AllerGen reAction November 2016

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Immunotherapy technique holds promise for curing food allergies

AllerGen Research Leader **Dr. John Gordon** and his team at the University of Saskatchewan have developed a new immunotherapy technique that reverses food allergies in mice. Their research was co-funded by AllerGen and CIHR.

The findings, published October 26, 2016, in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology,* will lead next to testing the treatment on humanized mice. Pending Health Canada approval, the first human trial could begin in about a year, according to Dr. Gordon. “We predict the treatment could be on the market within five to 10 years,” he adds.

“This discovery portends a major break-through towards a therapeutic reversal of food allergen sensitivity,” said AllerGen’s Scientific Director, Dr. Judah Denburg.

“The treatment prevents anaphylactic responses in what were previously fully sensitive mice, opening the door for translating this therapy into the clinic.”

The pioneering treatment involves exposing, in a test tube, a subject’s dendritic cells to a mix of proteins, an acid naturally occurring in the human gut, and an allergen; and then reintroducing the modified cells back into the subject.

There is compelling evidence that the technique could be effective in humans: Dr. Gordon’s team has previously reversed an asthmatic response in human cells in a test tube, and effectively eliminated asthma in afflicted mice.

The technique also holds potential for treating autoimmune disorders like multiple sclerosis. “It would take very little to adapt the therapy for autoimmune diseases,” Dr. Gordon notes.

“Even if we only cure 25 percent of subjects, it would be life-changing for affected individuals.”

Read the press release.

Recurrent anaphylaxis in kids: new C-CARE findings

A new study by AllerGen researchers suggests that nearly 18% of children who are treated medically for an anaphylactic reaction will experience another episode of anaphylaxis within a year.

The study also found that children with food-induced anaphylaxis and children with asthma are at the greatest risk of experiencing recurrent reactions.

Published in *The Journal of Pediatrics* in October 2016, the study is the first to look at the risk of anaphylaxis recurrence rates prospectively, once an initial, or "index," episode has already occurred.

Led by researchers from AllerGen's Cross-Canada Anaphylaxis REgistry (C-CARE), the study looked at the hospitalization records of 292 children who were treated for anaphylaxis in three Montreal Emergency Departments (ED) and by emergency medical services (EMS) in the Outaouais region between 2011 and 2014.

"Food was the trigger for recurrent episode(s) of anaphylaxis in nearly 85% of the cases we looked at," says the study's senior author, Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan, a pediatric allergist at the Montreal Children's Hospital and an assistant professor of Pediatrics at McGill University.

"Interestingly, our results indicate that tree nut was a trigger in 15.4% of recurrent reactions, while peanut accounted for only 6.2%. We believe that it's possible there is a higher degree of awareness of peanut allergy among patients, and as such, families are more diligent in avoiding peanut once an index episode has occurred." As identified in other studies, milk was found to be a common trigger of recurrent reactions, potentially because "milk protein can appear in many products, which may not be labelled clearly," the authors noted.

The study also highlighted a significant underuse of epinephrine auto-injectors. "We found that 80% of children experiencing a recurrence of anaphylaxis were brought to the emergency department, but 23% were not treated with epinephrine," comments Dr. Andrew O'Keefe, an allergist in St. John's, Newfoundland, and the study's first author. "It is critical that physicians, patients, and their families remain vigilant and understand the importance of using epinephrine immediately in all cases of anaphylaxis."

Funded by AllerGen, C-CARE was launched in 2010 and has since been collecting data from thousands of adults and children treated for anaphylactic reactions. Hospitals, ambulance paramedics, and allergy clinics in Quebec, British Columbia and Ontario contribute data to the registry, with expansion to other parts of the country underway. It is the first registry to track episodes of anaphylaxis prospectively, at the time they occur.

AllerGen researchers find possible key to fibrosis in mouse model of Crohn's disease

New research by AllerGen investigators at The University of British Columbia (UBC) has found that a group of immune cells known as Group 3 innate lymphoid cells (ILC3) could be the key to the development of fibrosis in a mouse model of Crohn's disease.

The discovery may be applicable to fibrosis in other types of tissue, and could eventually lead to the development of a treatment for fibrotic complications of Crohn's disease.

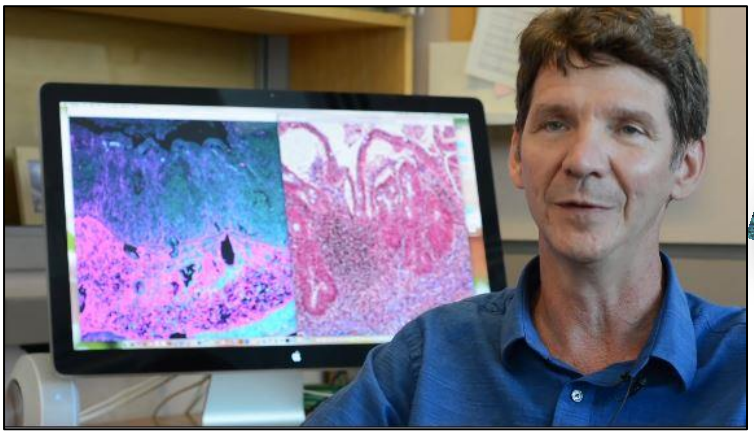
Dr. Kelly McNagny, Associate Scientific Director of the AllerGen Network, is lead author on the study, published on September 6, 2016 in *Science Immunology*.

