

Agenda

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AllerGen receives \$36.5 million to continue research to 2019

March 23, 2012 marked the official announcement by the Honourable Gary Goodyear, federal Minister of State for Science and Technology, of AllerGen's successful renewal through to 2019.

Network Investigators, Trainees, Government officials, McMaster University and NCE representatives, friends of the Network and Administrative Centre staff assembled at McMaster University's Farncombe Atrium to receive the good news. In his speech, the Minister said "while we believe that prevention and health care promotion will help keep health costs down and improve our quality of life, we also understand that investing in science and technology will not only achieve these objectives, but will also contribute to economic growth."



Minister Gary Goodyear and Dr. Judah Denburg, Scientific Director, AllerGen

The Minister went on to say that, "AllerGen's research will help improve the lives of millions of Canadians suffering from the complications of allergic diseases through innovation."

AllerGen's Scientific Director and CEO, Dr. Judah Denburg said "AllerGen's research evolved in an integrated manner and its trans-disciplinary approach will enable Network investigators to strategically focus the Network's research expertise, training capacity, partnerships, commercialization and knowledge mobilization efforts to accelerate AllerGen's social and economic impacts and lessen the burden of allergic diseases for Canadians." ... [Page 2](#)

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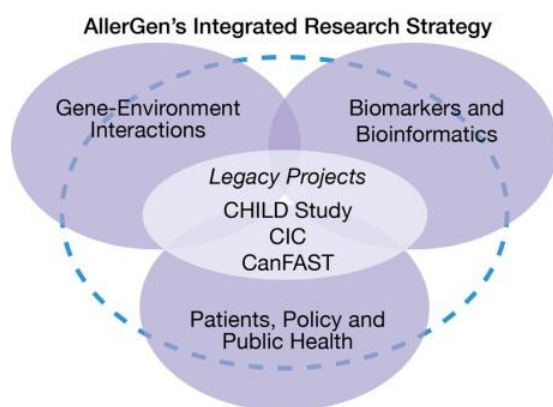
Moving forward, AllerGen will focus its research, commercialization and knowledge mobilization efforts on:

Legacy Projects:

- The Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study
- The Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC)
- The Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CanFAST); and,

Enabling Platforms:

- Gene-Environment Interactions;
- Biomarkers and Bioinformatics, and
- Patients, Policy and Public Health



Dr. Malcolm Sears, Professor, Department of Medicine at McMaster University, said “the CHILD Study will continue collecting data, creating the most comprehensive immunological, psycho-social, geographical, genetic and environmental profiles of Canadian babies that will help reveal root causes of asthma and other allergic diseases.”

Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Professor, Department of Medicine at McMaster University, noted that “the CIC has placed Canada at the forefront of related diagnostics and therapeutics, leading the discovery, development and commercialization of new tests and treatments.”

Another area of focus moving forward is “food allergy and anaphylaxis management and it’s an important area of research for AllerGen” said Dr. Jean Marshall, Professor and Head of Microbiology and Immunology at Dalhousie University. She added that AllerGen and the team “anticipate having conclusive data on food allergy prevalence in Canada, novel diagnostics and therapeutics and will work with many partners to develop a national food allergy strategy benefiting patients, health professionals, food manufacturers and consumers.”



On behalf of the entire Network, AllerGen thanks the Minister, NCE Secretariat, McMaster University representatives and the many partners, investigators and friends of the Network, who joined AllerGen at the announcement or sent congratulations.

AllerGen Launches Invitational Call for Research Proposals, 2012-2016

Having successfully achieved NCE funding renewal, AllerGen launched an invitational call for research proposals for the 2012-2016 funding cycle, aligned with its Strategic Plan. Research funded through this formative peer-review process will continue transforming allergic and related immune disease efforts across Canada.

AllerGen Investigators were invited to submit research, commercialization and/or knowledge mobilization proposals related to three **Legacy Projects** and three **Enabling Platforms**.

To ensure the academic excellence of each project funded by AllerGen, proposals will be reviewed by AllerGen's International Scientific Excellence Advisory Committee (ISEAC). Non-academic members of AllerGen's Research Management Committee (RMC) and Network-Supported Intellectual Property Advisory Committee (NSIP), will also participate in these reviews and will focus on commercial and knowledge mobilization project reviews as well as the evaluative criteria related to the networking, partnerships and translation of results into commercialization and/or knowledge mobilization initiatives for research projects.

