

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Graduate Student Research Awards continue to support exceptional students

TORONTO, ON, October 30, 2018 – Asthma Canada and the Allergy, Genes and Environment Network (AllerGen NCE), a national Networks of Centres of Excellence, are pleased to announce the 2018-2019 Asthma Canada / AllerGen Graduate Student Research Award recipients within Asthma Canada’s *National Research Program*.

The grants support Master’s and Doctoral students from across Canada who are involved in early-onset and late-onset asthma research. The initiative not only advances promising research, but also fosters the next generation of outstanding asthma researchers in Canada.

2018-2019 Graduate Student Research Award recipients are:

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Asthma Canada / AllerGen Goran-Enhorning Graduate Student Research Award</i> \$8,925 to support investigations into early-onset asthma by a PhD student</p>
<p>Hadeesha Piyadasa (University of Manitoba) Supervisor: Dr. Neeloffer Mookherjee, Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine & Immunology “An immunomodulatory innate defence regulator (IDR) peptide alleviates airway inflammation and hyperresponsiveness.”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Asthma Canada / AllerGen Goran-Enhorning Graduate Student Research Award</i> \$10,000 to support investigations into early-onset asthma by an M.Sc. student</p>
<p>Jaelyn Parks (Simon Fraser University) Supervisor: Dr. Tim Takaro, Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences; Associate Dean, Research “Exploring Low Cotinine Levels as a Biomarker of Tobacco Use & Dietary Intake.”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Asthma Canada / AllerGen Bastable-Potts Graduate Student Research Awards</i> \$20,000 to support investigations into late-onset asthma by a PhD student</p>
<p>Ryan Huff (The University of British Columbia) Supervisor: Dr. Christopher Carlsten, Professor, Head of Respiratory Medicine, Department of Medicine “Diesel Exhaust Induces Glucocorticoid Resistance (DIGR).”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Asthma Canada / AllerGen Bastable-Potts Graduate Student Research Awards</i> \$20,000 to support investigations into late-onset asthma by a PhD student</p>
<p>Xiaoshu Cao (University of Toronto) Supervisor: Dr. T. Douglas Bradley, Professor, Department of Medicine “Investigating the effects of obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) and rostral fluid shift on the pathophysiology of asthma.”</p>

“Asthma Canada is the only national organization solely dedicated to helping Canadians affected by asthma and investing in research is a critical component of this work,” said Vanessa Foran, President & CEO of Asthma Canada. “Through this awards program, we are enabling graduate students to investigate better management practices and treatments, as well as to search for a cure for asthma, a condition that affects more than three million Canadians.”

“We are delighted to partner with Asthma Canada on this exciting joint initiative, launched in 2017, to help early career researchers bring new ideas, innovations and discoveries to the field of asthma research,” added Dr. Judah Denburg, Scientific Director and CEO of AllerGen. “Congratulations to our 2018-19 award recipients Hadeesha Piyadasa, Ryan Huff, Xiaoshu Cao and Jaclyn Parks—inspiring young researchers hoping to make a difference in the lives of people living with asthma.”

About Asthma Canada

[Asthma Canada](#) is a national organization that provides evidence-based, age-appropriate asthma information, education, management tools and support programs for Canadians with asthma. Asthma Canada also supports strategic research to improve the quality of life of people living with asthma, and ultimately, find a cure. More information about Asthma Canada’s *National Research Program* is available at www.asthma.ca.

About AllerGen NCE Inc.

[AllerGen](#) is a member of Canada’s Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program with a mandate to support research, networking, commercialization, knowledge mobilization and capacity-building activities that contribute to reducing the morbidity, mortality, and socioeconomic impact of allergic and related immune diseases.

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