Co-authors include AllerGen HQP Bernard Lo and Dr. Matthew Gold.

"The study is exciting because it has uncovered the mechanism leading to fibrosis in a mouse model of Crohn's disease," said Mr. Lo, a PhD candidate at UBC who was the paper's first author.

"Since many patients developing fibrosis will require surgery, early intervention strategies are critical and ILC3 offers a promising therapeutic target."

Read the press releases:
AllerGen | UBC



CLICK to view Dr. Kelly McNagny discussing the finding in a UBC video

The cover image for the *Science Immunology* issue featuring this article was created by AllerGen HQP and co-author Bernard Lo.

CIC researchers find new drug more effective than Xolair

A new study by researchers in AllerGen's Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC) has shown that a developmental drug, QGE031 (ligelizumab), is three times more effective than Xolair (omalizumab) in reducing symptoms of mild allergic asthma.

The research, led by Dr. Gail Gauvreau, the CIC's Co-Director and a professor in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University, was conducted by CIC investigators at six Canadian universities and one international site, and published in the October 2016 issue of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

QGE031, manufactured by Novartis, is a new monoclonal antibody that targets immunoglobulin E (IgE), a key protein involved in the allergic response. In susceptible individuals, exposure to allergens such as animal dander, dust mites, moulds and environmental triggers causes the production of IgE, which then binds to IgE receptors on inflammatory cells to cause narrowing and inflammation of the airways. QGE031 binds circulating IgE, preventing it from binding to IgE receptors, thereby limiting allergen-induced airway responses.

"We found that QGE031 bound IgE with a higher affinity than omalizumab and significantly elevated the dose of allergen required to elicit airway bronchoconstriction and skin prick test responses," says Dr. Gauvreau. "These findings support the clinical development of QGE031 as an alternative treatment to omalizumab with an improved dosing frequency and potential for greater efficacy against allergic responses in the airways and skin."

The CIC researchers tested the drug in a group of 37 subjects with mild allergic asthma and compared it to Xolair and placebo in a parallel-group, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial.

"While antibody treatment is typically reserved for severe asthma, this research may lead to an improved therapy for those with allergic asthma that have issues with inhalers or steroid-based medications," adds Dr. Paul O'Byrne, who is Director of the CIC; Executive Director of the Firestone Institute of Respiratory Health (FIRH) at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton; and Dean and Vice-President of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University.

The Phase II study was conducted from November 2012 to October 2013 and involved the work of AllerGen CIC researchers Dr. Louis-Philippe Boulet (Laval University), Drs Donald Cockcroft and Beth Davis (University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Mark FitzGerald (The University of British Columbia), Dr. Richard Leigh (University of Calgary), Dr. Irvin Mayers (University of Alberta), Dr. Barbro Dahlén (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden), and the collaboration of AllerGen investigator Dr. Christopher Carlsten (The University of British Columbia).

AllerGen Research Leader heads major urban health project

AllerGen Research Leader **Dr. Jeffrey Brook** is Scientific Director and Nominated-Principal Investigator on a new five-year, $4.16 million Operating Grant from the CIHR's Environments and Health Signature Initiative. The project, CANadian Urban Environmental (CANUE) Health Research Consortium, aims to advance our understanding of how cities can be designed or modified to improve population health.

"This consortium will provide critical environmental health research so policymakers and urban and regional planners can make evidence-based decisions when addressing the challenges of urbanization and growing suburbs," says Dr. Brook, who is Assistant Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health of the University of Toronto, and Senior Scientist with Environment and Climate Change Canada. "Climate change and how it impacts cities and residents is also a key priority for CANUE."

The consortium unites over 80 environmental health experts in academia, government and the NGO and private sectors from coast to coast. The researchers will link standardized environmental exposure data about air quality, green spaces, walkability, noise, weather/climate and other aspects of the urban/suburban environment to existing human health data platforms.

"The CANUE initiative is well-aligned with the goals of AllerGen and its Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study in particular," adds Dr. Brook. "It represents a strategic extension of the work that my Gene-Environment Interactions and CHILD Environmental Working Group colleagues and I have undertaken to improve our global understanding of the environmental factors related to asthma, allergy, and related immune and inflammatory diseases."

The initiative will also link CHILD Study and GxE project data to CANUE's urban form and environmental data, allowing for the identification of important insights of value to policy/decision-makers, helping to extend the value of CHILD.

In addition to Dr. Brook, seven AllerGen investigators are in the core research team of CANUE, including Co-Principal Investigators Drs Michael Brauer and Padmaja Subbarao, as well as Co-Investigators Drs Meghan Azad, Chris Carlsten, Greg Evans, Wendy Lou and Tim Takaro.

For more information: http://canue.ca

AWARDS & HONOURS

AllerGen's Scientific Director appointed as Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Fellow

Dr. Judah Denburg

Dr. Judah Denburg, Scientific Director and CEO of AllerGen, was inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) at the CAHS Annual General Meeting in Montreal on September 15, 2016.

Election to fellowship in the CAHS represents one of the highest honours for members of the Canadian health sciences community. CAHS Fellows are recognized for their innovative leadership, research excellence and commitment to advancing academic health science.

