

reAction

www.allergen-nce.ca

AllerGen programme leader receives Killam Award

AllerGen Programme Leader Dean Befus, PhD, is the recipient of the 2007-08 Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring at the University of Alberta.

This annual award recognizes excellence in mentoring undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and visiting scholars.

Befus's dedication to the development of future researchers extends to his commitment to the development of AllerGen trainees.

The important contributions of AllerGen investigators to mentoring Network trainees helps to address the shortage of highly qualified entrepreneurial professionals in the field of allergic and related immune diseases.

AllerGen NCE Inc.

Scientific Director & CEO
Dr. Judah A. Denburg

Managing Director & COO
Diana Royce, EdD

AllerGen Administrative Centre is located at McMaster University
1200 Main Street West
Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning and Discovery, Room 3120
Hamilton, ON L8N 3Z5
(905) 525-9140 ext 26502

All newsletter enquiries and comments should be sent to:
Communications and Marketing Officer
Judi Pattison at pattisj@mcmaster.ca

The NCE program is a joint initiative of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and Industry Canada.



Third Annual Research Conference
INNOVATION
from cell.
to Society³
February 10-12, 2008

Photo courtesy of Banff Lake Louise Tourism

Join top experts from Canada and around the world at AllerGen's Third Annual Research Conference, *Innovation from cell to society³* in Banff, Alberta, Canada, February 10-12, 2008.

Professionals from across multiple disciplines and sectors will meet in the Rocky Mountains early next year to look at the causes and progression of allergic and related immune diseases, with a special emphasis on the link between allergy and the environment.

Highlighting existing knowledge, as well as the innovative and collaborative work going on within the Network's integrated research programme, the conference will feature:

- keynote addresses by internationally renowned experts;
- engaging scientific presentations featuring AllerGen investigators and trainees speaking to issues and outcomes arising from Network research;
- panel discussions featuring representatives from research, industry, government and non-governmental organizations;
- opportunity to network with Canadian and international representatives from across

cont'd on page 8

AllerGen NCE Inc. is dedicated to creating an enduring network of allergy and immune disease experts whose discovery and development efforts contribute to reducing the impact of allergic and related immune diseases in Canada and around the world.

Discovering an entrepreneurial future

Thirty AllerGen trainees and new professionals from 10 universities across Canada attended the Second Annual Trainee Symposium in King City, Ont., May 16-18, 2007.

Invited speakers focused on the importance of entrepreneurialism in Canada's biotechnology business sector at this year's event, *Your Entrepreneurial Future*. The symposium also included a poster competition in which 12 trainees' posters were entered.

Keynote speaker Kevin Fehr, PhD, director of basic research and genetics, research and development division of GlaxoSmithKline Inc. and a member of AllerGen's Board of Directors, opened the symposium with her presentation, *Choosing a career option: Have you thought about Biotech?* Fehr provided AllerGen trainees with an overview of the wide range of career opportunities in the Canadian biotech sector, an area critical to growing Canada's economy.

Other presentations at the two-day event included:

- *A CEO's perspective on the importance of HQP:* Jeffrey Crelinsten, PhD, president of The Impact Group and publisher of Re\$earch Money, spoke to the importance of developing highly qualified professionals to ensure that research leads to new ideas that can be developed into new products and services benefiting Canadians both socially and economically.
- *Entrepreneurship in life sciences:* Robert Foldes, executive director of YORKBiotech Inc., described the importance of networking, personal determination and enthusiasm when pursuing an entrepreneurial future. Foldes also discussed the challenges associated with finding seed funding at the start-up stage of a new business venture in Canada.
- *Insider's guide to career opportunities:* A panel discussion focusing on career options open to trainees. Panelists Alan Hamilton, PhD, director of therapeutics in respiratory medicine at Boehringer Ingelheim; Darlene Homonko, PhD, executive director at Golden Horseshoe Biosciences Network at McMaster University; and Frank Viti, chief executive officer at the Asthma Society of Canada, shared their personal career paths, including challenges, opportunities and lessons learned.
- *Spin-offs and start-ups:* Consultants John Dickey, principal at Capital Insights Incorporated, and Roger Bernier, PhD, former vice president at Foragen Technology Management Inc., spoke about the importance of a business plan to the commercialization of research and entrepreneurial success.

