

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



## CHILD Study assesses environmental exposures for over 3,200 babies

Researchers from AllerGen's Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study have assessed the indoor and outdoor environmental exposures for 3,217 Canadian babies — an unprecedented accomplishment for any birth cohort.

The CHILD Study is examining how a child's environment during pregnancy and in the first few years of life interacts with genetics to affect the risk of developing allergies, asthma, type 2 diabetes and other chronic diseases.

As part of the study, investigators conducted a careful inspection of over 3,000 babies' homes, including an analysis of exposure to dust, mould, furry pets, chemicals and cleaning products, cooking emissions, second-hand smoke and traffic-related air pollution.

No other study has sampled the home environment of such a large number of study participants in such detail, and with the ability to learn about epigenetic changes and the potential role of the microbiome. A [new CHILD Study publication](#) in the *Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology* outlines which environmental factors

were measured, how this was accomplished and how the data might be analyzed.

"Asthma is the most common chronic childhood disease and many cases may be preventable," says [Dr. Tim Takaro](#), a professor at Simon Fraser University and the paper's lead author. "The CHILD Study is helping us to gain a better understanding of the link between environment and health, which may help us to intervene early in life to prevent asthma from occurring."

"The study's size and the rigour with which we assess environmental exposure will increase our capacity to detect associations between environmental factors and health outcomes."

"This is one of the largest studies in the world to look in depth at how genes and the environment interact to impact the development of allergies, asthma and other chronic diseases," adds [Dr. Malcolm Sears](#), McMaster University professor and director of the CHILD Study. "We believe the study's findings will influence public policy, parenting decisions, purchasing behaviours, and even urban planning."

Read the [press release](#).

## CHILD Study shows infant exposure to air pollution increases risk of allergies

A new study emerging from AllerGen's CHILD Study has revealed an association between sensitivity to allergens and exposure to traffic-related air pollution during infancy.

The study, "[Perinatal Exposure to Traffic-Related Air Pollution and Atopy at 1 Year of Age in a Multi-Center Canadian Birth Cohort Study](#)," led by AllerGen investigator Dr. Michael Brauer,

was published in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives*.



The study also reported on factors linked to lower allergy rates (including: presence of a cat, dog or older sibling in

the house; absence of an attached garage; consumption of dairy products, eggs, nuts or grains during the first year of life; and daycare attendance), and found that—of the cities covered by the study—Vancouver had the largest proportion of children developing a sensitivity to allergens.

The study's findings have been widely reported in the media, including by [CBC](#), [The Telegraph](#) (UK), [The Toronto Sun](#), [The Vancouver Sun](#), [Global News](#), and [The Times-Colonist](#).

Read the [press release](#).



## New C-CARE findings on anaphylaxis recurrence

The annual incidence of recurrent anaphylaxis in children is 29%, according to new findings from AllerGen's [Cross-Canada Anaphylaxis REgistry \(C-CARE\)](#) project.

Dr. Andrew O'Keefe, an allergist from St. John's, Newfoundland, [presented the results](#) at the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology 2015 conference in February.

Of 266 children presenting with anaphylaxis in two Montreal hospitals, parents of 96 completed follow-up questionnaires about allergic reactions in the subsequent two-year period. The children experienced a total of 42 recurrent episodes of anaphylaxis, representing a 29% recurrence rate—higher than previously reported. Food was the trigger in 91% of the cases, and most reactions were moderate in severity.

Further, the study found that the children were less likely to have peanut as a trigger and that epinephrine auto-injectors were underused prior to arrival in the emergency department.

"This study highlights that, once diagnosed, children with allergies and their families need to remain vigilant," says Dr. O'Keefe. "Patients, parents, and families should work with their healthcare providers to ensure that they understand the appropriate use and technique to administer their epinephrine auto-injector in case of anaphylactic reactions."

AllerGen's C-CARE study, led by [Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan](#), a pediatric allergist and immunologist at the Montreal Children's Hospital, is the first-ever prospective study on anaphylaxis. It is helping researchers to assess the rate, triggers and management of anaphylaxis across Canada in order to improve management and care.



## Better estimates of food allergy prevalence

For years, experts have relied on telephone surveys to estimate the number of Canadians with food allergies. But how do you accurately measure the prevalence of food allergies when people do not answer the phone or refuse to be surveyed?