Performance of successful proposals will be assessed against the team's progress towards the goals identified for the relevant Legacy projects or Enabling Platforms as outlined in AllerGen's Strategic Plan 2012-2019. The Research Management Committee will annually review progress against anticipated milestones and timeframes for deliverables, outcomes and impacts of each project.

NCE Renewal Process

The 2012 NCE Funding Renewal Competition consisted of two parts: a written application and an in-person full-day presentation to an NCE International Expert Panel. In August 2011, following a rigorous year-long process, AllerGen submitted the written component of the application consisting of a **Progress Report** documenting the first seven years of achievements and impacts, a **Strategic Plan** outlining the next seven years of focus, and **Letters of Support** from 110 partner and stakeholder organizations.

Highlights of this application were presented on September 20, 2011 to an NCE International Expert Panel. This panel documented the strengths and weaknesses of the Network's application in a report to the NCE Standing Selection Committee, which in turn provided recommendations to the NCE Steering Committee for final decision.

NCE International Expert Panel Reviewers (September 20, 2011):

Paul Morley, PhD (Chair), Scientific Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Zelos Therapeutics Inc Ottawa, ON

Peter J Helms, PhD, Professor Child Health, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

David Jacobs, MD, Internal Medicine and Allergy & Immunology, Columbia University, MD, USA

Jean-François Leprince, Managing Partner, CTI Life Sciences Fund, Montréal, QC

Dr. Soheila Maleki, PhD, Research Chemist, United States Dept of Agriculture (USDA), New Orleans, LA, USA

Dr. Megan Sandel, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA

In preparation of the NCE application, AllerGen convened a mock expert-panel review on May 1-2, 2011 to assess and provide feedback on its draft proposal. This process provided AllerGen with valuable feedback that led to the convergence of Network research expertise into three integrated **Legacy Projects** and three supporting **Enabling Platforms**. The mock-review expert panel consisted of clinicians, researchers, industry representatives and commercialization experts.

AllerGen Supports World Allergy Week

April 16-22, 2012 was World Allergy Week. AllerGen joined global efforts to raise awareness and share global data and information relating to the burden and impact of allergic diseases. During World Allergy Week the global community joined with the World Allergy Organization to highlight the needs of patients with allergic and immunologic diseases and asthma, provide information about the prevalence of these disorders, and explain the need for enhanced education and patient care.



In support of World Allergy Week AllerGen:

1. Posted resources on its website
2. Encouraged media participation in a global teleconference on April 16, 2012
3. Launched an Awareness Package via email to the entire Network.

Introducing AllerGen's New Research Administrative Coordinator

April O'Connell recently joined AllerGen as Administrative Coordinator. She is responsible for providing support to the Research and Partnerships portfolio.

April brings experience in document and information management as well as in administrative operations. Prior to joining AllerGen she supported non-profit organizations, where she coordinated social policy, strategic partnership, financial compliance, and document management projects. April can be reached at 905-525-9140 x26553 or by email: aprilconnell@allergen-nce.ca



Attend or Recommend the Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum, June 2012



AllerGen is a sponsor of the 2012 Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum: *Bringing the science and art of KMB practice together*, which will take place June 19-20, 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa, ON. Forum chair is Peter Levesque, Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of Knowledge Mobilization Works.

AllerGen encourages Network participation.

For more information, visit <http://www.kmbforum2012.org/>

Knowledge mobilization has become recognized as an important component of a research career. Over the past decade, a number of organizations have become actively engaged in knowledge mobilization and within many organizations it has become a specialized role. Research efforts to understand and optimize knowledge mobilization practice have accelerated and are attracting more resources.

The Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum will provide access to some of the best minds and most creative practitioners in the field. This event is a terrific opportunity to learn more about both the science and art of knowledge mobilization.

The themes to be addressed include the practice of knowledge mobilization in Education, Health, Public Policy, and Community Partnerships.

The program includes:

- Keynote speakers delivering inspirational visionary and action-oriented presentations
- The latest research findings
- New products and applications for knowledge mobilization
- Leadership and management best practices from colleagues in the business, and
- Networking opportunities.