AllerGen, TOPIGEN partner to provide hands-on training

AllerGen and TOPIGEN Pharmaceuticals Inc., a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company based in Montreal, are offering recent doctoral graduates and MD clinician scientists the opportunity to gain valuable experience in research and development in an industrial setting.

The AllerGen-TOPIGEN Industrial Research and Development Fellowship will support promising doctoral and MD graduates who want to gain allergy and asthma research experience in an industrial setting.

The Fellowship provides \$94,000 in support over two years, with \$47,000 being contributed each by AllerGen and TOPIGEN. The AllerGen-TOPIGEN Industrial Research and Development Fellowship is aimed at recent doctoral and MD-trained graduates seeking employment in Canadian industry for the first time.

AllerGen Scientific Director Dr. Judah Denburg believes this Fellowship will encourage young researchers and clinician scientists to seek new directions for their post-academic research, and increase Canadian capacity in allergic and related immune diseases research and development.

"An important part of AllerGen's mission is to attract Canada's best and brightest to the areas of allergic and related immune diseases, building Canadian capacity to deal with this increasingly prevalent chronic disease. The AllerGen-TOPIGEN Fellowship will help to do just that," says Denburg.

TOPIGEN Vice President, Discovery, Luc Paquet, PhD, says this Fellowship will give post-doctoral graduates and MD trained clinician scientists a better understanding of the biotech and pharmaceutical industry, private funding, intellectual property and other commercial applications of research that can help the Canadian economy expand and create new jobs.

This Fellowship will not only provide research and development experience, but will allow young entrepreneurs to see first-hand the process behind commercialization of innovative research, will promote industry awareness as to the capabilities of Canadian universities and university research, and facilitate the transfer of expertise and technology.

"Innovation helps to create wealth. In the pharmaceutical industry, innovation comes from research. Since most of the small- and medium-sized companies in Canada do not have large revenue streams, assistance programmes like this Fellowship will help develop new research programmes, leading to pharmaceutical innovations," says Paquet.

Paquet says his company's collaboration with AllerGen will allow TOPIGEN to launch a new research initiative, which would not be possible without this partnership.

TOPIGEN is a privately held, clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing new classes of inhaled drugs for respiratory diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma.

Global attention on Allergen researcher

Allergen Principal Investigator Anita Kozyrskyj, PhD, is the object of worldwide media attention as the lead author in a recent study published in CHEST Journal. The study is co-authored by colleagues Dr. Pierre Ernst and Allergen Programme Leader Dr. Allan Becker.

The study, *Increased risk of childhood asthma from antibiotic use in early life*, shows that children who have taken more than four courses of antibiotics before their first birthday are 1.5 times more likely to suffer from asthma by the age of seven.

The study has garnered media attention from as far away as Germany and Australia.

Informing Allergen's birth cohort study

While this project was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Kozyrskyj says these results could inform Allergen-supported research.

"There's the possibility of pursuing the same study on children recruited for Allergen's birth cohort initiative, the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development study," she says.

Currently, Kozyrskyj is the Principal Investigator on an Allergen-funded project looking at the impact of maternal stress on the development of childhood asthma.

Making the connection

BC industry looks to provincial universities for research expertise

A new partnership between Allergen and Accelerate BC, a graduate research internship programme, will connect British Columbia industry with the next generation of up-and-coming researchers in allergic and related immune diseases.

Allergen trainees (graduate students and post-doctoral fellow interns) at Canadian universities will have an opportunity to gain exposure and apply their skills in an industrial setting, as well as develop valuable relationships with potential employers and representatives from other non-academic organizations.