An innovative paper by AllerGen researchers is the first to demonstrate that adjustment for nonresponse can lead to important changes in estimating food allergy prevalence. “[Adjusting for nonresponse bias corrects overestimates of food allergy prevalence](#)” was published online in January 2015, in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: In Practice*.

The paper’s findings were based on data from a 2010–2011 AllerGen-funded study, “[Surveying Prevalence of Food Allergy in All Canadian Environments](#)”, which surveyed 5,734 Canadian households about food allergies. The research team then adjusted for nonresponse bias by gathering information from households that refused or could not be reached to complete the study. The estimates adjusted for nonresponse were lower than the non-adjusted estimates.

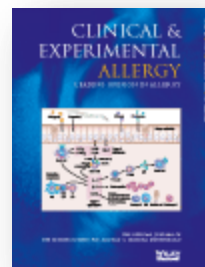
“It is evident,” concluded the paper, “that nonresponse bias can substantially influence prevalence, and ignoring bias could result in an overestimation.”

“This research is the first to consider the effect of non-response bias in the estimation of food allergy prevalence, and we have clearly demonstrated that doing so is crucial in developing accurate estimates,” says AllerGen trainee Dr. Lianne Soller, the paper’s first author.

## New CHILd Study publication on infant gut bacteria and food sensitization is “Editor’s Choice”

A new publication using [CHILd Study](#) data reports on the relationship between changes in infants’ intestinal bacteria and allergic sensitization to milk, egg or peanut at 12 months of age.

The paper “[Infant gut microbiota and food sensitization: associations in the first year of life](#)” was published in the February 2015 issue of *Clinical & Experimental Allergy* and selected as the “Editor’s Choice.”



The senior author, AllerGen investigator Dr. Anita Kozyskyj, notes how analysis of the stool samples of 166 children enrolled in the CHILd Study allowed the research team to “see which bacteria present at three months predicted the development of food sensitization at one year.” These gut bacterial patterns during infancy may serve as biomarkers for future disease.

“Ultimately, we hope to develop new ways of preventing or treating allergies, possibly by modifying the gut microbiota,” adds lead author and AllerGen investigator Dr. Meghan Azad.

Read the [press release](#).



## Allergic Rhinitis CIC: optimizing a nasal allergen challenge protocol

The nasal allergen challenge (NAC) protocol developed by AllerGen's Allergic Rhinitis – [Clinical Investigator Collaborative](#) (AR-CIC) is described in a new publication in *Allergy, Asthma & Clinical Immunology*.

The article, "[Nasal Allergen Challenge Protocol Optimization for Studying AR Pathophysiology and Evaluating Novel Therapies](#)," outlines how Drs Anne Ellis and Helen Neighbour developed and optimized Standard Operating Procedures for each step of the NAC model, including participant eligibility, allergen introduction, symptom recording, and sample collection.

The AR-CIC is a multi-centre initiative that studies the pathophysiology of allergic rhinitis by conducting clinical trials to evaluate the efficacy of new medications for its treatment.

The AR-CIC's NAC model introduces allergen into the nasal cavity of subjects, while controlling for the many environmental variables potentially at play. This standardized and efficient approach is indispensable to the effective study of allergic rhinitis.

"This publication provides an easy reference tool for anyone interesting in pursuing clinical trials with an optimized nasal allergen challenge protocol," comments Dr. Ellis.

"It also reflects the growth of expertise in these techniques within the centres involved in the AR-CIC and the efficacy of a network approach to developing such tools. All-in-all, the article lets the world know that the AR-CIC is 'open for business.' "

## Allergic kids more likely exposed to peanut at home than at school

An AllerGen-supported study, "[Accidental exposures to peanut in a large cohort of Canadian children with peanut allergy](#)," has found that children who are allergic to peanuts are more likely to be exposed to them in their own homes than at school.

The study's lead author, Sabine Cherkaoui of the University of Montreal, is a Clinical Immunology/Allergy Fellow supervised by AllerGen investigator Dr. Ann Clarke.

"The take-home message from this research is that allergen exposures continue to occur, mostly in the homes of the peanut allergic children, and most are not optimally managed by patients, caregivers, and health professionals," says Dr. Clarke.

The study's results, published in the journal *Clinical and Translational Allergy*, were reported by [Radio Canada International](#), [The Montreal Gazette](#), [The Daily Mail](#) (UK), and [The Times of India](#).

