills from theory to real-world applications. In return, companies, government departments or universities, gain a competitive advantage by accessing high-quality research expertise. Interns spend approximately half of their time onsite with the internship provider and the remainder of time at their university advancing research under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. Each four-month internship project receives \$15,000 in direct funding, with the partner organization and Mitacs each providing \$7,500. [Learn more](#)

### AllerGen presents: Café Scientifique

## Preventing children's seasonal asthma spikes: What parents, teachers and the public need to know

**Thursday November 29, 2012**

**6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Halton Regional Centre (Bronte Room)**

1151 Bronte Road, Oakville ON L6M 3L1

**SEATING IS LIMITED! CALL NOW TO REGISTER**

**(905) 525-9140 x 21672 or [lyndsayfoisey@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:lyndsayfoisey@allergen-nce.ca)**

**This is a FREE event**

Refreshments will be provided.



## AllerGen Fast Facts

<b>Legacy Projects and Associated Initiatives:</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study</i>	1
<i>Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC)</i>	3
<i>Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CanFAST)</i>	7
<b>Enabling Platform Projects:</b>	<b>39</b>
<i>Gene-Environment Interactions</i>	14
<i>Biomarkers and Bioinformatics</i>	13
<i>Patients, Policy &amp; Public Health</i>	12
<b>Strategic Initiatives:</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Knowledge Mobilization</i>	1
<i>Intellectual Property and Commercialization</i>	2
<b>Total Network Publications:</b>	<b>1,431</b>
<i>Publications</i>	1040
<i>Scientific Posters</i>	391
<b>Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators:</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Total Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Participated in the Network since 2005:</b>	<b>866</b>
<i>Current HQP working on Network research</i>	323
<i>Current other participating students &amp; new professionals</i>	123
<i>Past HQP that have participated in the Network</i>	420
<b>Full-time Equivalent Network Research Participants:</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>Network Research Partners Across Sectors:</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>Canadian Academic Research Institutions:</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>International Academic Research Partners:</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Canadian Hospitals/Health Centres/Research Institutes and Networks:</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Global Reach:</b>	
<i>Canadian provinces</i>	7
<i>International collaborating countries</i>	10

## Recent Publications

### Allakhverdi Z, Delespesse G

Hematopoietic progenitor cells are innate Th2 cytokine-reproducing cells, January 2012 *Allergy*, 67

### Caulfield T

The Law, Unproven CAM and the Two-Hats Fallacy  
February 2012 *Focus on Alternative and Complementary Therapies*, 17 (1), 4-8

### Caulfield T, McGuire A

Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing: Perceptions, Problems and Policy Responses  
2012 *Annual Review of Medicine*, 63, 23-33

### Caulfield T

DTC Genetic Testing: Pendulum Swings and Policy Paradoxes, 2012 *Clinical Genetics*, 81, 4-6

### Caulfield T, Rachul C

Food Allergy Policy and the Popular Press Perspectives From Canadian Newspapers, February 2012 *Journal of Asthma and Allergy Educators*, 2 (6), 282 – 287

### Debley J, Stanojevic S, Filbrum AG, Subbarao P

Brochodilator Responsiveness in Wheezy Infants and Toddlers is not associated with Asthma Risk Factors  
October 2011 *Pediatric Pulmonology*, 47 (5), 421-428

### Forsythe P

Probiotics and lung diseases, April 2011 *Chest*, 139, 901

### Harrington DW, Elliott SJ, Clarke AE, Ben-Shoshan M, Godefroy S

Exploring the determinants of the perceived risk of food allergies in Canada, August 2011 *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment*, Accepted

### Kam SHY, Singh A, He J-Q, Ruan J, Gauvreau GM, O'Byrne PM, FitzGerald JM, Tebbutt SJ

Peripheral blood gene expression changes during allergen inhalation challenge in atopic asthmatic individuals  
January 2012 *Journal of Asthma*, 1-8, PMID: 22316092

### Lemière C, Tremblay C, Ribeiro M, Forget A, Blais L, To T, Nobile V, Tarlo SM

Comparison study on time (delay) from onset of symptoms and work-related asthma diagnosis between Ontario and Québec  
May 2011 *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 183, A 16798