British Columbia companies can expand their research and development programmes by using expertise available at universities across the country. Students and their supervisors bring advanced research methods, and new tools and technologies that may help companies address challenges that may impact their success. Industry will also develop new relationships with universities, leading to future collaborative opportunities.

Accelerate BC is based on a pilot project of MITACS, a Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) dedicated to mathematical sciences. Started in 2003, the programme has expanded in partnership with the British Columbia's Ministry of Advanced Education, to encompass all disciplines and faculties at Canadian universities. Allergen is the first NCE to commit to collaborating with MITACS under this programme. The internship is co-funded by BC's provincial government and the partnering BC company. Allergen Programme Leader Dr. Peter Paré, University of British Columbia, is Allergen's BC lead for this partnership. So far, Paré has hosted two workshops for local faculty and trainees promoting this opportunity.

The goal of the programme is to ensure that research innovations developed at Canadian universities are leveraged by BC industry, increasing provincial competitiveness both nationally and internationally.

British Columbia companies interested in learning more about partnering with Allergen through the Accelerate BC programme should contact Karen Booth, VP External Relations, MITACS, at 778-782-6861 or e-mail kbooth@mitacs.ca.

Allergen trainee awarded fellowship

Allergen trainee Dr. Anne Ellis is one of only nine physicians worldwide receiving a joint World Allergy Organization-Nycomed Fellowship.

As the lone Canadian representative, Ellis will spend two weeks at an internationally renowned allergy centre to be chosen by the World Allergy Organization (WAO), based on her proposed research. The fellowship will allow Ellis to learn new skills and techniques that she can use in her own research. Fellowship recipients will also attend the World Allergy Congress in Bangkok, Dec. 2-6, 2007.

Dr. Tina Laister, the Ontario Medical Liaison Manager at Nycomed Canada Inc. (formerly Altana Pharma), says it is

important for companies like Nycomed to be involved in these types of programs.

"This initiative will not only support up-and-coming physicians in their training and development, but may result in new ways to diagnose, treat or prevent allergic disorders," she says.

In addition to adjudicating the competition, WAO officials will provide administrative support to the fellowship. Nycomed provides financial support for the initiative. The fellowship covers all travel and accommodation costs to the research institution and expenses associated with attending the World Allergy Congress.

Ellis currently holds the Allergen/

Allergen trainee Dr. Anne Ellis is the recipient of an international fellowship.



Bayer/CAAIF Immunodeficiency and Immunomodulation of Allergic Inflammation Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship, which aims to contribute to improved patient care and excellence in research by increasing the number and level of expertise of MDs in Canada with a specialty in allergy and clinical immunology. She is supervised by Allergen's Scientific Director, Dr. Judah Denburg.

AllerGen is strengthening its position as a world leader in the fight against the allergic disease epidemic through a new partnership initiative.

The International Partnership Initiative (IPI) will see the Network join forces with five international organizations in the pursuit of realizing its vision – to reduce the impact of allergic and related immune diseases nationally and globally.

The Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) programme is investing \$828,000 in AllerGen under the NCE's new initiative. The Honourable Maxime Bernier, former Minister of Industry, made the announcement during a video conference May 25, 2007, held at AllerGen's host institution, McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, and École Polytechnique in Montreal, Quebec.

Under this NCE initiative, AllerGen will also receive \$262,000 from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to support collaborations with investigators from India, a low/middle income nation.

"This initiative will allow Canadian and international leaders in allergic and related immune disease research to foster new relationships in a spirit of global co-operation, leading to positive economic and social impacts in Canada and around the world," says Dr. Judah Denburg, AllerGen's Scientific Director and CEO. "The IPI will allow for the sharing of Canadian and international expertise in the battle against these chronic diseases."

According to the World Health Organization, 300 million people worldwide suffer from asthma and 255,000 died of the disease in 2005. In Canada, over 8% of Canadians, aged 12 and older, have asthma (Canadian Community Health Survey, 2005), creating a substantial burden on the health care system.