Read the University of Montreal [press release](#).



CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL  
ALLERGY

## Study finds protein difference in lungs of asthmatics

Surfactant protein D (SP-D) is an important molecule that protects lung cells from inhaled pollutants, microbes and allergens.

In a [new study](#) published in *Respiratory Research*, AllerGen researchers report that SP-D in asthmatics differs from that found in non-asthmatics, and that this difference can influence a person's susceptibility to infections and result in an altered inflammatory response in asthmatic patients.

The study also showed that SP-D protein expression in asthmatics compared to non-asthmatics differed in response to IL-13, a cytokine closely associated with allergic asthma. This regulation difference may be a cause of the higher infection and exacerbation incidence in asthmatics.

The research team included AllerGen investigator [Dr. Delbert Dorscheid](#) and AllerGen trainees Drs Gurpreet Singhera and Jie Xu, all at The University of British Columbia.



## Follow AllerGen on Twitter

**AllerGen NCE Inc.** @AllerGen\_NCE · May 20  
Unlocking the Mysteries of Food Allergy - What can we learn from research? presented by [@AnaphylaxisCAN](#) Sat, May 23, 2015 in Toronto, ON

← ↻ ⭐ || ...

AllerGen NCE Inc. retweeted  
**Dr. Ellis** @DrAnneEllis · May 19  
The launch of the AR-CIC within [@AllerGen](#) celebrated with this hot-off-the-press publication [#OpenAccess aacijournal.com/content/pdf/s1...](#)

← ↻ 3 ⭐ 4 ...

**AllerGen NCE Inc.** @AllerGen\_NCE · May 19  
Congratulations to [@jeremyhirot](#) on receiving the Respiratory Structure & Function Ann Woolcock Award at [#ATS2015](#)

← ↻ 3 ⭐ 2 || ...

**AllerGen NCE Inc.** @AllerGen\_NCE · May 14  
Thank you [@AllergyKidsDoc](#) for highlighting the underuse of epinephrine [bit.ly/1yyUwuQ](#) [#FoodAllergyAwarenessWeek](#)

← ↻ 1 ⭐ || ...

**AllerGen NCE Inc.** @AllerGen\_NCE · May 14  
Worst allergy season ever? For once, that's not that far off [fw.to/8qaOnYl](#)

← ↻ 1 ⭐ || ... [View summary](#)

AllerGen NCE Inc. retweeted  
**Dr. Dave Stukus** @AllergyKidsDoc · May 19  
Excellent statement by [@acaai](#) why recent study suggesting children w [#asthma](#) be screened for peanut allergy is wrong [newswise.com/articles/ameri...](#)

← ↻ 24 ⭐ 15 ...

AllerGen NCE Inc. retweeted  
**Meghan Azad** @MeghanAzad · May 19  
Hiring a postdoc! Join me & [@CHILDSStudyMB](#) to study [#breastfeeding](#), breast milk composition and child health: [umanitoba.ca/admin/human\\_re...](#)

← ↻ 6 ⭐ 3 ...

**AllerGen NCE Inc.** @AllerGen\_NCE · May 8  
The [@CHILDSSTUDY](#) will increase capacity to detect associations b/w environmental factors & health says [@ttakaro](#) [@SFU](#) [bit.ly/1H3D2Nhlt](#)

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## AWARDS



Dr. Sears (R) accepts his award from Drs. Susan Waserman and Robert Oliphant

### CHILD Study Director Dr. Malcolm Sears honoured by the Asthma Society of Canada

AllerGen investigator [Dr. Malcom Sears](#) has been honoured with an *Award for Leadership in Health Research*, presented by the [Asthma Society of Canada](#) (ASC).

Dr. Sears is the Co-Director of AllerGen's ground-breaking Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study, a longitudinal birth cohort study investigating the early-life origins of asthma, allergies and other immune-regulated and chronic diseases.

Results emerging from the Study have generated numerous publications that have captured the attention of the global scientific community, patient organizations, industry and policymakers.

"Dr. Sears' leadership of the CHILD Study has positioned Canadian research to transform our understanding of how asthma and allergies are

prevented, managed and treated," observes AllerGen's Scientific Director, Dr. Judah Denburg.

