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Second Annual Research Conference.

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Allergy, Genes and Environment Network  
Le réseau des allergies, des gènes et de l'environnement

*Second Annual Research Conference*  
**INNOVATION**  
*from cell*  
*to society<sup>2</sup>*

**Feb. 11 – 13, 2007**  
**Sheraton Hamilton**  
**Hamilton, Ontario**

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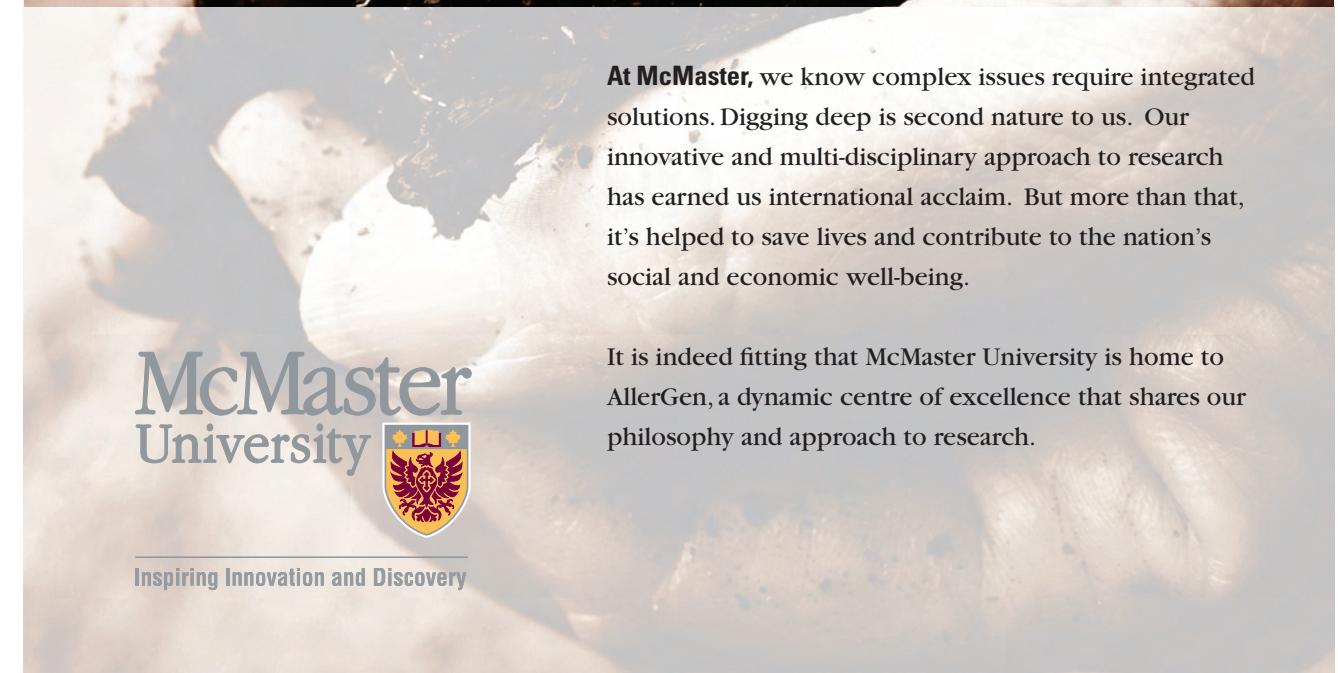
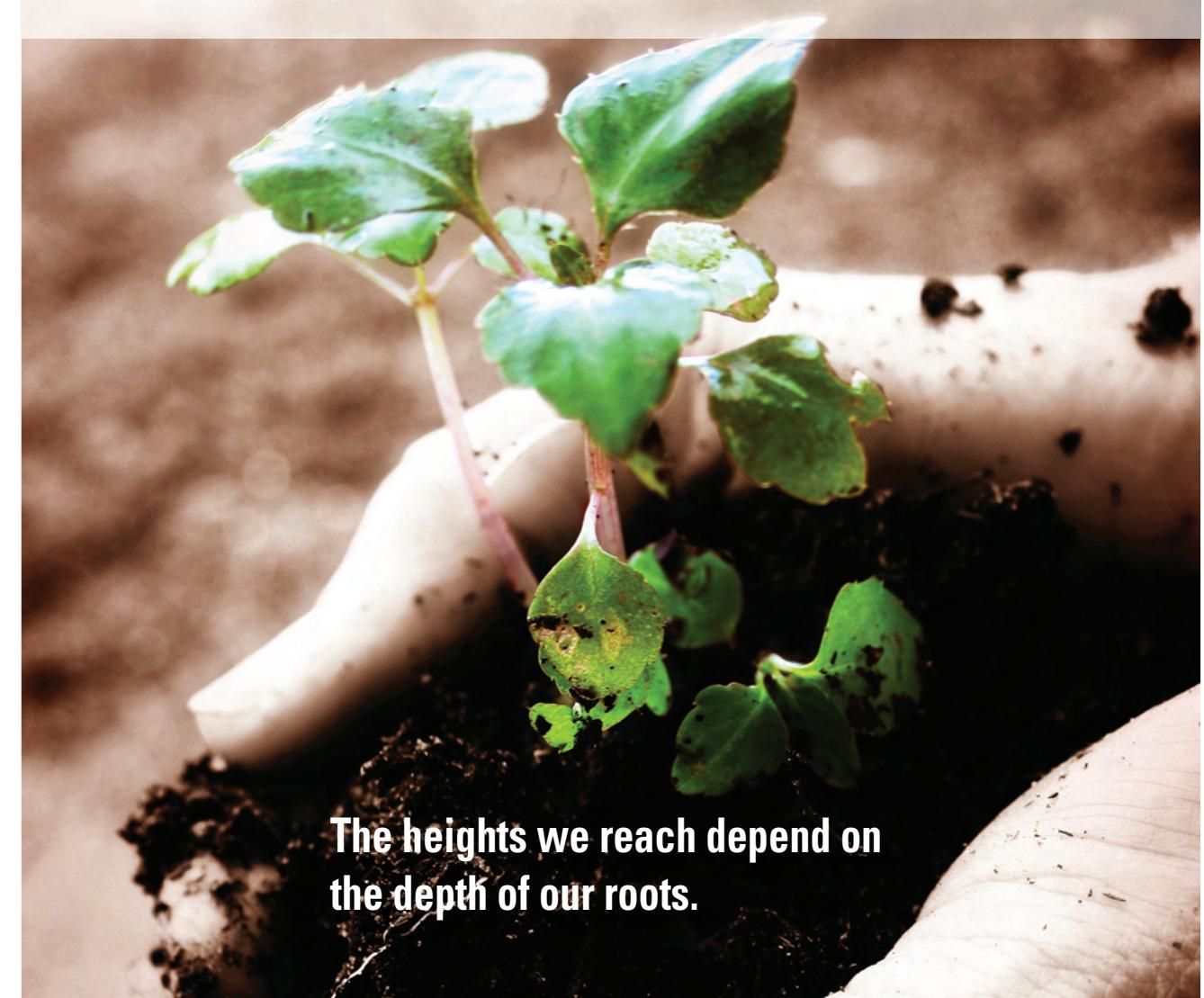
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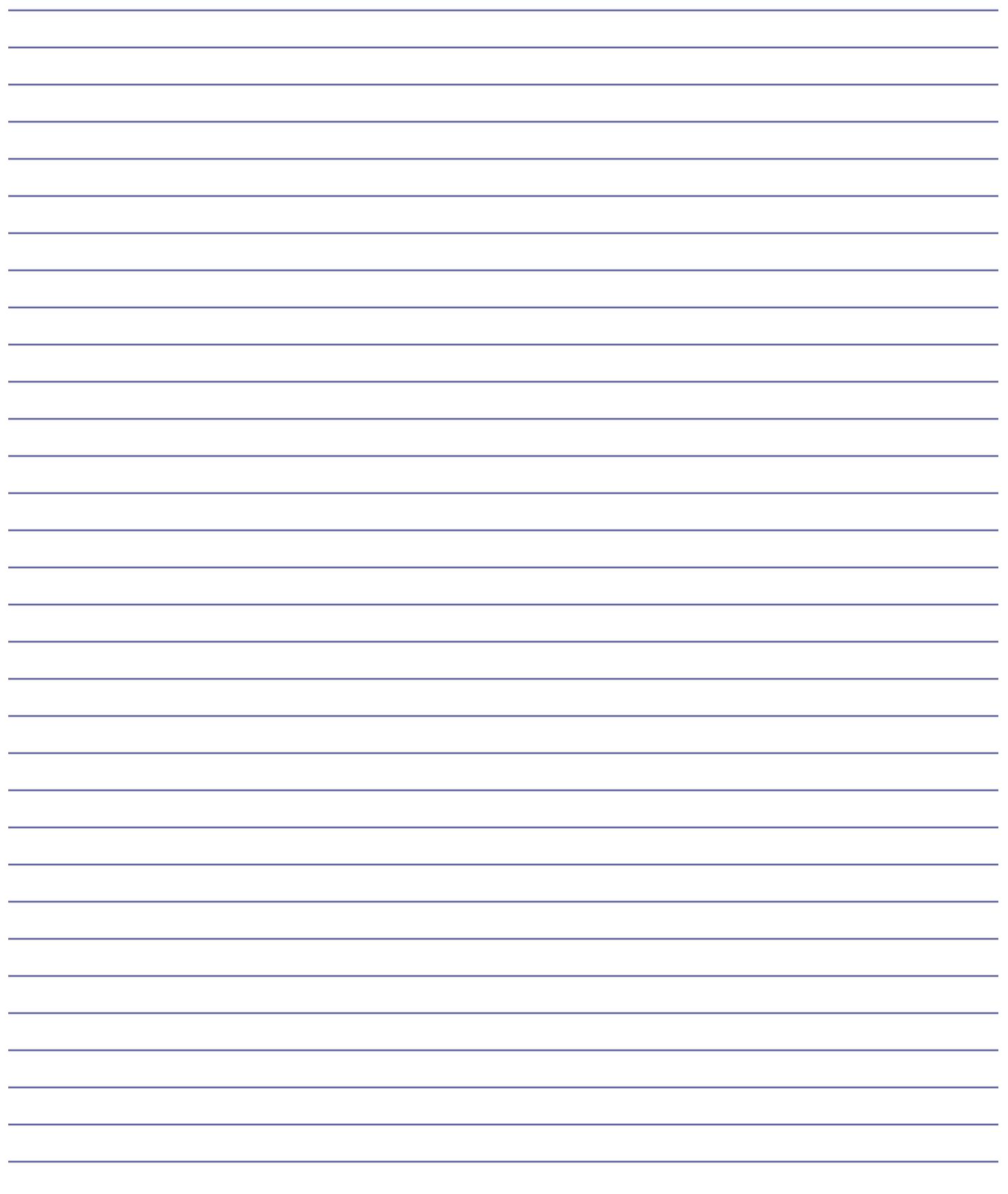
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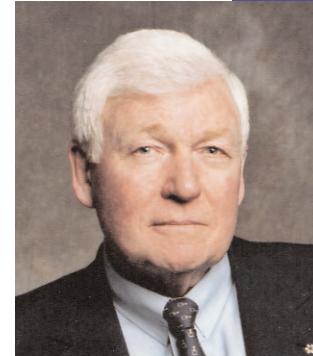
**At McMaster**, we know complex issues require integrated solutions. Digging deep is second nature to us. Our innovative and multi-disciplinary approach to research has earned us international acclaim. But more than that, it's helped to save lives and contribute to the nation's social and economic well-being.