AllerGen is partnering with:

- The Global European Allergy and Asthma Network;
- The Karolinska Institute;
- World Health Organization initiatives, Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma (ARIA) and the Global Alliance on Respiratory Diseases (GARD);
- The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease; and
- The Institute of Population Health and Clinical Research at the St. John's National Academy of Medical Sciences.

Our global partners

International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease

Location: Paris, France

The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (The Union) focuses on education, translating knowledge about tuberculosis and lung disease to medical staff, policy makers and the general public, ensuring they are aware of the health risks associated with such diseases.

The Union targets low- and middle-income countries, helping them develop and implement prevention and control programmes to deal with lung disease and associated community health issues.

Representatives from AllerGen and the Union will be working with key stakeholders from El Salvador, Mexico and Canadian First Nations to develop and implement lung-health strategies in those countries. A fundamental aspect of this partnership is to ensure that knowledge is translated into effective best practices policies and strategies.

This collaboration will place Canadian researchers at the forefront of global outreach and international development efforts to understand and alleviate the growing global burden of allergy and asthma, leading to improved lung health.

Global Allergy and Asthma European Network

Location: Gent, Belgium

The Global Allergy and Asthma European Network (GA²LEN) is a Network of Excellence bringing together 26 European teams, the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology and the European Federation of Patient's Associations.

GA²LEN's goal is to decrease the burden of allergy and asthma throughout Europe by establishing an internationally competitive network to enhance the quality and relevance of research.

Collaborations between AllerGen and GA²LEN representatives will focus on identifying internationally accepted strategies for the development and implementation of birth cohort studies.

Representatives from the two organizations will meet in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Nov. 7-8, 2007

The Karolinska Institute

Location: Stockholm, Sweden

The Karolinska Institute is Sweden's largest medical training and research centre and one of the largest medical universities in Europe.

Working with researchers at the Karolinska's Institute of Environmental Medicine, AllerGen investigators will provide significant leadership in developing new international research, capacity building and knowledge translation.

This partnership will focus on the development and design of an international clinical research trial involving AllerGen's Clinical Investigator Collaborative and the Karolinska Institute. Also, a student exchange will see as many as six AllerGen and Karolinska trainees gain relevant research experience in a partner lab over two years.

Institute of Population Health and Clinical Research at the St. John's National Academy of Medical Sciences

Location: Bangalore, India

As part of a medical college and hospital, the Institute is the first organization of its kind in India dedicated to research that will impact developing countries.

AllerGen and St. John's investigators will focus on creating a research programme examining the impact nutrition plays in pregnancy, early life and childhood development of chronic diseases, such as allergy and asthma. Comparing the results of this cohort study to Canadian studies will allow researchers to look at cultural, social and biological factors impacting the development of allergy and other chronic diseases.

AllerGen Scientific Director Dr. Judah Denburg, Programme Leader Dr. Allan Becker, Principal Investigator Anita Kozyrskyj, PhD, and Co-investigator Dr. Ganesh Srinivasan, will meet with Institute representatives October 15-16, 2007, in Bangalore, India, to launch the planning of a joint research initiative for which they can collectively seek national and international support.

Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Disease

Location: Geneva, Switzerland

The Global Alliance Against Chronic Respiratory Disease (GARD), a voluntary alliance of international organizations, institutions and agencies, is part of the World Health Organization's global initiative to prevent and control chronic diseases.

The collaborative efforts between AllerGen and GARD researchers allow for accelerated research and knowledge translation. The result will be updated Canadian and international guidelines to deal with allergic rhinitis and asthma, and improved management and treatment practices to positively impact patients with chronic diseases.

New professionals, trainees form national network

AllerGen's Highly Qualified Entrepreneurial Professionals (HQEP) programme is offering AllerGen trainees and new professionals enhanced leadership and management skills development with the establishment of the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN).

The goal of the recently formed student-led organization is to help enhance research and professional networking opportunities for trainees and new professionals within the Network. The ASNPN will foster new relationships among students and professionals, facilitate the exchange of information between trainees and other Network participants and partners, and promote research excellence and skills-development at various AllerGen events.

