

Needed: Your Video Testimonials - compelling 1-minute stories

In preparation for AllerGen's Network NCE Expert Panel Site Visit on September 20, 2011 and in addition to the previously requested written testimonials, we would like to invite you to record a short video describing the benefits of your AllerGen experience. This video clip should be 30 – 60 seconds long and will be part of a montage to showcase the HQP value-added section at the renewal presentation in September. Please remember that we all need to contribute to the success of this Network moving forward and sharing your experiences with the International Expert Panel is valuable in securing future

funding to further build the HQP capacity through robust programs.

You may do a solo video or get together with your colleagues working on the same project and record a group video. Please use the common formats offered by digital camcorders, cameras, Mac's and iPhones. (BlackBerry sound is poor so if you can avoid it, try any other product)

Deadline to submit is August 31, 2011

Contact Marta Rudyk at martarudyk@allergen-nce.ca for a suggested script and questions.

AllerGen Success Stories

Three issues of AllerGen's Research Success Stories are now available in soft copy on the AllerGen website. These volumes are part of an ongoing series of publications intended for lay audiences. They highlight AllerGen research and development undertaken by teams across Canada. It is our hope that these publications offer people living with allergies, asthma, anaphylaxis and related immune diseases and their families and friends practical information about new, leading-edge research results.



AllerGen HQP's Took Centre Stage at the 2011 Annual Research Conference

AllerGen hosted its sixth annual research conference entitled *Innovation from cell to society*⁶ on February 6-8th, 2011 at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver, British Columbia. The conference was attended by 225 registered participants of which, 66 (29%) were HQP's. Also in attendance were researchers, research collaborators, partner organizations, stakeholder groups, industry partners, sponsors, members of the general public and administrative staff and coordinators.

One of the highlights of this year's event was the trainee poster sessions. The previous year's record of 51 posters was significantly increased by 33%. Of the 68 posters on display, 61 competed for research awards.

AllerGen added a new capacity building opportunity for students to develop their presentation skills and showcase their work this year. Students presented a one-minute "elevator pitch" style presentation about the "what, so what, now what" of their research during oral "lightning" round sessions. This format offered everyone a chance to present their results to conference delegates.



Save the Date – 7th Annual Research Conference will be held in Toronto, ON from February 5 to 7, 2012

The Winners and Runners-Up of AllerGen's 2011 Student Poster Competition were as follows:

Gene-Environment Interaction: Programme A



Winner: Luisa Giles supervised by Dr. Chris Carlsten, University of British Columbia, presented *The Effects of Pre-Exposure to Diesel Exhaust on a 20km Cycling Time Trial Performance and Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Parameters in Endurance-Trained Males*

Runner Up: Huan Shu supervised by Dr. Tim Takaro, University of British Columbia, presented *Potential Sources of Phthalate Exposure in the Vancouver CHILD Study at Three Months of Age*

Diagnostics and Therapeutics: Programme B



Winner: Mathew Tunis supervised by Dr. Jean Marshall, Dalhousie University, presented *Mast Cells Are Not Required for the Induction of Oral Tolerance in Mice*

Runner Up: Charis-Patricia Segeritz supervised by Dr. Tobias Kollmann, University of British Columbia, presented *The Immune-Prophylactic Vaccine *Lm* Δ (*trpSactA*)/pSPO-PShlyOVA Protects Neonates from Asthma*

Public Health, Ethics, Policy and Society: Programme C



Winner: Natalia Mykhaylova supervised by Dr. Greg Evans, University of Toronto, presented *Design and Testing of a Portable, High Time Resolution System for Monitoring Air Pollutant Mixtures Associated with Allergy Onset and Development*

Runner Up: Elinor Simons supervised by Dr. Teresa To and Dr. Sharon D. Dell, University of Toronto, presented *How Does the Timing of Home Environmental Tobacco Smoke Exposure During Childhood Affect the Age of Asthma Development?*

The AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNP) Annual Networking Evening

Each year, the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNP) hosts a networking reception during the annual conference. This year's ASNP event was hosted at the beautiful Vancouver Aquarium.

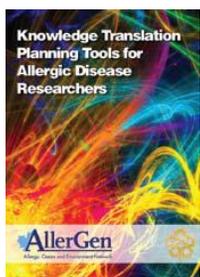
Over 125 conference delegates attended from undergraduate trainees to leading national and international researchers. The venue facilitated games,

conversation, networking as well as indoor and outdoor aquatic life viewing. Also in attendance was one large sea otter that showed off his buoy on a rope!