It is indeed fitting that McMaster University is home to AllerGen, a dynamic centre of excellence that shares our philosophy and approach to research.



## ***Message from the Board Chair***

On behalf of AllerGen's Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to the Network's Second Annual Research Conference: Innovation from Cell to Society<sup>2</sup>.



Since April 2005, the AllerGen Network has attracted more than 150 forward-thinking investigators from across Canada and around the world, that are working collaboratively in this dynamic research network that includes partner organizations from across sectors and patient groups, towards the shared goal of improving the lives of Canadians suffering from allergic and related immune diseases. This conference highlights the work of these researchers and their research and knowledge translation partners. I trust you will find the conference program informative, enjoyable and above all, inspiring.

*W. R. Johnson*

Mr. Lynton R. Wilson  
Chairman of the Board,  
CAF Inc.

## *Message du président du conseil d'administration*

Au nom du conseil d'administration d'AllerGen, je vous souhaite la bienvenue à la deuxième conférence de recherche annuelle du Réseau, Innovation de la cellule à la société<sup>2</sup>.

Depuis avril 2005, le réseau AllerGen a réussi à rassembler plus de 150 éminents chercheurs canadiens et internationaux ?uvrant à l'approfondissement des connaissances sur les maladies allergiques et immunitaires. Avec l'appui d'importants organismes partenaires, incluant des représentants de groupes de patients, ces chercheurs collaborent dans le but commun d'améliorer la qualité de vie des Canadiens souffrant d'affections allergiques et immunitaires. La conférence annuelle a pour objet de présenter le travail des chercheurs, exposer la recherche de pointe et souligner les activités de transmission du savoir. J'ai pleinement confiance que vous trouverez le programme de la conférence instructif, profitable et motivant.

*W. R. Johnson*

Lynton R. Wilson  
Président du conseil d'administration,  
CAE Inc.

Conference Chair

**Dr. Judah A. Denburg**  
*Scientific Director and CEO*  
*AllerGen NCE Inc.*

Organizing Committee  
Dr. Judah A. Denburg  
*Scientific Director and CEO*  
AllerGen NCE Inc.

Will Fill in tomorrow



### *Message from the Scientific Director & CEO*

Judah A. Denburg  
Scientific Director and CEO  
AllerGen NCE Inc.

*A special thank you to our sponsors for their generous support  
of Innovation from cell to society<sup>2</sup>*

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## *Message from the Scientific Director & CEO*

Novartis ad  
plus pic

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judah A. Denburg".

Judah A. Denburg  
Scientific Director and CEO  
AllerGen NCE Inc.

Minister of Industry



Ministre de l'Industrie

Ottawa, February 11, 2007



Welcome to AllerGen's second annual research conference—Innovation from Cell to Society.

This year's conference offers the opportunity to review the latest scientific advances in the field of allergic and related immune disease. It is also the occasion to share your experience and best practices to improve the quality of life of thousands of Canadians across the country.

I congratulate the Network for its ability to mobilize an impressive array of researchers, clinicians, and partners from all sectors to develop new diagnostic tests and better medications to improve the health and quality of care for allergic and immune disease sufferers. By advancing knowledge, building capacity, transferring results and commercializing research, AllerGen brings an invaluable contribution to the advancement of Canadian society.

On behalf of Canada's New Government, it is my pleasure to thank you for your ongoing dedication and to wish you a productive and enjoyable conference.

Maxime Bernier

Canada



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**Innovation from  
Cell to Society**



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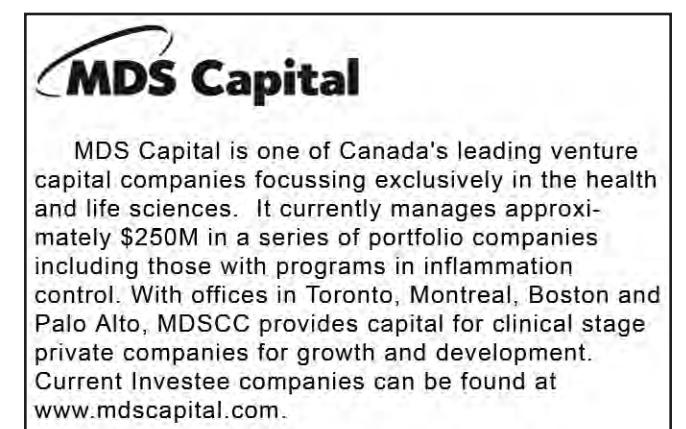
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**MDS Capital**

MDS Capital is one of Canada's leading venture capital companies focussing exclusively in the health and life sciences. It currently manages approximately \$250M in a series of portfolio companies including those with programs in inflammation control. With offices in Toronto, Montreal, Boston and Palo Alto, MDSCC provides capital for clinical stage private companies for growth and development. Current Investee companies can be found at [www.mdscapital.com](http://www.mdscapital.com).