Annual Report 2010-2011 Available

The 2010-2011 AllerGen Annual Report is available electronically in English and French on AllerGen's home page www.allergen-nce.ca



The Annual Report 2010-11 highlights Network accomplishments, research accomplishments, capacity building program results and commercialization and knowledge mobilization outcomes to March 31, 2011.

AllerGen Fast Facts

Available on AllerGen's website www.allergen-nce.ca

Network Research Partners Across Sectors:	109
Total Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Participated in the Network since 2005:	707
Current HQP working on Network research:	255
Current other participating students & new professionals	176
Past HQP that have participated in the Network	276
Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators:	173
Full-time Equivalent Network Research Staff:	340
Research Programme Projects:	27
Gene-Environment Interactions:	10
Diagnostics and Therapeutics:	11
Public Health, Ethics, Policy and Safety:	6
Strategic Initiatives:	24
Knowledge Mobilization	8
Research	15
Intellectual Property and Commercialization	1
Canadian Academic Research Institutions:	20
International Academic Research Partners:	8
Canadian Hospitals/Health Centres/Research Institutes:	26
Total Network Publications:	1,149
Publications:	826
Scientific Posters:	323
Global Reach:	
Canadian provinces:	7
International collaborating countries:	10
Partner and Stakeholder Organizations:	208

AllerGen Funded 26 Travel Awards in Fiscal 2011-2012

Travel awards are available to AllerGen HQPs to support attendance and participation in non-AllerGen events that are aligned with AllerGen's mission, values and goals.

These events must provide an opportunity for networking, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, or new skill development, while maximizing learning opportunities. Travel awards support a portion of related expenses including travel, accommodations and registration fees. Support is matched 1:1 with partnered non-NCE funds.

Over the past year, AllerGen has funded 26 travel applications, which supported 18 trainees to participate in 13 national and international events. Recent travel awards issued are summarized below:

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) (March 2-6) in San Francisco, CA

McMaster University - Delia Heroux, Pia-Lauren Reece, Steven Smith, Claudia Hui
Queens University - Michelle North

American Thoracic Society Annual General Meeting (May 13-18) in Denver, CO

McMaster University - Alba Llop
University of Alberta - Meghan Azad
University of British Columbia - Jianqing He, Sarah Kam

Anaphylaxis Canada Spring Conference (May 7) in Toronto, ON

McMaster University - Bonnie Chow

Association of Clinical Research Professionals Annual Conference (April 30 - May 3) in Seattle, WA

McMaster University - Heather Campbell, Karen Howie

Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting (May 31-June 4) in Calgary, AB

McMaster University - Daniel Harrington

Canadian Respiratory Conference (April 28-30) in Niagara Falls, ON

University of Toronto - Michelle North

Injury and Repair Mechanisms in Chronic Airways Disease International Conference (April 6-8) in London, UK

University of Manitoba - Pawan Sharma

International Eosinophil Society Research Symposium (June 21-25) in Quebec City, QC

McMaster University - Claudia Hui, Steven Smith, Gail Gauvreau, Pia-Lauren Reece
University of British Columbia - Steven Maltby

International Human Microbiome Congress (March 19-21) in Paris, France

University of Toronto - Tedd Konya

International Medical Geographers Symposium (July 10-15) in Durham, UK

McMaster University - Bonnie Chow, Daniel Harrington

International Society for Environmental Epidemiology Conference (September 13-16) in Barcelona, Spain

University of British Columbia - Elaine Fuentes

International Society for Exposure Science Annual Meeting (October 23-27) Baltimore, MD

University of British Columbia - Rongrong Wang

Spring School of Population Genomics and Genetic Epidemiology (May 30-June 3) in Montreal, QC

University of British Columbia - Elaine Fuentes

Travel Award applications are now being accepted on a first come, first serve basis. For further details, email Michelle Harkness at michelleharkness@allergen-nce.ca or visit the website to download the application form.

Upcoming Events

[Anaphylaxis Canada's Spring Conference](#), April 21, 2012 - Winnipeg, MB

[Canadian Respiratory Conference](#), April 26-28, 2012 - Vancouver, BC (Visit AllerGen's booth!)