"This recognition of Dr. Sears for his lifelong commitment to patient-oriented research is well-deserved and timely. The Asthma Society of Canada is to be commended for highlighting the relevance of his work to improve the lives of those living with allergies and asthma."

The award was presented to Dr. Sears by AllerGen investigator Dr. Susan Waserman and ASC's President and CEO Dr. Robert Oliphant on May 4, 2015, at the ASC's "[Clearing the Air](#)" event in Toronto, ON.

Read the [press release](#).



## Head of AllerGen's CIC named a McMaster *Distinguished University Professor*

Dr. Paul O'Byrne, principal investigator for AllerGen's [Clinical Investigator](#)



Dr. Paul O'Byrne

[Collaborative](#) (CIC) Legacy Project, Professor and Chair of Medicine at McMaster University, and Director of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health at St. Joseph's Healthcare, is one of five faculty members recently named *Distinguished University*

*Professors* by McMaster University—the institution's highest honour.

"These truly are 'complete scholars,' " said Provost David Wilkinson of Dr. O'Byrne and his fellow honorees. "They represent the best of McMaster in teaching, research and community engagement, and they should be proud of their accomplishments."

The title of *Distinguished University Professor* was created in 1996 and is awarded to "those professors who achieve the highest level of excellence in teaching, learning and research."

Read the Faculty of Health Sciences [announcement](#).

## Dr. Lorne Tyrrell wins 2015 *Killam Prize* for Health Sciences

In recognition of his more than 30 years of leadership in medical research, Dr. Lorne Tyrrell has been awarded a prestigious national [Killam Prize](#).

Dr. Tyrrell is Professor and CIHR/GSK Chair in Virology, University of Alberta, and a member of AllerGen's [Board of Directors](#).

"I heartily congratulate our esteemed colleague Dr. Tyrrell on this well-earned recognition," commented Dr. Judah Denburg, AllerGen's Scientific Director. "His ongoing lifetime contributions to health science



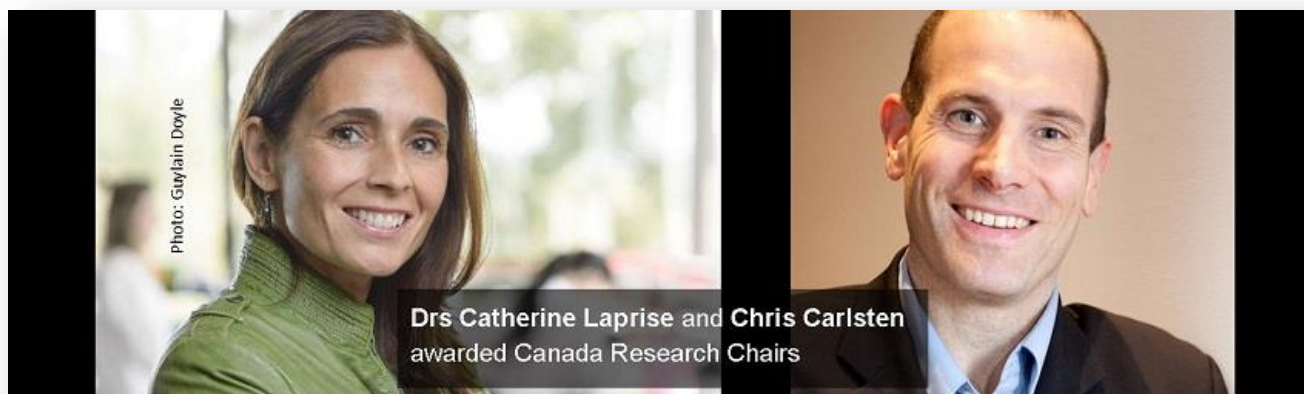
AllerGen Board Member  
Dr. Lorne Tyrrell

research are remarkable and worth celebrating. We are honoured to count him among our Board Directors."

Five *Killam Prizes* of \$100,000 are awarded each year to eminent Canadian scholars and scientists actively engaged in research.

Read the University of Alberta [news article](#) on Dr. Tyrrell's award and career.

Dr. Tyrrell was also granted a [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) from the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada on April 16, 2015.



## New Canada Research Chair awards for AllerGen investigators

AllerGen investigators Dr. Catherine Laprise and Dr. Christopher Carlsten have each been awarded a Canada Research Chair for their outstanding work in the field of asthma and allergies.