**AllerGen NCE Inc. is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people suffering from allergic and related immune diseases.**

**Vision**

AllerGen will create an enduring network of allergy and immune disease experts whose discovery and development efforts contribute to reductions in the impact of allergic and related immune diseases nationally and globally.

**Mission**

To catalyze and support discovery, development, networking, capacity building, commercialization and knowledge translation that contribute to reducing the morbidity, mortality and socio-economic burden of allergic and related immune diseases.

**Strategic Goals**

1. Catalyze and support innovative research that contributes to the discovery of the causes of, and ways to prevent, control or eliminate allergic and related immune diseases.
2. Create new opportunities for the training of highly qualified entrepreneurial personnel in allergy research, patient care, innovation and the health system, and advance professional and lay knowledge about allergic and related immune diseases.
3. Catalyze and facilitate the development of new research platforms, tools, processes, products and services arising from discoveries, and promote their commercialization, their use and their influence on public policy.
4. Develop and maintain networking and partnership arrangements that enable knowledge and technology exchange and exploitation (KTEE).
5. Provide responsible, cost effective and accountable management, administration and support to all aspects of AllerGen's activities.



Ministre de l'Industrie



Minister of Industry

Ottawa, le 11 février 2007



Bienvenue à la seconde conférence annuelle du réseau AllerGen—Innovation : de la cellule à la société.

La conférence de cette année offre l'occasion de passer en revue les dernières percées dans le domaine des maladies allergiques et immunitaires afférentes. C'est également l'occasion de partager les expériences et les pratiques exemplaires qui rendent possibles une meilleure qualité de vie pour des milliers de Canadiens partout au pays.

Je tiens à féliciter le Réseau qui a réussi à mobiliser un impressionnant groupe de chercheurs, de cliniciens et de partenaires de tous les secteurs pour trouver de nouveaux outils de diagnostic et de meilleurs médicaments pour les personnes atteintes de maladies allergiques et immunitaires. En permettant de faire avancer le savoir, de développer les capacités, de transférer les connaissances et de commercialiser la recherche, AllerGen apporte une contribution inestimable au développement de la société canadienne.

Au nom du nouveau gouvernement du Canada, je vous remercie de votre engagement soutenu et je vous souhaite une conférence productive et agréable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maxime Bernier".

Maxime Bernier

Canada

# Conference Program

Sheraton Hamilton Hotel

Sunday, February 11

5:00 pm

## Wine and Cheese Welcome Reception

Co-sponsored by Golden Horseshoe Biosciences Network

South-West-Centre Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor

Monday, February 12

7:30-9:00 am

## Breakfast Buffet

Centre-East Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor

9:00-9:50 am

## Opening Ceremonies

### Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Lynton Wilson

Chair, Board of Directors, AllerGen NCE Inc.

### Overview of AllerGen

Dr. Judah Denburg

Scientific Director and CEO, AllerGen NCE Inc.

### Messages from Invited Guests

Hon. David Sweet

MP Ancaster, Dundas, Flamborough, Westdale

Hon. Marie Bountrogianni

MPP Hamilton Mountain

Dr. Peter George

President, McMaster University,

Dr. John Kelton

Dean and Vice-President, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

Dr. Steve Collins

Associate Dean of Research, McMaster University

9:50-11:00 am

## Opening Keynote Speaker

### "Our genomic future"

Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor

Dr. J. Craig Venter

Chairman and President, J. Craig Venter Institute, Rockland Rockville, Maryland

11:00-11:30 am

## Break and Poster Viewing

East Ballroom & Foyer, 2nd Floor

11:30 am-12:30 pm

## Research Symposium

### Gene-environment interaction: How nature and nurture combine to increase risk for allergy and asthma

Panel discussion moderated by Dr. Thomas Hudson, Scientific Director and President, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research

Dr. Peter Paré

Professor of Medicine, University of British Columbia

Dr. Denise Daley

AllerGen HQEP, University of British Columbia

Dr. Yohan Bossé

AllerGen HQEP, McGill University

12:30-1:30 pm

## Luncheon and Poster Viewing

East Ballroom & Foyer, 2nd Floor

## Dr. John Frank

Dr. John Frank, an expert in population health, social policy and work-related disability, is the inaugural Scientific Director of the Institute of Population and Public Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Recently recognized with the *Honorary Life Membership Award* from the Canadian Public Health Association, Dr. Frank is being honoured for his outstanding service to the community and in the advancement of public health knowledge and practice. Discussing the development of national birth cohorts in Canada, Dr. Frank will speak to the challenges and opportunities in the development of AllerGen's planned birth cohort, the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development Study.