[American Thoracic Society International Conference](#), May 18-23, 2012 – San Francisco, CA

[AllerGen Trainee Symposium](#), May 27-29, 2012 – Calgary, AB

[CIHR Young Investigator Forum](#), June 4-6, 2012 – Montreal, QC

[Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum](#), June 19-20, 2012 – Ottawa, ON

[XXI World Congress of Asthma](#) - August 18-21, 2012, Quebec, QC (Visit AllerGen's booth!)

[Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology \(CSACI\) Annual Scientific Meeting](#) – October 11 to 14, 2012 – Calgary, Alberta

[29th Symposium of the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum](#), October 14-19, 2012 - Jeju Island, Republic of Korea

*Innovation from cell to society*⁷

On Feb 5-7, 2012, AllerGen hosted its seventh annual research conference in Toronto, Ontario at the historic Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Each year, this conference provides the Network with an exclusive opportunity for AllerGen investigators, collaborators, trainees and new professionals to network with one another and share research findings with partners and stakeholders, including policy-makers, patient advocacy groups, healthcare providers and representatives from industry, government, and clinical, academic and not-for-profit sectors.

The theme this year was birth cohort research and the opening keynote session featured Dr. John Henderson from the University of Bristol. Dr. Henderson shared his experience with the *Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children* (ALSPAC), including key findings and lessons learned from a networked, birth cohort approach to research on childhood asthma and allergies in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Malcolm Sears, Director of AllerGen's Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study, delivered the AllerGen keynote address, providing a Canadian perspective on birth cohort research. In addition, CHILD Study investigators discussed viral infections and lung function, dietary assessments, immunology, common pathways and multiple exposure effects. Representatives and network investigators from Health Canada and Environment Canada discussed the value-added benefits of their roles and partnerships in the CHILD Study. In addition, Prof Tim Caulfield, LLM, Professor, Faculty of Law and School of Public Health, University of Alberta, provided an overview of the ethical challenges faced in cohort studies and lessons learned thus far.

Drs Gail Gauvrea, Associate Professor, McMaster University, Mark Larché, Professor, McMaster University, Scott Tebbutt, Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia and Parameswaran Nair, Associate Professor, McMaster University, from the AllerGen CIC team presented their clinical models of asthma used for drug discovery, discussed their development of peptide vaccines for allergies, allergen challenges and exposures and the expansion of CIC into severe asthma.

The Microbiome team, led by Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj, Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta, discussed the introduction of this research in Canada, its methods, the impact of home environment and diet on infant intestinal microbiota and immunomodulation. Drs Del Dorscheid, Associate Professor, University of British Columbia, John Gordon, Professor, University of Saskatchewan and Tobias Kollmann, Assistant Professor, University of British Columbia, provided a session on immune markers and therapeutics. This was followed by

presentations by Dr. Heather Castleden, Assistant Professor, Dalhousie University and Shawna McGhan, RN, Associate Faculty Member, University of Alberta on asthma education focusing on Aboriginal community engagement and lessons learned from 17 years of delivering the childhood asthma education program *Roaring Adventures of Puff*. Many stakeholder organizations came together for the session on research benefiting patients, where a panel of respondents discussed their organization's most pressing topics and how future research priorities and opportunities can be identified and maximized.

A fun, interactive lunch-time session was organized by one of AllerGen's stakeholder partners, Clean Air Champions, which showcased the *Air Aware* program and illustrated the challenges of raising awareness amongst coaches, athletes, youth, parents and administrators about the important connections between asthma, allergy, air pollution and healthy active lifestyles.

Closing the conference was a session on *Innovation in Canada - Opportunities and Challenges 2012 and Beyond* delivered by Roger Martin, Chairman, Institute for Competitiveness and

Prosperity and Dean of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. Mr. Martin shared his vision on Canadian business innovation and discussed the difference between invention and innovation, identifying what Canadian researchers and educators can do to promote innovation and the role of modern education in fostering an innovation-oriented culture. Specifically, he spoke to the fact that 36 out of 42 Canadian global leaders achieved leadership through innovation alone, while the remaining six did so through both innovation and invention. He also talked about how great business people and great designers have much in common, including: an open mind that allows them to solve problems more creatively, a willingness to collaborate with others in order to achieve bigger and better outcomes, a willingness to experiment and co-create with users throughout the development process.

