

For immediate release

Government of Canada confirms funding for world-class allergy, genes and environment research to 2019

HAMILTON, ON (17 November 2015)

The Allergy, Genes and Environment (AllerGen) Network will receive ongoing federal funding through the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program to continue its groundbreaking work in allergic disease research, training and innovation to 2019. The ongoing funding was confirmed as part of a review process that assessed AllerGen's achievements midway through its second seven-year term.

"AllerGen's work is of tremendous importance to Canadians," says Dr. Howard Bergman, AllerGen's Chairman of the Board. "For the past decade, AllerGen investments have enabled significant scientific discoveries about the origins of allergic disease, advanced drug development, forged a strong national research community in allergy and asthma, and expanded research and clinical training opportunities to prepare the next generation of leaders in the field."

Since 2005, the Canadian government's investment in AllerGen totals \$74.4 million. AllerGen is a network of over 200 researchers at 21 institutions across Canada, and 250 national and international partner organizations dedicated to improving the quality of life of people suffering from allergic and related immune diseases. Network participants have produced over 3,800 publications, and mentored more than 1,300 trainees and highly qualified personnel. The Network's research is transforming clinical care and informing decisions in the homes, schools and workplaces of millions of Canadians.

"Over the next four years, working closely with partners and stakeholders, we will complete our research and focus on translating and commercializing key findings for the benefit of Canadians with allergic diseases," says Dr. Judah Denburg, Scientific Director and CEO of AllerGen.

"Among its many enduring legacies, AllerGen will ensure that the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study continues to generate novel research opportunities through national and international collaborations, and to facilitate ground-breaking discoveries about the early-life origins of allergies, asthma, and other chronic, non-communicable diseases. The Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC) will continue to be a world leader in conducting Phase II clinical trials for new drugs for managing asthma and allergies. Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CanFAST) research will form the foundation of a National Food Allergy Strategy (NFAST) that will disseminate the best evidence on the diagnosis, treatment and management of food allergies and anaphylaxis to patients and policymakers."

AllerGen's host institution, McMaster University in Hamilton, ON, is a world-recognized centre of expertise in allergy and asthma treatment, care and training. It will continue to support AllerGen's national capacity building, commercialization and knowledge mobilization goals, which will be primary foci of the Network's efforts, to 2019.

The NCE program is a joint initiative of the three federal granting agencies: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Learn more:

- AllerGen [website](#) and [AllerGen Annual Report 2014-2015](#)
- Networks of Centres of Excellence [website](#)

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