An advisory committee to AllerGen's Research Management Committee and Administrative team, the ASNPN's role includes:

- promoting trainee participation at AllerGen events,
- developing and implementing information sharing strategies among trainees; and
- organizing training and networking opportunities to help trainees build research and professional skills.

Although the ASNPN leadership team will be annually elected by undergraduate, masters, MDs, doctoral and post-doctoral students working on AllerGen projects or holding AllerGen awards, the current leadership team was formed by soliciting nominations and volunteers.

Ideally, the committee will have representation from across the country and will include trainees and new professionals covering a variety of disciplines and levels of study. The ASNPN inaugural committee will serve until the first election is held at AllerGen's upcoming conference in February 2008.

The first event organized by the ASNPN was a reception at the Canadian Society for Allergists and Clinical Immunologists (CSACI) Annual Meeting held in Edmonton, Alberta, Sept. 28-30, 2007. The reception, co-sponsored by AllerGen, CSACI, the National Residency Educational Program and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, afforded CSACI travel grant recipients, AllerGen trainees and NREP representatives the opportunity to meet other trainees in the field of allergy and immunology. The ASNPN will also plan and organize AllerGen's annual Trainee Symposium.

Canadian Allergy and Immune Diseases Advanced Training Initiative (CAIDATI) Training Award

AllerGen is offering as many as seven Masters or PhD students an opportunity to contribute to reducing the impact of allergic disease through a fellowship programme that will see AllerGen match funding contributed by the host institution of award winners. This fellowship will help increase Canadian capacity in the area of allergic and related immune disease research. Funding will be distributed in early 2008.

AllerGen research in action

AllerGen Managing Director Diana Royce held a series of meetings with AllerGen researchers and potential research partner organization representatives during a site visit to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, July 16-17, 2007.

Highlights of these meetings include:

A briefing with AllerGen Principal Investigator, **Dr. Redwan Moqbel**, who recently returned from sabbatical in Australia, and is resuming leadership of his research programme on tryptophan metabolites and related receptors in allergic inflammation at the University of Alberta's Department of Medicine (Pulmonary Division).

AllerGen co-investigator **Shawna McGhan**, asthma education coordinator, University of Alberta, is part of a national team that is exploring effective strategies to support students with asthma and anaphylaxis. One of those strategies will improve access and training for healthcare professionals to the Roaring Adventures of Puff (RAP): A Childhood Asthma Education Programme, developed at the University of Alberta. Through AllerGen networking, McGhan is part of a team that has recently completed a needs assessment of healthcare professionals who work with children with asthma. This data is being used to develop an online version of the RAP Instructor's Workshop. Recently, RAP was used by The Lung Association of Alberta and NWT to launch asthma day camps in partnership with municipal recreation departments and child support groups such as YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs.

In collaboration with AllerGen Principal Investigator **Miriam Stewart**, McGhan is part of a national team involving researchers from New Brunswick to British Columbia that aims to facilitate on-line peer mentoring for children and teenagers with asthma and anaphylaxis, and their parents—groups that are currently underserved in terms of asthma education and



AllerGen Principal Investigator **Shawna McGhan** is part of a team creating an asthma-friendly resource kit for schools.

support. The team recently received the Lung Association of Alberta/NWT Angela Jone Clinical Research Award, leveraging the original AllerGen grant. The team also received approval for a letter of intent and will make a full application for additional funding from the Alberta Child Family

Research Grant in hopes of expanding the AllerGen project to include research supporting the asthma needs of rural and Aboriginal communities.

In addition, McGhan is working with AllerGen Principal Investigator **Lisa Cicutto**, University of Toronto, on a project examining the effectiveness of Sabrina's Law in Ontario (a law requiring that all publicly funded schools and school boards in Ontario have Anaphylactic Plans). Recently, McGhan and AllerGen investigator **Tim Vander Leek** participated on a committee that launched a policy advisory through the Alberta School Board Association, for students with anaphylaxis—an example of Alberta's regulatory approach that is part of the comparative study.