In a separate honour, Dr. Denburg was appointed the William J. Walsh Chair in Medicine of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University. The chair is named for William Walsh, a founding father of McMaster's Faculty of Health Sciences and an active and trusted physician in Hamilton for many years.

"Judah is among McMaster's most accomplished scholars and teachers," says Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dean and Vice-President of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster.

"His CAHS Fellowship, as well as the Endowed Chair, recognize the importance of Judah's commitment to teaching, research and service, and will allow him to pursue critically important areas of study and to recruit and nurture the next generation of researchers."

Read the press release and the McMaster announcement.

CHILD Study Director awarded J. Allyn Taylor International Prize

Dr. Malcolm Sears, an internationally renowned respirologist and epidemiologist, has been named joint winner of the prestigious 2016 J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine.

The Robarts Research Institute of Western University in London, ON, awards the prize annually to scientists who have made significant contributions to a field within one of the Institute's principal areas of research.

The 2016 Prize recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the area of chronic lung disease, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

AllerGen investigator Dr. Sears leads the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study—one of the only studies in the world to explore in depth how genes and the environment interact in early life to cause asthma, allergies and other chronic illnesses.

Read the Robarts Research Institute press release and the McMaster Faculty of Health Sciences news story.

AllerGen investigators honoured by CSACI

Two AllerGen investigators were honoured at the Awards Dinner of the 2016 Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Annual Scientific Meeting, held September 29 – October 2, 2016, in Montreal, QC.

Dr. Bruce Mazer

Dr. Allan Becker

Dr. Bruce Mazer (McGill University) received the CSACI Jerry Dolovich Award for his contributions to the field of allergy and clinical immunology in Canada. The award is named after the late Dr. Jerry Dolovich, a highly respected allergy researcher, clinician, and educator.

Dr. Allan Becker (The University of Manitoba) received the CSACI Distinguished Member Award for his outstanding achievements in the allergy, asthma and immunology field, and his "accomplishments that serve as an inspiration and example for others to follow."

Read more about the CSACI awards.

Mohsen Sadatsafavi receives CIHR New Investigator award

Mohsen Sadatsafavi

Health outcomes researcher and AllerGen investigator Dr. Mohsen Sadat-safavi has been awarded a New Investigator Salary Award, valued at $300,000 over five years (2016-2021), by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

The award will support Dr. Sadatsafavi's work in measuring the economic and healthcare burden of asthma and other respiratory diseases in Canada.

"My goal is to improve patient care and reduce the burden of respiratory diseases by ensuring that decisions by policymakers and care providers are evidence-informed and result in the most efficient use of limited resources," says Dr. Sadatsafavi, an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Associate Scientist in the Department of Medicine, The University of British Columbia.

His project, Respiratory Evaluation Sciences Program (RESP), is developing innovative analytic approaches—in decision analysis, health economics and outcomes research—to help improve efficiency in respiratory care in Canada.

RESP uses population-based health databases to estimate the burden of respiratory diseases and to evaluate their impact on quality of life and work productivity; it investigates adherence to, and the effectiveness of, treatments; and projects the costs and health consequences of policies and interventions at the population level using mathematical modeling techniques. His approach emphasizes knowledge translation through the early engagement of patients, policy makers, and clinical experts.

Dr. Sadatsafavi previously collaborated with AllerGen investigators Drs Mark FitzGerald and Larry Lynd in a project that measured the on-the-job productivity loss due to uncontrolled asthma. Dr. Sadat-safavi is also the Theme Leader of the Health Economics Platform of the Canadian Respiratory Research Network (CRRN), through which he is collaborating with many AllerGen-funded investigators across the country.

The New Investigator Salary Award program aims to "provide outstanding new investigators with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their independence in initiating and conducting health research through provision of a contribution to their salary."

Prof. Timothy Caulfield receives CAFA award

AllerGen investigator Timothy Caulfield earned a 2016 Distinguished Academic Award from the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) and was also named to *Alberta Venture* magazine's 50 Most Influential Albertans list for 2016.

Professor Caulfield was presented the CAFA award in Edmonton on September 22, 2016, in recognition of the way his scholarly work "serves the public outside the university."

In its acknowledgment of Prof. Caulfield, *Alberta Venture* highlights his efforts to "discredit the cult of celebrity, one research paper at a time," observing: "You know you're a successful researcher when your work has been trashed in *New York* magazine and lauded in *The New York Times*." Caulfield also made the magazine's list of the province's top influencers previously, in 2014.

Dr. Bruce Mazer named interim head of RI-MUHC

AllerGen investigator Dr. Bruce Mazer has been designated Interim Executive Director and Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC).

His appointment will be effective from October 1, 2016, until a new Executive Director/CSO is appointed.

Dr. Mazer has served in a Deputy role for this dual position, and also as Head of Child Health Research at the Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC, since April 2015.

Read the RI-MUHC press release.

AllerGen investigator gains federal support for diagnostic test development

AllerGen investigator **Dr. Darryl Adamko** has been granted $235,000 by the Western Economic Diversification Canada program to further develop and commercialize a novel metabolomics-based clinical diagnostic for asthma.

For the test, urine samples are subjected to a mass spectroscopy scan to check for telltale molecular markers associated with asthma.