**Dr. Laprise**, a professor in the Fundamentals Sciences Department at the Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, has been awarded a Tier 1 [Canada Research Chair in Environment and Genetics of Respiratory Diseases and Allergy](#).

Dr. Laprise's work focuses on identifying genes and gene variants associated with asthma and allergy. Her research sheds light on how environmental factors such as breastfeeding, exposure to allergens, tobacco or work-related exposures can influence the activity of genes and increase the risk of developing allergic disease.

Dr. Laprise has worked on numerous AllerGen research projects and is a co-investigator with the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study.

**Dr. Carlsten**, an associate professor of medicine at The University of British Columbia (UBC), has been awarded a Tier 2 [Canada Research Chair in Occupational and Environmental Lung Disease](#).

Dr. Carlsten's research aims to understand the effects of inhaled pollutants on the lungs in order to better prevent and treat lung disease.

Dr. Carlsten leads an AllerGen-funded project investigating the mechanisms by which traffic-related air pollution may worsen the lungs' response to allergen.

The [Canada Research Chair](#) program was established by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in 2000 to help attract and retain top researchers in Canada.

Drs Laprise and Carlsten are two of 150 new and renewed chairholders across the country receiving \$138 million in new funding.



## Dr. Tim Takaro lauded

AllerGen investigator [Dr. Tim Takaro](#), a professor of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University (SFU), was awarded a 2014 [President's Award for Leadership in Sustainability](#) in January 2015.

The award recognizes SFU members who demonstrate outstanding leadership in advancing the cause of sustainability.

Dr. Takaro was recognized for "his dedication to the health impacts associated with climate change, [demonstrated] through his research, teaching and community service."

Dr. Takaro's leads AllerGen research into the links between environmental exposures—including phthalates used in the manufacture of plastics—and early development of respiratory diseases, primarily asthma.

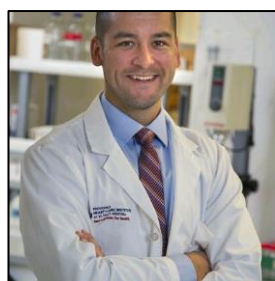
Read the award [announcement](#).



[Dr. Tim Takaro](#)

## Dr. Jeremy Hirota wins 2015 Ann Woolcock Award

AllerGen investigator and former trainee [Dr. Jeremy Hirota](#) has been awarded the 2015



[Dr. Jeremy Hirota](#)

ATS (American Thoracic Society) [Assembly on Respiratory Structure & Function Ann Woolcock Award](#).

This award, a tribute to the late [Ann Woolcock](#), recognizes young investigators for their

outstanding scientific achievements and leadership potential in the field of asthma. It was presented to Dr. Hirota at the ATS International Conference on May 18, 2015.

"I was so pleased to nominate Dr. Hirota for this award and to see him recognized, because he possesses the key qualities of scientific curiosity, integrity, and generosity—all of which make him a major asset to AllerGen," says UBC-based AllerGen investigator Dr. Chris Carlsten.

"I am thrilled to see him excel as he builds his program studying mucosal immune response to inhaled toxicants, and I look forward to teaming up with him long into the future."

Dr. Hirota is Assistant Professor of Medicine at The University of British Columbia (UBC) and Co-Director of the Chan-Yeung Centre for Occupational and Environmental Respiratory Disease. He has previously received a UBC Killam Postdoctoral Research Prize and a [Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship](#). His current research seeks to identify the mechanisms governing how environmental exposures contribute to allergic sensitization and exacerbations of asthma.



## KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION



### *Today's Parent* predicts “new hope for kids with serious food allergies”

*Today's Parent* magazine (May 2015) provides a food allergy research “checkup” in its article “[The Good News on Food Allergies](#).”

In the article, researchers from AllerGen’s Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study and the Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CanFAST) comment on: advances in predicting and preventing food allergies; desensitization to peanut, milk and egg; and AllerGen research that may soon provide answers about how genetics and environmental factors affect the likelihood of developing food allergies.