AllerGen Principal Investigator, pediatrician **Dr. Darryl Adamko**, is using his AllerGen grant and the University of Alberta's National High Field Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre (NANUC), to study the ability of urine samples to predict and diagnose asthma. This research has the



AllerGen Principal Investigator **Dr. Darryl Adamko** and his research team, **Bruce Lix** (left), **Idongesit Obiefuna**, **Christopher Skappak**, **Adamko** and **Erik Saude** at the University of Alberta's National High Field Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre.

at the University of Alberta

potential to provide more accurate and timely diagnosis of asthma, especially in young children. Adamko is in the process of firming up a series of patent applications based on his findings in this AllerGen project.

AllerGen Principal Investigator **Paige Lacy**, PhD, reported on her completed project entitled *Modulation of Exocytosis in Allergic Inflammation*, which examined the proteomics of inflammatory cell activation, as well as selected kinases important for phosphorylation and her pending publications, as part of her follow-on research programme.

AllerGen Principal Investigator **Dr. Nicola Cherry**, co-investigator **Dr. Jeremy Beach**, and trainees **Nitin Kapur**, **Xiangning Fan**, and **Fortune Sithole** discussed their progress on the AllerGen research project, *Use of database linkage for the surveillance of occupational asthma*. Cherry reported that they have access to a dataset combining information on work and health for approximately one million claims episodes in Alberta, and that they are now turning their expertise towards similar data from British Columbia, as well as an examination of the economic costs of occupational asthma. With co-investigator **Igor Burstyn**, PhD, University of Alberta, and collaborator **Dr. Susan Kennedy** at the University of British Columbia, they expect to have the data analysis for Alberta and BC completed by August 2008. The results of this team's research will be of interest to policy makers, workplace health and safety organizations and employers.

AllerGen Principal Investigator **Miriam Stewart**, PhD, together with team members from the universities of Alberta, New Brunswick, British Columbia, Toronto, McMaster and Athabasca, are developing a research programme focused on social support for children and youth with asthma, allergies and anaphylaxis, and their



Dr. Bruce Ritchie (centre) and his team at the University of Alberta Biobanking Centre have developed a full-service facility that supplies support for ethics approvals as well as robust, validated and scalable biobanking services.

parents. These studies assess the support resources, needs, and intervention preferences of affected children, youth, and parents. Findings will be used to design, implement, and evaluate an accessible support intervention that overcomes geographic, physical and temporal barriers, and tests intervention effects.

A site visit was conducted at the University of Alberta *Biobanking Centre*, led by **Dr. Bruce Ritchie**, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine. Based on best practices at biobanking centres around the world, including the *Centre for Disease Control* in Atlanta, the California State (Forensic) Laboratories, pharmaceutical industry facilities, and CSIS, UK, Norway and Icelandic biobanking facilities, Ritchie and his team have developed a full-service low-overhead cost-recovery biobanking facility that supplies support for ethics approvals in addition to providing robust, validated, scalable biobanking services guided by rigorously evaluated standard operation procedures. With the use of robots, their own pipette innovations and the latest in internet-based barcode technologies, Ritchie's team has six studies under way and aims to partner with both industry and other research teams to best utilize their capacity to

store 100,000 samples per freezer and retrieve 1,000 samples per hour. Ritchie describes his centre as a key part of the discovery supply chain.

A partnership development meeting with **Mark Taylor**, Director, Grants and Awards, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR), led to the development of a funding partnership between AllerGen, AHFMR and the Canadian Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) in support of an AllerGen Student and New Professionals Network networking event at the upcoming CSACI conference in Edmonton, September 27–30, 2007.

A meeting with **Dean Befus**, PhD, Programme B: Diagnostics and Therapeutics Research Leader, **Dr. Don Enarson**, senior advisor, International Union Against Lung Disease (The Union) and **Dr. Anne Fanning**, University of Alberta and past-president of the The Union, was held to work out the details of the International Partnership Initiative-supported workshop on lung health programme implementation in collaboration with partners in El Salvadore, Mexico and Canadian First Nations.