## Keynote Address

February 13

## Keynote Address

February 13

## Dr. Michael Meaney

Dr. Michael Meaney, an expert on maternal care and its role in stress development, is the Director of the Maternal Adversity, Vulnerability and Neurodevelopment Project at Montreal's McGill University. Dr. Meaney's research focuses on how differences in maternal care can modify an individual's brain development and his ability to deal with disease and stress in later life. A James McGill Professor of Medicine at Douglas Hospital Research Centre at McGill University, Dr. Meaney has received numerous awards, including the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Senior Scientist Award and a Distinguished Investigator Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Affective Disorders.



**3:45-4:45 pm**

**Research Symposium  
Mind-body interactions**

*Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor*

*Moderators: Dr. Dean Befus, University of Alberta, and Dr. Allan Becker, University of Manitoba*

**3:45-4:05 pm**

**"The psychobiology of asthma in childhood"**

**Dr. Edith Chen & Dr. Gregory Miller**  
*University of British Columbia*

**4:05-4:20 pm**

**"Maternal distress in early life and development of asthma"**

**Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj**  
*University of Manitoba*

**4:20-4:45 pm**

**"Allergy and the brain: A neglected area of research"**

**Dr. John Bienenstock**  
*McMaster University*

**4:50-5:10 pm**

**Keynote Speaker**

*Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor*

**"Epigenetics: The next frontier"**

**Dr. Michael Meaney**  
*Director, Behaviour, Genes and Environment Program, McGill University*

**4:45-5:45 pm**

**Closing Remarks**

**Mr. Lynton Wilson**  
*Chair, Board of Directors, AllerGen NCE Inc.*

**5:45 pm**

**Reception, Trainee Awards & Gala Dinner**

*Art Gallery of Hamilton*

**6:30-9:00pm**

**Registration/Information  
Desk Schedule**

The registration desk is located in the Ballroom Foyer on the second floor of the Sheraton Hamilton.

The Registration/Information Desk will be staffed at the following times:

- Sunday, February 11:** Noon to 6:30 pm
- Monday, February 12:** 7:30 am to 5:00 pm
- Tuesday, February 13:** 7:30 to 9:00 am

**Included with  
your registration**

Admission to the conference is by conference NAME BADGE ONLY. Registrations are non-transferable and sharing of registration is not permitted.

Full registration includes:

- All scientific sessions;
- Sunday Welcome Reception; breakfasts, breaks, lunches, Gala Banquet Dinner at Art Gallery of Hamilton; and
- Conference handouts.

One-day registration includes:

- Scientific sessions on specific day;
- Breakfasts, breaks and lunches; and
- Conference handouts.

*Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor*

# O Canada

**O Canada**

*Our home and native land*

*True patriot love in all thy sons command*

*With glowing hearts we see thee rise*

*the true north strong and free*

*From far and wide*

*O Canada, we stand on guard for thee*

*God keep our land glorious and free*

*O Canada, we stand on guard for thee*

*Canada, we stand on guard for thee*

**O Canada**

*Terre de nos aïeux*

*ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux*

*Car ton bras sait porter l'épée*

*il sait porter la croix*

*Ton histoire est une épopée*

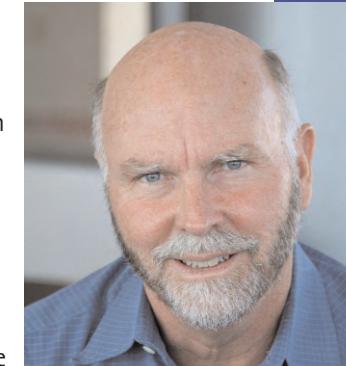
*des plus brillants exploits*

*et ta valeur, de foid trempée*

*Protégera nos foyers et nos droits*

*Protégera nos foyers et nos droits*

**Keynote Address**  
*February 12*



**Dr. J. Craig Venter**

A visionary in the field of genomic research, Dr. J. Craig Venter is widely recognized as one of the most important scientists for his invaluable contributions in the effort to spell out the three billion "letters" of the human genome—the biochemical recipe, encoded in our DNA, that leads to the development of a human being.