## CIHR highlights Traffic pollution, Asthma and Genetics (TAG) Study

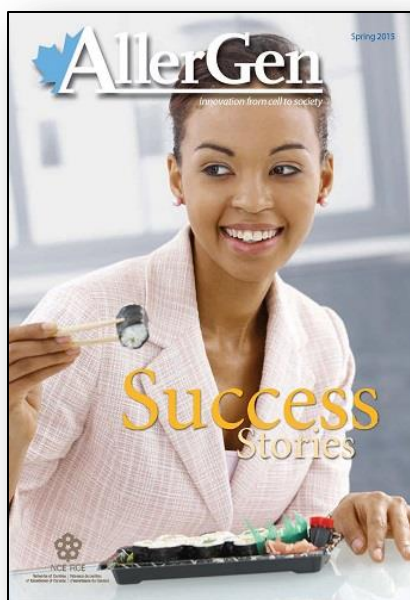
In a new web feature, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) has highlighted the AllerGen-supported [TAG Study](#) as one of seven health-related NCE success stories.

The TAG Study, led by AllerGen investigators Drs Michael Brauer and Chris Carlsten, has supported several AllerGen trainees, and has integrated participants from AllerGen partner institutions including: the Karolinska Institute; Helmholtz Zentrum München; Utrecht University; University of Groningen; Simon Fraser University; University of Manitoba; University of Alberta; and The University of British Columbia.

TAG research has generated insights that will help to develop preventive strategies related to childhood asthma and, potentially, new targeted management programs for children with genetic profiles conferring particular risk in relation to air pollution exposure.

A profile of the TAG project and its impacts appears on the CIHR’s “[NCE Success Stories](#)” webpage.

Vancouver weekly *The Georgia Straight* also [featured the project](#) on April 22, 2015.



## Inside AllerGen's Success Stories (Spring 2015)

- a vision for maximizing choice and minimizing risk for food allergic Canadians;
- an innovative peer-to-peer mentoring program for children with severe food allergies;
- a look at the epigenetic influences on allergic disease;
- a map of the molecules, interactions and pathways at play in allergies and asthma; and
- an AllerGen trainee connecting academic research, the pharmaceutical industry, and the medical community

[Read the Spring 2015 issue](#)

## Scenes from Recent KMb Events



AllerGen's **Kim Wright (L)** and **Diana Royce (R)** flank **Sylviane Duval**, AllerGen's newest KTEE mentor and member of AllerGen's Network-Supported Intellectual Property (NSIP) Advisory Committee, at the Institute for Knowledge Mobilization's 2015 Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum held May 14-15 in Montreal, QC.



**Dr. Judah Denburg** opens the [2015 AllerGen Trainee Symposium](#) on April 29 in Toronto, ON.



## TRAINEE NEWS

### HQP Video Competition awards two \$1000 prizes

The AllerGen HQP Video Competition; launched January 5, 2015, challenged members of the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNP) to create short videos highlighting the relevance and implications of their allergic disease research in a manner that would be understandable and engaging to a non-scientific audience.

The videos were evaluated by a panel of experts, whose scores accounted for 80% of the ranking. Online voting, measured by "likes" on YouTube, accounted for the remaining 20% of the scores.

Congratulations to the winners: **Rishma Chooniedass** and **Saiful Huq** from the University of Manitoba, and **David Ngan** from The University of British Columbia. A \$1000 cash prize will be awarded to the creators of each winning video.

"It was great to get a glimpse of the many interesting projects around Canada. Thank you to AllerGen for highlighting KT and its importance in research," stated Chooniedas and Huq. "We hope AllerGen holds similar competitions in the future."

"It's rewarding to realize you've gained a far larger reach than you could through traditional scientific avenues," commented Ngan.

AllerGen thanks all those who submitted a video to the competition, members of the judging panel for their time and expertise, and everyone who voted online for their favourite video.

### WINNING VIDEOS

**Rishma Chooniedass & Saiful Huq:**

[Epinephrine 4 Life](#)

*University of Manitoba*

*Epinephrine is the primary medical treatment recommended for an anaphylactic reaction. Despite this, reactions are still often inappropriately managed. Findings from the study featured in the video will facilitate the design of more effective strategies to promote the appropriate and timely use of epinephrine.*



**David Ngan: Asthma and H1N1 Swine Flu**

*The University of British Columbia*

*A disproportionately high percentage of patients who were hospitalized or who died during the 2009 H1N1 pandemic were young asthmatics. Little is known about how the asthmatic airway epithelium responds to an H1N1 viral infection. Using a murine model of allergic airway disease, the study featured in this video determined the impact of acute H1N1 infection on overall health.*

View the [HQP Video Competition 2015](#) playlist on AllerGen's YouTube channel.