Network News

AllerGen would like to thank Principal Investigator **Kent HayGlass**, University of Manitoba, for his commitment and leadership as chair of *AllerGen's Advanced Education and Training Opportunities Advisory Committee (AETOAC)*, 2005-2007.

AllerGen Principal Investigator **Dr. Susan Wasserman** accepted a \$10,000 cheque on June 27, 2007, to be used for patient education materials at the Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Clinic at McMaster's Children's Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario. The money was donated by local radio stations, CHML and Y108 Children's Fund.

The McMaster Children's Hospital is the second busiest children's hospital in Ontario. The hospital is a referral centre for more than 2.3 million people in south central Ontario.

AllerGen trainee **Jason Pole** received recognition for his AllerGen-funded research at the recent *Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB) Conference* in Calgary, Alberta.

Chosen as one of 12 students to make an oral presentation at the *CSEB National Student Conference* on May 28, 2007, Pole received third prize for outstanding research and presentation from an independent panel of judges. More than 60 students studying epidemiology and biostatistics took part in the student conference.



Following on the heels of the student event was the *CSEB Conference* attended by more than 300 delegates from across the country. Once again, Pole presented his research during a session focused on respiratory health. He was awarded the event's top prize for student research.

Pole's AllerGen-funded research was also selected for the Student Prize Paper by the *Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research*. As part of this award, Pole presented his work at the annual conference held in Boston, June 18-19, 2007.

AllerGen continues to add to its collective expertise at the Network Administrative Centre.

Shelley Burford is AllerGen's new Network Programme Coordinator. Burford will aid in the delivery of two key network programmes – Highly Qualified Entrepreneurial Personnel and the new International Partnership Initiative.

Kevin Reed is AllerGen's new Information Technology Coordinator. He has been instrumental in improving computer network security, introducing new technologies such as web conferencing and the use of wikis, as well as helping to re-organize AllerGen's extensive online database.

Suzanne Bezzina provides administrative support as AllerGen's Executive Secretary.

Allergic disease hot topic at Rocky Mountain resort

cont'd from page 1

- multiple disciplines and sectors;
- trainee research poster competition; and
- a conference closing banquet.

*Innovation from cell to society*² is geared to:

- clinicians, researchers, pharmacists and other medical professionals involved with allergic, immunologic and respiratory diseases;
- federal, provincial and municipal policy makers;
- pharmaceutical and bio-technology firms that invest in research and discovery relating to allergy, asthma and immune diseases;
- food producers and manufacturers;
- entrepreneurs interested in innovative health products and tools; and
- students looking to pursue research and development careers in industry or clinical settings in the field of allergic and related immune disease.

If you would like more information or to register to attend *Innovation from cell to society*², go to www.allergen-nce.ca. Registration forms are also available for download.

Sponsorship opportunities available

*Innovation from cell to society*² provides an opportunity for industry, non-profit and government representatives to network with AllerGen investigators and international research partners, initiating new and strengthening existing relationships.

Sponsorship opportunities are designed so that sponsors will derive clear and immediate value from their investment in AllerGen's conference.

In addition to multiple advertising opportunities in the conference programme, AllerGen newsletters and on the Network's website, promotional display space will be available to Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors at the event. As well, promotional materials provided by conference supporters will be available in delegate packages.

AllerGen continues to grow as a Network, bringing together more than 160 researchers and over 150 trainees representing 40 sites across Canada and around the globe. *Innovation from cell to society*² provides a venue for science and industry to meet, leading to innovative collaborative opportunities.

Contact AllerGen's Managing Director Diana Royce at 905-525-9140 ext. 26502, if your organization wishes to explore conference sponsorship opportunities.

2007 CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION REPORT

184 delegates in attendance

University/hospital organizations:	72%
Non-profit organizations:	13%
Business and industry:	11%
Government agencies/departments:	4%