For the first time, the AllerGen conference was an *Accredited Group Learning Activity* as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation was secured to enable family doctors and clinician specialists to collect credits toward their recertification by attending the conference. AllerGen plans to continue offering accreditation for future events.



AllerGen Trainees Take Centre Stage during the Annual Research Conference



From left: K. Carson, M. Azad, L. Soller, H. Shu, J. Yang, M. Alton and B. Lo

AllerGen trainees and the annual poster competition are an important component of the conference. This year, 54 trainees and new professionals representing 14 universities and affiliated institutions participated in AllerGen's Annual Poster Competition. In total, \$2,800 in cash prizes was awarded to top poster winners in each research programme area as well as to the top two undergraduate posters.

Top Two Undergraduate Posters

Megan Alton, McGill University, supervised by Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj

Kaitlyn Carson, Dalhousie University, supervised by Dr. Jean Marshall

Programme A: Gene-Environment Interactions

1st Place - **Meghan Azad**, University of Alberta, supervised by Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj

2nd Place - **Huan Shu**, Simon Fraser University, supervised by Dr. Tim Takaro

Programme B: Diagnostics and Therapeutics

1st Place - **Jasemine Yang**, University of British Columbia, supervised by Dr. Delbert Dorscheid

2nd Place - **Bernard Lo**, University of British Columbia, supervised by Dr. Kelly McNagny

Programme C: Public Health, Ethics, Policy and Society

1st Place - **Lianne Soller**, McGill University, supervised by Dr. Ann Clarke

2nd Place - **Bonne Chow**, University of Waterloo, supervised by Dr. Susan Elliott.

For the first time, members of AllerGen's Students and New Professionals Network (ASNP) participated in a HQP Dinner Meeting, during which the new ASNP Executive Committee was announced. Goodbyes and thanks were expressed to the outgoing ASNP Executive, who extended their terms to support preparation of AllerGen's NCE renewal bid. Following dinner, conference delegates joined trainees and new professionals at a networking reception.

Conference Sponsors

AllerGen NCE extends sincere thanks to its 2012 Conference sponsors and supporters. Their contributions were invaluable and without their support AllerGen's conference would not be possible.

Sponsorship was provided by the following organizations:

Gold Sponsors

GlaxoSmithKline
Merck Canada
Pfizer Canada

Silver Sponsors

McMaster University
Novartis Pharmaceutical Canada

Bronze Sponsors

Boehringer-Ingelheim
Maple Leaf Foods
Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
Nycomed: a Takeda Company
Roche Canada
Sun Butter – Red River Commodities

In-kind contributions were made by the following organizations:

Allergic Living Magazine
Anaphylaxis Canada
Asthma Society of Canada
Canadian Allergy Asthma and Immunology Foundation
Canadian Lung Association
Canadian Network for Respiratory Health

Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
Canadian Thoracic Society
Clean Air Champions
National Asthma Patient Alliance
The Sandbox Project
UBC James Hogg Research Centre

2012 Highly Qualified Personnel Capacity Building Programs at a Glance

The Strategic Plan 2012 to 2019 proposes robust capacity building programs for Network HQPs. Outlined below are continuing and new opportunities for Network trainees and investigators to 2019.

Capacity Building Workshops (\$70,000/yr)

2012 Trainee Symposium, May 27-29, Calgary

- a) **Annual Trainee Professional Development** - two-day trainee workshop for ASNPN members - Skill development opportunities include public speaking and presentation skills, career planning, recruiting and effectively utilizing mentors, strategic planning, integrated knowledge translation, media relations, ethical approaches to research involving human subjects, negotiating employment contracts and research grant writing
- b) **Specialized Equipment/Lab Transfer/Research Skills Acquisition** – this program supports workshops that enable sharing and development of unique technical and laboratory skills relevant to AllerGen researchers as well as offers practical professional development and capacity building opportunities.

Poster Competition (\$50,000/yr)

The HQP research poster competition and oral presentations are central features of the AllerGen *Innovation from cell to society* research conference. This fund supports travel to the conference and cash awards for the top posters and oral poster presentations.

AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship (\$250,000 for two years)

2012-2013 competition closes April 13, 2012
(Next call opens October 2012)

The goal of supporting Emerging Clinician Scientists is to enable newly trained Canadian Clinical Immunologists and Allergists to pursue allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis academic research training immediately following their Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training.