## PEOPLE & PARTNER NEWS

### Dr. Bruce Mazer assumes new role at McGill University Health Centre



[Dr. Bruce Mazer](#) has been named the Deputy Executive Director/Deputy Chief Scientific Officer of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC) and Head of Child Health Research at the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC).

Dr. Mazer is division head of Allergy and Immunology at the Montreal Children's Hospital and an AllerGen investigator who is leading a study to develop an effective and safe treatment of cow's milk allergy with oral immunotherapy (OIT).

[In his new role](#), Dr. Mazer will provide leadership and direction in the promotion of the child health research at the MUHC.

### New AllerGen investigator profiled in Winnipeg health publication

**D**r. Meghan Azad, a former AllerGen trainee turned Network investigator, is working to understand the early-life origins of health and disease.

Using data collected from AllerGen's [CHILD Study](#), Dr. Azad's research focuses on how breastfeeding and breast milk composition can affect the development of childhood asthma, allergies, obesity, type 2 diabetes and other conditions.

Her work at the [Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba](#) was featured in the Winnipeg Health Region publication "[Wave](#)."

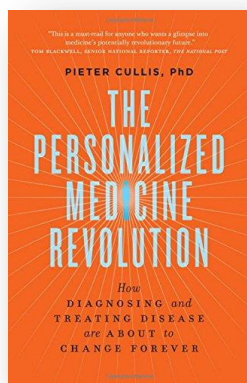
Dr. Azad is currently seeking a [post-doctoral student in the area of developmental origins of health and disease](#).



## Dr. Pieter Cullis authors “The Personalized Medicine Revolution”

In his new book “[The Personalized Medicine Revolution: How Diagnosing and Treating Disease Are About to Change Forever](#)”

(Greystone Books), Dr. Pieter Cullis explains how healthcare tailored to each individual’s unique molecular makeup will cut costs, reduce adverse drug reactions, and improve our health and well-being.



“Personalized medicine,” also known as “precision medicine” or “molecular medicine,” is based on the idea that every ailment has its roots at the molecular level and that an appropriate molecular-level treatment can now be individually tailored.

Dr. Cullis argues that, enabled by recent advances in technology and new knowledge about human genomics and proteomics, personalized medicine represents the biggest revolution in healthcare of our time.

[Dr. Cullis](#) is a member of AllerGen’s Board of Directors and a renowned expert in personalized medicine. He is a professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Director of the Life Sciences Institute at The University of British Columbia (UBC).



In March 2015, Dr. Cullis received the [Milton Wong Award for Leadership](#) from LifeSciences BC, a not-for-profit industry association that presents awards annually to recognize individuals and companies who have made a significant contribution to research and excellence in B.C.’s life sciences industry.

## AllerGen investigators praised in Parliament

AllerGen investigator Dr. Meghan Azad was pleased to join a [conversation on maternal, newborn and child health](#) (MNCH) with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates in Ottawa, ON, on February 25, 2015.

The moderated discussion focused on ways of ensuring that MNCH remains a global priority, and on the need to develop clear, measurable objectives to improve the health of women and children around the world.

Dr. Azad and Dr. Allan Becker, an AllerGen investigator and a site leader for AllerGen’s CHILD Study, were [recognized by Member of Parliament Joyce Bateman](#) for their ground-breaking work in maternal and child health.





## MEDIA

# LEAP study: AllerGen investigators interviewed by media

A new UK study involving more than 600 babies shows that consumption of peanuts in the first year of life can prevent the development of peanut allergy in high-risk infants.



The study, “[Randomized Trial of Peanut Consumption in Infants at Risk for Peanut Allergy](#),” found that infants (between 4–11 months) who consumed at least 6 grams of peanut per week were significantly less likely to develop an allergy by 5 years of age, compared to infants who avoided peanut entirely.