### Mathison R, Davison J, St. Laurent C, Befus AD

Autonomic regulation of anti-inflammatory activities from salivary glands  
2012 *Chemical Immunology and Allergy*, 98, 177-196

### Murdoch B, Hyde-Lay R, Caulfield T

Examination of the Public Justifications for the Expansion of Canadian Naturopaths' Scope of Practice  
2012 *University of Alberta's Health Law Institutes' Health Law Journal*, 19 215-236

### Reece P, Baatjes A, Cyr M, Sehmi R, Denburg JA

Mechanisms of TLR-mediated cord blood CD34+ progenitor cell eosinophil differentiation: signaling and autocrine pathways  
February 2012 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 129, AB118

### Russell SL, Gold MJ, Hartmann M, Willing BP, Thorson L, Wlodarska M, Gill N, Blanchet M-R, Mohn WW, McNagny KM

Early life antibiotic-driven changes in microbiota enhance susceptibility to allergic asthma  
Mar 2012 *European Molecular Biology Organization Reports*, 13, 440-447

### Soller L, Ben-Shoshan M, Harrington DW, Fragapane J, Joseph L, St. Pierre Y, Godefroy S, La Vieille S, Elliott SJ, Clarke AE

Overall prevalence of self-reported food allergy in Canada, March 2012 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, AB234

### Scott CT, Caulfield T, Borgelt E, Illes J

Personal Medicine: The New Biobanking Crisis  
February 2012 *Nature Biotechnology*, 30 (2), 141-147

### Tunis M, Dawicki W, Haidl I, Carson K, Marshall JS

Mast cells and IgE activation do not alter the development of oral tolerance in a mouse model  
May 2012 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*

### Ungar W

Medication Cost Sharing and Health Outcomes in Children with Asthma  
2012 *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 307 (12), 1316 – 1318

# Agenda

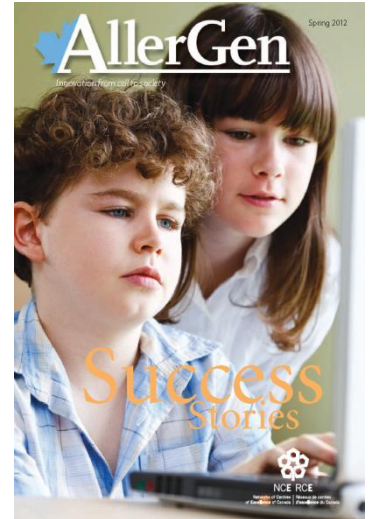
## AllerGen Success Stories

The fourth issue of AllerGen *Success Stories* is now available on [www.allergen-nce.ca](http://www.allergen-nce.ca) or in hard copy by request from the Administrative Centre.

This publication series is intended for lay audiences and highlights AllerGen research and development undertaken by teams across Canada and offers people living with allergies, asthma, anaphylaxis and related immune diseases and their families and friends practical information about new, leading-edge research results. Please take time to read and share this publication with your colleagues.

Featured stories are:

1. *Predicting Allergies and Asthma in Babies — Pioneering Canadian Scientists Discover that Stem Cells are “Crystal Balls”* - Dr. Judah Denburg
2. *When is Your Child’s Wheeze a Sign of Asthma? Canadian Researchers Establish New Diagnostic Tests for Infants and Young Children* - Dr. PJ Subbarao
3. *Internationally Acclaimed Canadian Scientists Discover How Airway Cells Respond to Viruses and Air Pollution — Is a Revolutionary New Drug for Airway Diseases on the Horizon?* - Dr. Tony Bai
4. *Using the Internet to Improve Education and Support for Canadian Children, Teens, and Parents Affected by Asthma and Allergies* - Dr. Miriam Stewart
5. *Asthma in the Workplace: Looking to Ease the Burden through Identification and Prevention* - Dr. Mieke Koehoorn



## AllerGen Administrative Centre Staff

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### Dr. Diana Royce

Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer x26502

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Manager, Research and Partnerships x26092

### Marta Rudyk

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