Knowledge Translation Planning Tools for Allergic Disease Researchers

The AllerGen Knowledge Translation Planning Tools for Allergic Disease Researchers was published in 2009 and has been distributed at the AllerGen annual conferences in both Quebec City in 2010 and this year in Vancouver, as well as by mail to all AllerGen researchers. It has been over a year since the tool was officially launched and based on the results of a recent survey, the tool has been very useful to those that have used it. For those of you who have not seen or used this tool, we encourage you to download it from our website and apply it to your project results.



Downloadable Integrated KT planning tools are available in **Word** and **Excel** format for:

- Biomedical Researchers
- Clinical, Health Services and Population/Public Health Researchers
- End-of-Grant Knowledge Translation

Individual formats: www.allergen-nce.ca (home page)

Full PDF document available: <http://www.allergen-nce.ca/documents/KTTTool.pdf>

AllerGen Announced the \$250,000 Inaugural Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship Award Winner

On April 11, 2011 AllerGen hosted a special announcement at the Meakins-Christie Laboratories, McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. The event was attended by over 20 individuals who celebrated the winner of this prestigious fellowship award. Dr. Moshe



Ben-Shoshan, from McGill University and the Montreal Children's Hospital in Quebec, is the inaugural winner of the AllerGen Emerging

Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship award valued at \$250,000. This award is an innovative solution to the shortage of allergy and clinical immunology researchers and specialists in Canada.

Dr. Ben-Shoshan completed his pediatric residency at Sourasky medical center in Tel-Aviv, Israel and subsequently completed his fellowship in Pediatric Allergy/Clinical Immunology at Montreal Children's Hospital in 2009. Over the past year, he worked as a research fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Ann Clarke, Professor, Department of Medicine, McGill University. His primary research interest is in the epidemiology of food allergy. He is currently a physician in the Department of Allergy and Immunology at Montreal Children's Hospital and is involved in several AllerGen research initiatives on food allergy and anaphylaxis. AllerGen congratulates Dr. Ben-Shoshan!

The 2011-2012 Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship Competition is Now Open!

The goal of the AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship is to enable Canadian Allergists and Clinical Immunologists to pursue allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis academic research training immediately following sub-specialty training in order to:

- Increase the number of medical students pursuing an Allergy and Clinical Immunology sub-specialty and undertaking related basic and/or clinical research while serving Canadians suffering from asthma, allergies and related immune diseases
- Increase research capacity in the field of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, and
- Foster and enhance academic innovation arising from basic and clinical research.

The AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship 2011-2012 provides a stipend of up to \$250,000 for a maximum of two years for clinicians who

have completed Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training within the past 18 months at a Canadian academic health sciences centre. Preference will be given to applicants whose host institution can confirm that the applicant has been identified for a junior faculty position following successful completion of the Fellowship and/or continued provincial research funding support.

Eligible academic foci include basic and/or clinical research related to allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis. **Submission Deadline: October 14, 2011**

Visit the home page of www.allergen-nce.ca to view the full document titled *Request for Applications*. Fill out your application today or encourage your friends and colleagues to compete for this highly sought after award.

AllerGen and Michael Smith Foundation Health Research (MSFHR) Trainee Awards

In December 2010, AllerGen and MSFHR signed a MOU agreeing to jointly fund the highest ranking candidates in AllerGen's area of research, in MSFHR's trainee grants competition.

Congratulations to Dr. Jeremy Hirota and Dr. Francesco Sava who are recent recipients of the 2011 MSFHR/AllerGen Post-Doctoral Fellow Research Trainee Awards.

Dr. Hirota will study the role of the airway epithelium NLRP3 inflammasome in asthma pathogenesis with

AllerGen Principal Investigator, Dr. Darryl Knight at the University of British Columbia, James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre.



Dr. Sava will conduct his research on diesel exhaust as an adjuvant to allergen-mediated oxidative stress and immune response in the asthmatic lung at Vancouver General Hospital with AllerGen Principal Investigator, Dr. Christopher Carlsten.

Mitacs Accelerate – Industry Internships

In partnership with companies, government and universities across Canada, Mitacs' Accelerate internship training program provides graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with the opportunity to transfer their skills from theory to real-world application. In return, companies gain a competitive advantage by accessing high-quality research expertise. Interns spend approximately half of their time on-site with an industry partner; the remainder at their university advancing the research under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. Each four-month internship project receives \$15,000 in direct funding, with the partner organization and Mitacs each providing \$7,500.

