

AllerGen Research Team Awarded Five-Year CIHR Grant

Dr. Bruce Mazer, McGill University, and a national team of AllerGen researchers have received a five-year operating grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Nutrition Metabolism and Diabetes. The award, valued at \$392,000, will support GET-FACTS: Genetics, Environment and Therapies: Food Allergy Clinical Tolerance Studies—a project which combines components of population genetics, immunology, clinical medicine and sociocultural analyses to study the nature of food allergies.

GET-FACTS aims to identify genetic and environmental factors influencing allergy and tolerance, investigate the role of microbial contamination in immunological tolerance and sensitivity to foods, and search for novel biomarkers of clinical allergy and tolerance in existing Canadian therapeutic trials.

The GET-FACTS proposal was ranked first by the CIHR review committee for Programmatic Grants in Food and Health.

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Knowledge from the Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CanFAST) projects continues to contribute to improved clinical management of food allergies and to identify food safety thresholds that inform public health standards, regulations and food industry guidelines. The launch of the synergistic GET-FACTS: Genetics, Environment and Therapies: Food Allergy Clinical Tolerance Studies initiative earlier this year will assist CanFAST to transition from knowledge discovery to knowledge translation, and to catalyze the development of a national food allergy strategy to improve the lives of Canadians living with food allergies and anaphylaxis.

In June 2013, GET-FACTS was awarded a five-year operating grant from the CIHR Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes. The award, valued at almost \$2 million, will allow AllerGen investigators and collaborators to study the genetic and environmental factors influencing allergy and tolerance, investigate the role of microbial contamination in immunological tolerance and sensitivity to foods, and search for novel biomarkers of clinical allergy and tolerance in existing Canadian therapeutic trials.

from AllerGen's 2013-2014 Annual Report