Travel Awards (\$25,000/yr) Applications are currently being accepted for travel between April 1 - March 31, 2012

This initiative supports a portion of travel and accommodation costs to enable AllerGen investigators, trainees and ASNPN members to attend national and international conferences, symposia and workshops offered by non-Network organizations that contribute to their professional development. Awards of up to \$1,200 are available, subject to 1:1 matching funding provided from non-AllerGen sources.

AllerGen and Fonds de la recherche du Québec Santé (FRQS) Partnership (\$30,000/yr)

Next competition closes October 2012
(Letter of Intent deadline August 2012)

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

AllerGen and Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Partnership (\$30,000/yr)

Competition closed (Next call 2014)

AllerGen and MSFHR have signed an MOU to co-fund, on an equal basis, the highest ranking candidates working in allergic disease research within the MSFHR regular training grants competition. This initiative leverages provincial research funding in BC to support additional research trainees within the AllerGen Network.

AllerGen Undergraduate Allergy, Asthma and Anaphylaxis Summer Studentships (\$30,000/yr) NEW 2012 competition closed (Next call December 2012)

This new program will support 10 new Undergraduate Summer Studentships per year at up to \$3,000 per award invested by AllerGen and requiring a 1:1 match of non-AllerGen funding guaranteed by the AllerGen Supervisor.

International Exchange Program (\$75,000/yr) NEW

This program will match AllerGen trainees with the top allergy and asthma clinician-scientists and researchers in the world for short term exchanges. These exchanges will accelerate international knowledge exchange, capacity building and networking. Priority partners are the Karolinska Institute, Sweden; The University of Newcastle in Australia; and The Allergie - Centrum at Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin Charité); and the Munich Allergy Research Center (MARC) in Germany.

Industry, Healthcare and Public Sector Internships

Primary partner Mitacs Accelerate and Step programs (\$30,000/yr) NEW

Mitacs offers national internships at graduate and postdoctoral levels in all disciplines, together with supervising professors and Canadian companies, to help ensure that the research innovations developed in Canadian universities are utilized by Canadian companies. Job shadowing opportunities are being developed with public sector and health partner organizations.

Visiting Clinician-Scientist Professorships (\$8,000/yr) NEW

In partnership with the CSACI, AllerGen will take a leadership role in organizing four half-day Visiting Clinical Scientist Professorships per year at medical schools across Canada to expose more medical students and internal and pediatric residents to the professional and research opportunities available to them in the field of allergy and clinical immunology.

AllerGen Involved with CIHR Workshop on Measuring Environmental Exposure

Last November in Montreal Quebec, the Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health, of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (IHDCYH), in partnership with the UK High Commission, hosted an international workshop on Measuring Environmental Exposure.

More than 60 government and academic researchers from Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States with expertise in measuring environmental contaminants in the context of human health took part in the workshop. AllerGen's investigators and project staff in attendance included:

Dr. Malcolm Sears, Professor of Medicine, McMaster University/ St. Joseph's Healthcare

Dr. Jeff Brook, Senior Research Scientist, Environment Canada and Adjunct Professor, University of Toronto

Dr. Michael Brauer, Professor, University of British Columbia

Dr. Amanda Wheeler, Research Scientist, Health Canada

Diana Lefebvre, Research Admin/Project Manager, McMaster University and AllerGen Program Coordinator

Workshop themes included general measurement issues, synthesizing data on environmental exposure measurement and technological perspectives.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Synthesize research expertise in the measurement of exposure to environmental contaminants in human populations, which is currently scattered both geographically and in disciplinary "silos".
2. Identify gaps and priorities in the current research landscape.
3. Discuss areas for future research and synergies across research disciplines.
4. Provide a forum in which to discuss the development of new measurement methods.
5. Network and plan future collaborations and partnerships.

AllerGen Investigator Dr. Michael Brauer, Professor, School of Population and Public Health & Department of Medicine - Atmospheric Science Programme at the University of British Columbia presented a session on environmental sources of exposure.

Highlights of Dr. Brauer's presentation included current regulations, controls and monitoring of environmental concentrations and lack of surveillance for environmental exposures. Dr. Brauer also emphasized the importance of biomarkers and how biomarker interpretation requires environmental measurements, how improved exposure assessment pays dividends and how understanding determinants of exposure can lead to reduced exposure and risk and future directions in this area of research.