The study was published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* and findings were presented February 23, 2015, at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

AllerGen researchers and pediatric allergists commented on the significance of the study and the importance of its findings for Canadian families in various media interviews:

**Dr. Paul Keith:** CBC Radio, Ontario Morning

**Dr. Susan Waserman:** CBC News

**Dr. Doug Mack:** CTV News

**Dr. Bruce Mazer** explains how the Learning Early about Peanut Allergy (LEAP) trial is changing our approach to peanut allergy:



[CTV news interview](#)

[National Post opinion editorial](#)

[Montreal Gazette opinion editorial](#)

## CHILD Study interview

[Listen](#) to the comprehensive interview (in French) on the CHILD Study with AllerGen investigator Dr. Catherine Laprise, broadcast on RadioCanada on May 23, 2015.

For media coverage of Network research and Network investigators visit “[AllerGen in the News](#)” on the AllerGen website.



## EVENTS



### AllerGen's 2016 Research Conference Sun. May 29 - Wed. June 1, 2016 The Fairmont Waterfront Hotel Vancouver, BC

#### THEME:

COLLABORATING AND CONNECTING:  
Globalizing Advances in Allergic Disease  
Research

Featuring AllerGen research results and  
connecting Canadian researchers to  
international allergy and asthma teams, cohorts  
and initiatives.

#### DATES & LOCATION:

May 29 – June 1, 2016  
The Fairmont Waterfront Hotel  
Vancouver, British Columbia

#### PROGRAM CHAIR:



**Dr. Michael Kobor**, Professor,  
Department of Medical  
Genetics, The University of  
British Columbia, who was  
recently appointed lead of the  
“**Healthy Starts**” research  
theme at the Child & Family  
Research Institute, is the

2016 Conference Program Chair.

**Please reserve the dates for this event.**

**Inquiries:** [graziellainfanti@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:graziellainfanti@allergen-nce.ca)

## Breastfeeding, Microbiome and Immunonutrition Workshop

On **June 2, 2015**, prior to the commencement  
of the [WUN in-FLAME Workshop](#), to be held in  
Marburg, Germany June 2-4, AllerGen  
investigator Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj will lead a pre-  
meeting satellite LactoActive / BreMir /  
[SyMBIOTA](#) workshop on Breastfeeding,  
Microbiome and Immunonutrition.

On the agenda are the first results of a  
comparative study on international breast milk

metabolites being led by Drs. Kozyrskyj,  
Prescott and Campbell, for which breast milk  
samples from Cape Town (South Africa),  
Detroit (USA), Perth (Australia), Chiba (Japan)  
and Oslo (Norway) are being analyzed at the  
Metabolomics Innovation Centre at the  
University of Alberta, with the help of AllerGen  
trainee, Petya Koleva.

View the [program](#).



## Personalized Medicine Summit



Dr. Pieter Cullis invites all those interested to attend the *Personalized Medicine Summit* meeting being held **June 7-9, 2015**, at The University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.

Details can be found on the Summit [website](#).

## CSACI Annual Scientific Meeting 2015

The CSACI Annual Scientific Meeting aims to provide the best educational experience for the allergy community. Specialists, researchers and allied health professionals will gather, in an atmosphere conducive to medical, scientific and social interaction, on **October 21-24, 2015** in Vancouver, BC.

Visit the CSACI [website](#) for details.



## 28th Annual Spring Meeting of the Canadian Society for Immunology

AllerGen investigators Drs Kelly McNagny and John Gordon are among the speakers at the 2015 CSI Conference being held **June 4-7, 2015**, in Winnipeg, MB.

View the [program](#).



**28th Annual CSI Conference**  
June 4 - 7, 2015  
The Fairmont Winnipeg  
Winnipeg, MB

## Visit AllerGen's online Events Calendar

The [Calendar](#) lists up-coming events organized by AllerGen and/or its partners, as well as other events likely to be of interest to Network members.

**Events Calendar**  
Listed here are upcoming and recent events organized by AllerGen and/or its partners, or that are otherwise of relevance to the Network.

May 2015						
MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
		AllerGen Topic Symposium	AllerGen Topic Symposium	AllerGen Topic Symposium	AllerGen Topic Symposium	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Meeting for the 28th Annual CSI Conference Winnipeg, MB	Meeting for the 28th Annual CSI Conference Winnipeg, MB	Meeting for the 28th Annual CSI Conference Winnipeg, MB				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
				2015 ATS International Conference	2015 ATS International Conference	2015 ATS International Conference
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2015 ATS International Conference	2015 ATS International Conference				2015 ATS International Conference	

Please inform us of events that should be included in the Calendar.

**Send newsletter enquiries and comments to:**

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