Dr. Venter founded The Institute for Genomic Research in 1992 where he and his team decoded the genome of the first free-living organism using their new whole genome shotgun technique. In 1998, Dr. Venter founded and was first president of Celera Genomics where he sequenced the human genome (as well as the genomes of the fruit fly, mouse, and rat) using the whole genome shotgun technique, new mathematical algorithms, and new automated DNA sequencing machines. To continue his groundbreaking research, Dr. Venter founded in 2002 the not for profit J. Craig Venter Institute. One of the exciting projects at his institute is the Sorcerer II Expedition, a global oceanographic expedition launched in 2003 to obtain and study microbes from the world's seas and soils. This ongoing mission is yielding insights into these new organisms that make up the vast realm of life on this planet.

	<b>Research Symposium</b> <b>Environmental and social determinants of allergy and asthma</b> Moderator: Dr. Frances Silverman, Professor, University of Toronto "Socio-economic status and asthma control" Dr. Wendy Ungar Associate Professor, University of Toronto "Effectiveness of home interventions to reduce asthma morbidity in low-income children" Dr. Tim Takaro Associate Professor, Simon Fraser University "Challenges of characterizing acute and chronic pollutant exposures of city dwellers across multiple microenvironments" Dr. Jeff Brook Air Quality Research Branch, Environment Canada	Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor	<b>Networking Reception</b> East Ballroom & Foyer, 2nd Floor	6:00-7:00 pm
1:30-2:30 pm				Tuesday, February 13
1:30-1:50 pm				7:30-8:50 am
1:50-2:10 pm				8:50-9:00 am
2:10-2:30 pm				9:15-10:15 am
2:30-3:30 pm	<b>Research Symposium</b> <b>Partnerships in clinical research in allergy and asthma</b> Moderators: Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Chair, Department of Medicine, McMaster University, and Dr. Louis-Philippe Boulet, Professor of Medicine, Université Laval "Models of industry-supported academic research: AllerGen's Clinical Investigator Collaborative" Dr. Gail Gauvreau McMaster University, "Clinical Investigator Collaborative industry partner: Corporate perspectives of academic collaborations" Dr. Allan Hamilton Research and Development, Boehringer Ingelheim, "Interface with lung health" Dr. Fiona Webster Assistant Director, Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health "Developing desensitizing vaccines for allergic diseases: The university spin-out route" Dr. Mark Larché McMaster University	Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor	<b>Breakfast Buffet</b> Centre-East Ballroom Foyer, 2nd Floor	10:15-10:45 am
2:30-2:45 pm				10:45 am-12:00 pm
2:45-3:00 pm				10:55-11:15 am
3:00-3:15 pm				11:15-11:35 am
3:15-3:30 pm				11:35-11:55 am
3:30-4:00 pm	<b>Break and Poster Viewing</b> East Ballroom & Foyer, 2nd Floor		<b>Presentations by Students</b>	12:00-1:00 pm
4:00-5:30 pm	<b>Research Symposium</b> <b>Research, education and knowledge translation in food allergy, anaphylaxis and asthma</b> Moderators: Dr. Ann Clarke, McGill University, and Dr. Susan Elliott, McMaster University "Bringing research on food allergy into clinical practice" Dr. Susan Waserman McMaster University "Asthma education in Canada" Ms. Shawna McGhan University of Alberta Advocating for anaphylaxis legislation Ms. Laurie Harada Anaphylaxis Canada Social determinants of successful knowledge translation Dr. Miriam Stewart, CIHR Institute of Gender and Health; and Dr. Jeff Masuda, McMaster University	Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor	<b>Networking Luncheon</b> Centre-East Ballroom, 2nd Floor	1:00-2:00 pm
4:00-4:10 pm				2:00-3:20 pm
4:10-4:30 pm				2:00-2:20 pm
4:30-4:50 pm				2:20-2:40 pm
4:50-5:10 pm				2:40-3:00 pm
				3:00-3:20 pm
				3:20-3:45 pm