“The goal of this research is to create an objective test to diagnose asthma *versus* other respiratory diseases that might look like asthma,” Dr. Adamko explains.

“This project has the potential to change the way Canada’s doctors diagnose asthma,” comments The Honourable Navdeep Bains, Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development. “This strategic investment is one of the many ways world-class research is positioning Canada to be a global leader in science and innovation.”

Dr. Adamko is a pediatric respirologist and an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Saskatchewan.

Read the U of S announcement.

CIHR funds study on prenatal programming of children’s mental health

AllerGen Research Leader **Dr. Michael Kobor** has been awarded a five-year, $1.5 million CIHR Team Grant to support his research into the epigenetic impacts of pre- and post-natal factors—including stress during pregnancy—on children’s mental health and on their resilience to disease.

Dr. Kobor anticipates that the findings of this project will inform efforts to reduce disease in childhood, and possibly contribute to developing effective prevention strategies.

Dr. Kobor is an associate professor in the Department of Medical Genetics of The University of British Columbia (UBC), and a Research Leader of AllerGen’s Gene-Environment Interactions Enabling Platform. He holds a Canada Research Chair in Social Epigenetics.

His work focuses on how childhood experiences can “get under the skin”—in the form of epigenetic marks—to affect health and behaviour across the life course.

Watch the UBC interview with Dr. Kobor on his social epigenetics research and its relevance to public policy.

KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Winning HQP videos "clever" and "relatable," say judges

An animated musical about the harmful chemicals contained in plastic consumer products took first place in the 2016 HQP Video Competition.

"**The Phthalates Song**," created by Evelyn Gunawan, Min Hyung Ryu and Agnes Yuen, received top ranking from an expert panel and won the popular vote on YouTube.

"**AIC Model in Allergic Asthma**," by Zhaoyun (Jack) Zhang, Shawn Khan and Abi Kirubarajan, placed second in the competition.

All the videos in this year's competition can be viewed on AllerGen's YouTube channel.

The HQP Video Competition challenges ASNPN members to create short videos highlighting important findings in allergic disease research in a manner that is accessible to a lay audience.

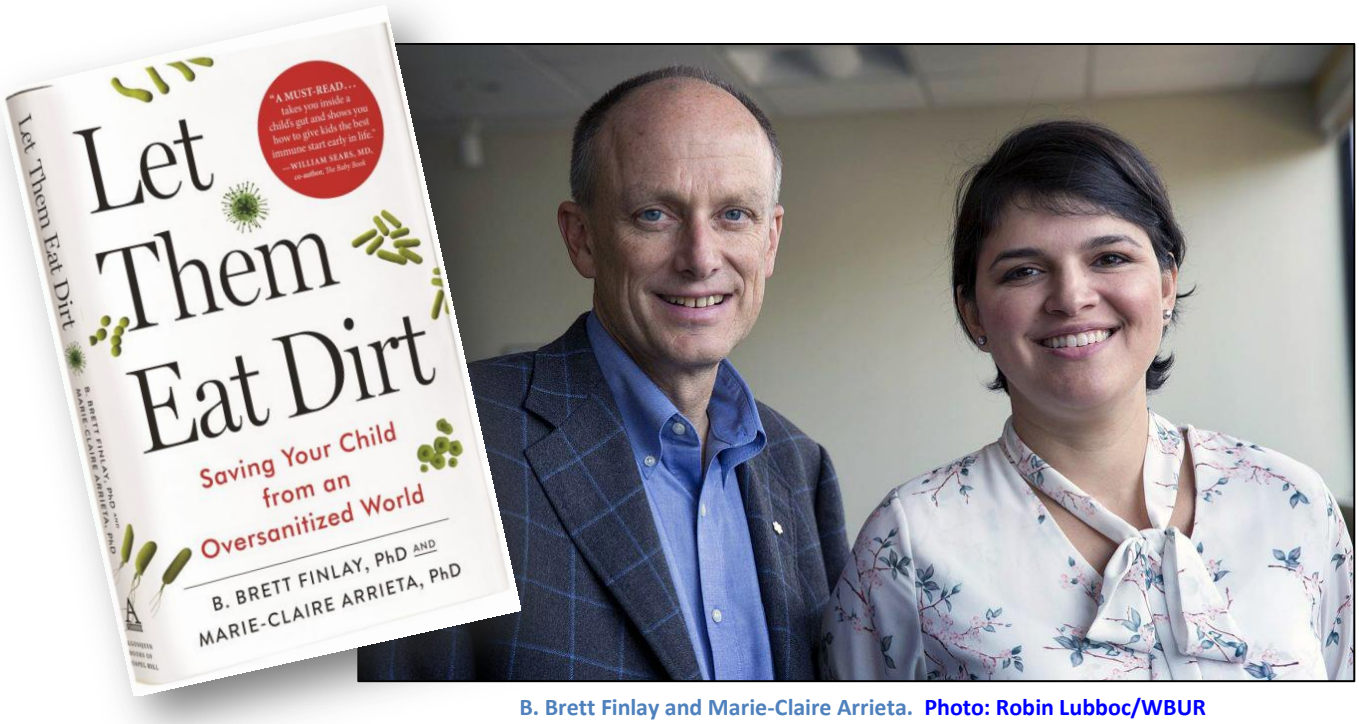
AllerGen mobilizes knowledge at 2016 Forum

Sylviane Duval, member of AllerGen's Network-Supported Intellectual Property (NSIP) Advisory Committee, and Kim Wright, AllerGen's Director of Communications and Knowledge Mobilization (KMb), were presenters at the 2016 Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum (CKMF), held June 28-29, 2016, in Toronto, ON.