Dr. Michael Kramer, Scientific Director of IHDCYH concluded the workshop by noting that it had provided a head-start for the funders' meeting and expressed his confidence that the workshop would spawn future collaborations in this area.

Recent Network Publications by Network Researchers (AllerGen researchers and partners are bolded)

Ben-Shoshan M, Harrington D, Soller L, Fragapane J, Joseph L, St Pierre Y, Godefroy S, Elliott S, Clarke A
Demographic predictors of peanut, tree-nut, fish, shellfish, and sesame allergy in Canada
2012 *Allergy*, 858306

Ben-Shoshan M, Sheth SS, Harrington DW, Soller L, Fragapane J, Joseph L, St Pierre Y, Godefroy SB, Elliott SJ, Wasserman S, Alizadehfard R, Harada L, Allen M, Allen MA, Clarke AE
Impact of Precautionary Statements on Purchasing Practices of Canadians Directly and Indirectly Affected by Food Allergies
February 2011 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 127 (2), AB237

Brouwers M, Makarski J, Durocher L, **Levinson A**
E-Learning interventions is comparable to user's manual in a randomized trial of training strategies for the AGREE II - July 2011 *Implementation Science*, 26 (6), 81

Caulfield T

Direct-to-consumer testing: if consumers are not anxious, why are policymakers?
July 2011 *Human Genetics*

Cicutto L, Julien B, Li NY, Nguyen-Luu NU, Butler J, Clarke A, Elliott S, Harada L, McGhan S, Stark D, Vander Leek TK, Wasserman S

Comparing school environments with and without legislation for the prevention and management of anaphylaxis - January 2012 *Allergy*, 67 (1), 131-137

Daley D

Opposite effects of allergy prevention depending on CD14 rs2569190 genotype in 3 intervention studies
2011 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 129, 256-259

Fenton N

Assessing Needs: Asthma in First Nations and Inuit Communities in Canada
Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Indigenous and Aboriginal Community Health - 2012

Letourneau N, Stewart M, Masuda JR, Anderson S, Cicutto L, McGhan SL, Watt S

Impact of online support for youth with asthma and allergies: pilot study
February 2012 *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 27 (1), 65-73

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

Possession of epinephrine auto-injectors by Canadians with Food Allergies
August 2011 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 128 (2), 426-428

Soller L, Fragapane J, Ben-Shoshan M, Harrington DW, Joseph L, St Pierre Y, Godefroy SB, Elliott SJ, Clarke AE

Epinephrine auto-injectors (EAI) in Canadians with food allergies - February 2010 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, 125 (2), AB213

Stewart M, Letourneau N, Masuda JR, Anderson S, McGhan SL - Online solutions to support needs and preferences of parents of children with asthma and allergies
August 2011 *Journal of Family Nursing*, 17 (3), 357-379

Stewart M, Letourneau N, Masuda JR, Anderson S, Cicutto L, McGhan SL, Watt, S

"Just no-one really seems to understand": Support needs and preferences of young adolescents with asthma and allergies
August 2011 *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*

Saude EJ, Skappak C, Cook K, Regush S, Rowe BH, Moqbel R, Sykes BD, Adamko DJ
Metabolomic Profiling Asthma: Diagnostic Utility of Urine Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy
2011 *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* March (127), 757-764

Tebbutt SJ, He J-Q, Singh A, Shannon CP, Ruan J, Carlsten C - Transcriptional changes of blood eosinophils after methacholine inhalation challenge in asthmatics
2012 *Genomics Insights*, 5:1-12

AllerGen Administrative Centre Staff



Left to right: Dr. Diana Royce, Carol Ridsdale, Liz Dzaman, Marta Rudyk, April O'Connell, Michelle Harkness, Alex Ormond and Jose Mangles

Dr. Judah Denburg

Scientific Director & Chief Executive Officer x26502

Dr. Diana Royce

Managing Director & Chief Operating Officer x26502

Jose Mangles

Manager, Research and Partnerships x26092

Marta Rudyk

Manager, Communications and Knowledge Mobilization x26641

Carol Ridsdale

Finance Officer x26643

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