[Click here for link](#)



FRSQ-AllerGen Clinical Research Scholars – Junior 1 Career Award

Letter of Intent Deadline: August 22, 2011
Application Deadline: October 3, 2011

FRSQ in partnership with AllerGen jointly supports up to two outstanding young investigators wishing to pursue research in the field of allergic and related immune diseases. The Clinical Research Scholars – Junior 1 Career Award is designed to facilitate the recruitment of qualified clinical researchers who would like to begin or continue an independent career in health-care research. The award(s) is awarded to the highest ranking candidate(s) in AllerGen's area of research.

[Click here for link](#)



AllerGen Travel Awards

Since April, AllerGen has supported, through matching funding, the attendance of 17 trainees at nine national and international events including:

- Association of Clinical Research Professionals Annual Conference
- Injury and Repair Mechanisms in Chronic Airways Disease International Conference
- American Thoracic Society Annual General Meeting
- Canadian Respiratory Conference
- Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting
- Anaphylaxis Canada Spring Conference
- International Eosinophil Society Research Symposium
- Spring School of Population Genomics and Genetic Epidemiology
- International Medical Geographers Symposium.

Travel Awards are available to AllerGen Investigators and Highly Qualified Personal (HQP) to support attendance and participation in non-AllerGen events that are aligned with AllerGen's mission, values and goals. These events must provide the opportunity for: networking, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, new skill development, and maximize learning opportunities. Requested support must be matched by non-NCE, non-AllerGen funds.

Email Michelle Harkness for further details and/or an application form at michelleharkness@allergen-nce.ca

ASNP Executive Elections

In light of the upcoming NCE Renewal Application, nominations for the ASNP Executive have been postponed until later this fall. The current ASNP Executive has agreed to extend its term until December 31, 2011. Watch for details by email from Michelle Harkness, Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) and Events Coordinator.



AllerGen Trainee Symposium

The 6th Annual Trainee Symposium was held in Nova Scotia at a hotel overlooking the Halifax waterfront. This event is intended to offer AllerGen HQPs and ASNP members professional development in areas not typically offered within their regular laboratory training or academic programs.

Some of the highlights of this year's event were:



Mentoring and Teaching by Michael Cyr, MSc, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor, Division of Clinical Immunology & Allergy and Staff Physician, Hamilton Health Sciences

Knowledge Translation by Jean Marshall, PhD, AllerGen Investigator and Professor and Head Microbiology and Immunology, Dalhousie University

Strategic Planning by Diana Royce, EdD, Managing Director and COO, AllerGen NCE Inc.

A Career Panel featuring:

Geoff Maksym, PhD, Director and Associate Professor, School of Biomedical Engineering and Physics and Atmospheric Science, Dalhousie University;

Jeremy Hirota, PhD, PDF (c), iCAPTURE Centre, University of British Columbia ; and

Donna G Comeau, MSc, BSc, PhC, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy and Planning, Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness

Those who stayed to the very end, enjoyed a very special workshop with **Greg Rex, MD**, Specialist in Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology, IWK Health Centre and private practice, Halifax, Nova Scotia whose presentation was about *Allergy Testing: The Underbelly of Alternate Medicine*.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2011 AllerGen CAIDATI Award Recipients

Recipient	Institution	Project
Undergraduates		
Kaitlyn Carson	Dalhousie University	Oral exposure to a TLR2 agonist interferes with oral tolerance induction to PB in a TLR-2 dependent manner
Jie (Janet) Xu	University of British Columbia	How CLA treatment can modulate lipid raft formation affecting RSV-induced inflammation
Masters		
Karolynn Hsu	University of British Columbia	Functional Genomics in Asthma and Allergy
Chris Pascoe	University of British Columbia	Gene expression in airway smooth cells of asthmatic and non-asthmatic lungs via microarray analysis and targeted gene expression
PhD		
Adrian Baatjes	McMaster University	The role of T regulatory cells in allergic asthma
Elaine Fuertes	University of British Columbia	Traffic-related air pollution as a risk factor for childhood allergic rhinitis, and the role played by genetic variability
Cynthia Kanagaratham	McGill University	Genetic dissection of Phenotypes defining susceptibility to allergic asthma: Airways Hyperresponsiveness and Atopy
Elinor Simons	Sick Children's Hospital	How does the timing of home environmental tobacco smoke and particulate exposure during childhood affect the age of asthma development
PDF		
Katherine Arias	McMaster University	Early life microbial influence and the imprinting of allergic or tolerance phenotypes
Meghan Azad *	University of Alberta	The impact of antibiotic use, caesarean section delivery and formula feeding on infant microbiota
Michelle North	Queen's University	The role epigenetics in the development of origins of allergic disease