Ms. Duval engaged the audience with the concepts of "nudge" and "choice architecture"—ways of subtly influencing people's decisions—and questioned their applicability to the practise of knowledge translation. Ms. Wright shared insights from AllerGen's successful KMb experience producing the award-winning whiteboard video about the CHILD Study.

The CKMF was founded in 2012 to bring together practitioners, researchers, students, administrators, and other stakeholders to share best practices in the field of knowledge mobilization.

“Let them eat dirt,” advocate Drs B. Brett Finlay and Marie-Claire Arrieta



B. Brett Finlay and Marie-Claire Arrieta. **Photo: Robin Lubboc/WBUR**

“Let Them Eat Dirt: Saving Your Child from an Oversanitized World,” the new book co-authored by AllerGen investigator Dr. B. Brett Finlay and AllerGen trainee Dr. Marie-Claire Arrieta of The University of British Columbia, was released in Canada on September 10, 2016.

It has since attracted wide media attention in Canada, the US and the UK.

The book presents, in parent-friendly format, the latest science on the role of the microbiome in lifelong health.

Read the book’s Fact Sheet.

Order *Let Them Eat Dirt* on Amazon.

"With the quiet weight of their authority, pioneer researchers Brett Finlay and Marie-Claire Arrieta help parents to understand the real nature of microbes, and then to act to improve their children's health"

—Martin Blaser, author of *Missing Microbes.*

"A must-read for parents, teachers and any healthcare provider for children, *Let Them Eat Dirt* takes you inside the tract of a child’s gut, and shows you how to give kids the best immune start early in life"

—William Sears, MD, co-author of *The Baby Book.*

Anaphylaxis in Child Care Settings: New online course from Food Allergy Canada

"This latest online course features the information and resources needed to help ensure the safety of children with potentially life-threatening allergies, whether they are in a childcare centre or a family/home-based setting," comments Laurie Harada, Executive Director of Food Allergy Canada (FAC), regarding the launch of the organization's third online anaphylaxis training module.

Anaphylaxis in Child Care Settings: What Staff/Caregivers Need to Know is a free, bilingual, medically-reviewed resource available through FAC's Allergy Aware portal.

Like other Allergy Aware courses, *Anaphylaxis in the Community* and *Anaphylaxis in Schools*, it was developed with Leap Learning Technologies in collaboration with the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI), with research and evaluation support provided by AllerGen.

Read the FAC press release.

AllerGen reaches out at Montreal food allergy fair

Parents, patients and curious passers-by learned about the AllerGen network and received French-language copies of AllerGen *Success Stories* at the third "Salon des allergies" food allergy fair, which took place October 22, 2016, at the Complexe Desjardins shopping mall in downtown Montreal.

The event was hosted by AllerGen partner organization Allergies Quebec to promote awareness and understanding of food allergies. It featured interactive work-shops, kiosks, cooking demonstrations and expert speakers, including McGill-based allergist Dr. Reza Alizadehfar and food-allergic racecar driving celebrity Alex Tagliani.

AllerGen's Kim Wright (R) engages with the public at the 2016 Salon des allergies

TRAINEE NEWS

Trainee research recognized in 2016 CSACI/AllerGen Poster Competition

L to R: Michelle North, Elizabeth Simms, Rishma Chooniedass, Keely Loewen, John Paul Oliveria, Bassel Dawood

Six AllerGen trainees took top honours across three categories of the 2016 AllerGen/ Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Poster Competition.

The Competition was held, for the fourth consecutive year, in conjunction with the 2016 Scientific Meeting of AllerGen's legacy partner, the CSACI, September 29 to October 2, 2016, in Montreal, QC.

ALLERGIC RHINITIS AND ASTHMA

1st place: Michelle North, University of Toronto

Supervisor: Greg Evans, Anne Ellis

Title: *Kingston Allergy Birth Cohort (KABC); Exposome Characteristics and Parentally-Reported Respiratory Outcomes to Age 2*

2nd place: Keely Loewen, University of Manitoba

Supervisor: Meghan Azad

Title: *Prenatal antibiotic exposure and childhood asthma: a population-based study*

FOOD ALLERGY & ANAPHYLAXIS

1st place: Rishma Chooniedass, University of Manitoba

Supervisor: Allan Becker

Title: *Second chances: reflections on the use of epinephrine for anaphylaxis*

2nd place: Elizabeth Simms, McMaster University

Supervisor: Mark Larché

Title: *Ara h 1 peptide immunotherapy protects against severe peanut-induced anaphylaxis and induces PD-1+ CD4+ T cells*

IMMUNOLOGY

1st place: Bassel Dawood, Dalhousie University

Supervisor: Jean Marshall

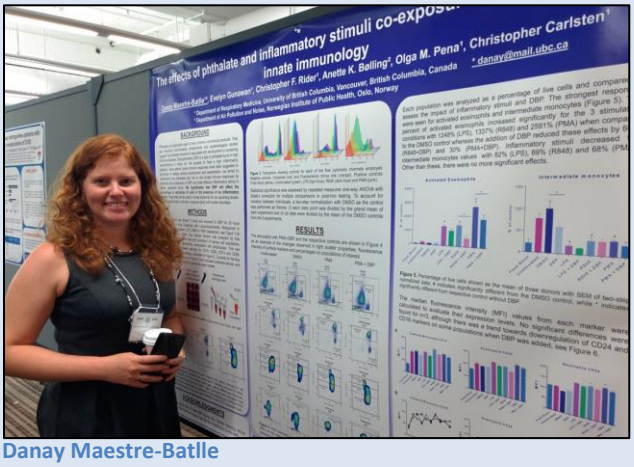
Title: *Examining the role of soluble TLR2 in regulating the development of food allergy*

2nd place: John Paul Oliveria, McMaster University

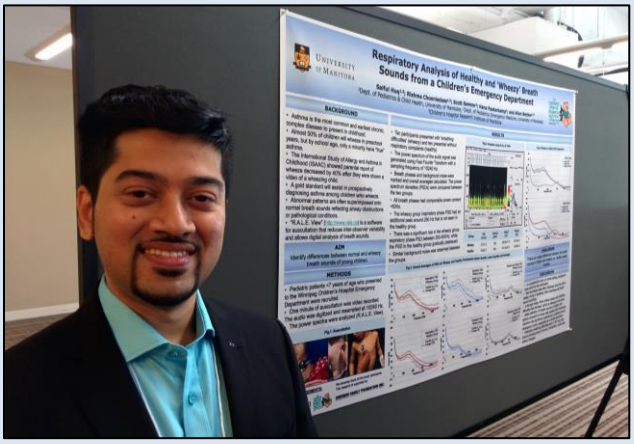
Supervisor: Gail Gauvreau

Title: *IgE+ memory B cells subsets are higher in the airways of mild allergic asthmatics compared to healthy controls*

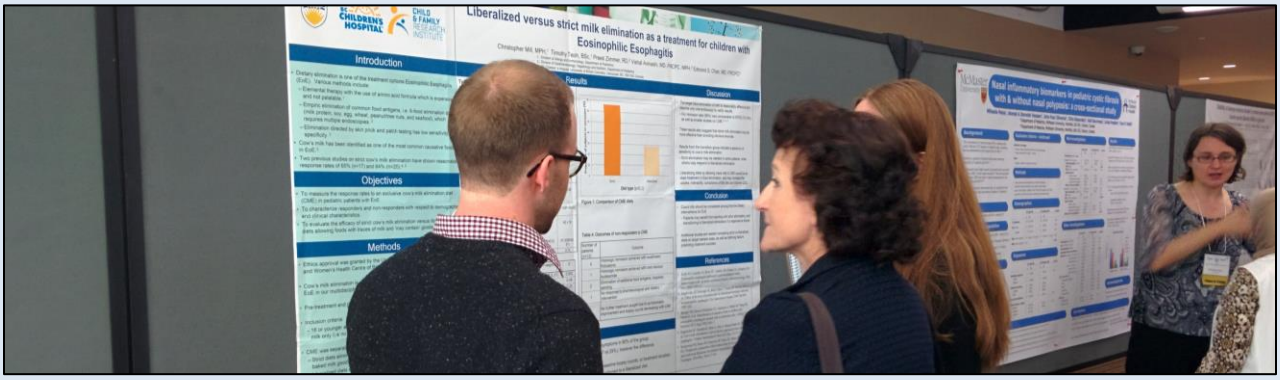
Scenes from the AllerGen/ CSACI Poster Competition



Danay Maestre-Batlle



Saiful Huq



AllerGen trainee receives prestigious Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship

An early career researcher and former AllerGen Network trainee has been named a 2016 Banting Postdoctoral Fellow.

The fellowship, valued at $70,000 per year for two years, is Canada's most prestigious award for postdoctoral research.

Dr. Matthew Gold, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, has been numbered among an elite group of researchers who have demonstrated research excellence and leadership in their fields of study.

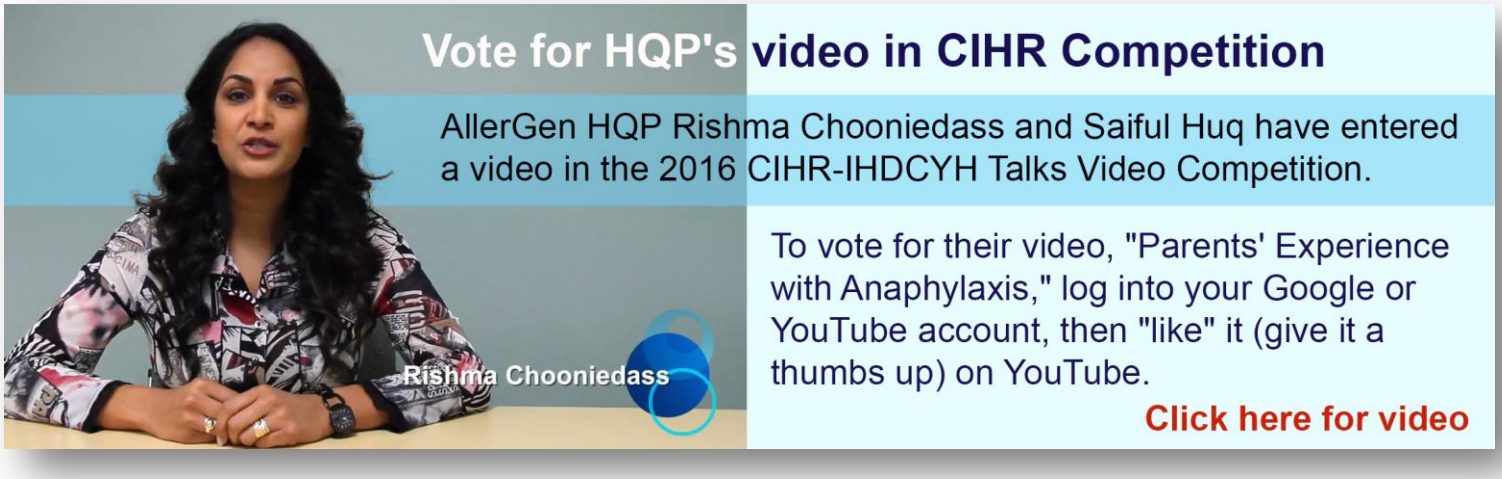
The Fellowship will facilitate his work on the molecular regulation of dendritic cell homeostasis.

Dr. Gold completed his PhD in Experimental Medicine, under the supervision of AllerGen investigator Dr. Kelly McNagny, at The University of British Columba in 2016.

With support from AllerGen's *International Trainee Research Visit Program*, he recently spent nine weeks in the laboratory of Dr. Bart Lambrecht at the Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB) Inflammation Research Centre of the University of Ghent, in Ghent, Belgium.

The federally funded Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships program awards 70 fellowships annually to "the very best postdoctoral applicants, both nationally and internationally."

Read the profile of Dr. Gold in the Spring 2016 issue of AllerGen's *Success Stories.*



Trainee John Paul Oliveria wins McMaster, EAACI awards

AllerGen HQP John Paul Oliveria has been recognized by McMaster University and by the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) for his performance as a graduate student and for his contributions to the 2016 EAACI Congress.

At the May 31, 2016, McMaster Faculty of Health Studies (FHS) Research Plenary Awards ceremony, Oliveria received two awards: a Graduate Program Outstanding Achievement Award, which recognizes graduate students in their final year of a Doctoral program who have made outstanding achievements, and a Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Excellence Award, which recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in their teaching contributions.

Oliveria was also awarded a travel grant by the EAACI to attend its 2016 Congress in Vienna, Austria, (June 11-15), where he presented two posters and gave two oral presentations that garnered him three honours: Best Junior Member Poster and Best Abstract in a Thematic Poster Session for IgE+ B cells increase in the airways following whole lung allergen challenge in mild allergic asthmatics, and Best Presentation in an Oral Abstract Session for The relationship between regulatory B cells and regulatory T cells in the blood and airways of mild allergic asthmatics.

“John Paul’s work is the first to explore the role of regulatory B cells in asthmatic individuals,” comments Oliveria’s doctoral supervisor, Dr. Gail Gauvreau, an AllerGen investigator and co-leader of AllerGen’s Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC).

“It is rewarding to see this novel research being embraced by the scientific community, and John Paul is truly deserving of this recognition.”

John Paul Oliveria is a PhD candidate in Medical Science at McMaster University.

More HQP news in latest *Airways* newsletter

- A recognition of Dr. Chris Mody’s 10 years of contributing to AllerGen’s HQP Program through his leadership of the AETOAC committee
- A celebration of recent ASNPN member accomplishments: awards and honours received, career advancement and publications
- The results of the HQP Poster Competition held in conjunction with AllerGen’s 2016 Research Conference

Read the full issue

AllerGen and partners support early career professionals

Dr. Philippe Bégin received an *FRQS/ AllerGen Clinical Research Scholars - Junior 1 Career Award* for his work on desensitization and the re-establishment of oral tolerance in patients with severe food allergies. Dr. Bégin ranked first out of 31 applicants in his category.

The FRQS-AllerGen award supports young clinical investigators in the province of Quebec pursuing allergic and related immune disease research.

Dr. Azadeh Yadollahi received the second of two *Emerging Research Leaders Initiative* (ERLI) research allowance grants awarded jointly by CRRN and AllerGen.

This establishment grant, for researchers transitioning from postdoctoral fellow to early career professional, will support Dr. Yadollahi's research on the role of fluid shift in the pathophysiology of asthma.

Drs Christopher Rider and **Aida Eslami** were among 28 post-doctoral researchers granted 2016 *MSFHR Trainee Awards*—co-sponsored by AllerGen in Dr. Eslami's case—out of a highly competitive pool of 154 applications.

The awards will support these AllerGen trainees for up to three years as they establish their careers while training alongside AllerGen investigators at The University of British Columbia (UBC).

Drs Catherine Biggs and **Nicholas Jendzjowsky** received 2016 *CAAIF-AllerGen Research Fellowships*.

The awards will allow Dr. Biggs to work with AllerGen investigator Dr. Stuart Turvey at UBC, to examine a rare gene mutation associated with high eosinophil levels and organ system inflammation, and will allow Dr. Jendzjowsky to work with Dr. Richard Wilson at the University of Calgary, to study the origins of asthma in the central nervous system and neural interactions with lung inflammation.

MEDIA

AllerGen experts cited in *Globe and Mail* on Quebec anaphylaxis incident

Commentary by AllerGen Research Leaders **Drs Allan Becker** and **Susan Elliott** was featured in an August 5, 2016, *Globe and Mail* article about restaurant food allergy policies and the question of responsibility.

Globe reporter Carly Weeks wrote the story in light of an incident that took place in May 2016, in Sherbrooke, Quebec, where a man fell into an anaphylaxis-induced coma for two days and suffered cardiac arrest after being served seafood in a local eatery—despite having disclosed his food allergy to his waiter. A criminal lawsuit against the waiter failed, but the case sparked international media attention and heated debate.

The article references AllerGen, its nationwide prevalence survey and its National Food Allergy Strategy (NFASt) legacy initiative.

A related *Globe* story quotes Laurie Harada, the executive director of AllerGen partner organization Food Allergy Canada.

Dr. Meghan Azad, CHILD Study on Australian TV

The Australian national broadcaster, ABC, featured AllerGen research in its primetime science program *Catalyst* in August 2016.

In an episode investigating the health implications of consuming artificial sweeteners, the program host interviewed AllerGen investigator Dr. Meghan Azad on recent research results indicating that drinking artificially sweetened beverages while pregnant may increase obesity risk for one's child.

Published in *JAMA Pediatrics* in May 2016, the findings were based on data from the CHILD Study—"an incredible study that we are doing here in Canada," as Dr. Azad described it to Australian viewers.

AllerGen Researchers in the News

Drs Brett Finlay & Marie-Claire Arietta

- *Globe & Mail, Global News, Wall Street Journal, National Post, ABC News, Guardian, Huffington Post, Scientific American, Ottawa Citizen, Irish Examiner*

Dr. Susan Elliott

- *Globe & Mail, TVO, CBC, Roundhouse Radio*

Dr. Michael Kobor

- *CBC, Hamilton Spectator, Globe & Mail, CTV, RCI, The Province*

Dr. Bruce Mazer

- *la Presse, la Tribune, le Devoir, Montreal Gazette, CTV, McGill Tribune*

Dr. Malcolm Sears

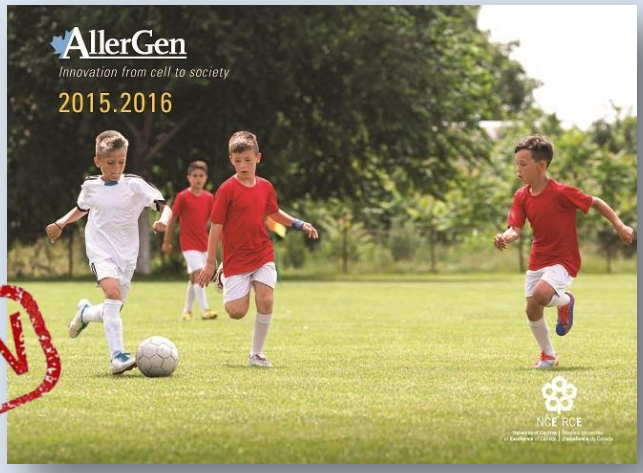
- *Telegraph, New York Times, BBC, TIME, CNN, Guardian, Globe & Mail, Washington Post, Chicago Tribune, Allergic Living, Independent*

Prof. Timothy Caulfield

- *CBC, New York Times, National Post, Toronto Star, Guardian, Irish Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times*

AllerGen's 2015-2016 **Annual Report** showcases year of "**breakthrough scientific findings**"

English version now available on the AllerGen website



NEW

EVENTS

Walk for Andrea raises funds for food allergy research

On October 2, 2016, the first annual Walk for Andrea took place in Markham, ON.

The event was a community fundraiser for SickKids Hospital, with all funds directed to the hospital's new Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Program, which aims to "generate new knowledge and therapies to address the growing burden of allergy."

The Walk raised $16,592, exceeding by 10% the organizers' $15,000 goal.

The Walk is named in memory of Andrea Mariano, a Queen's University student who died on campus in September 2015 after suffering an anaphylactic reaction.

The organizers of the Walk, Jyoti Parmar and Peter Deboran, also recently led an initiative to make Markham Libraries safer for food allergic children.

Read the CBC news story.

Nov. 17 webinar to teach communicating in clear language

Plain language isn't boring or dull. It's about making information accessible for your audience—whether written, visual or oral—and presenting it in a straightforward, logical way.

On November 17, 2016, independent knowledge translation consultant Sylviane Duval will lead a webinar on the topic "Communicating in Plain Language," offering insight into how to share complicated messages with a wide range of readers, such as granting agencies, colleagues, stakeholders and the public.

The webinar is part of the SMRTS Seminars Program, a multi-network training initiative involving nine national and provincial organizations, including AllerGen.

The series will deliver webinars, as well as in-person and/or live-streamed events, for the benefit of trainees and other interested individuals.

Register for this webinar.

Send newsletter enquiries and comments to:
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