



The Canadian  
Allergy, Asthma  
and Immunology Foundation



Allergy, Genes and Environment Network  
Le réseau des allergies, des gènes et de l'environnement

## For immediate release

### **CAAIF-AllerGen Research Fellowship supports immune research in asthmatic women**

OTTAWA, ON (9 June 2017)

The Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation ([CAAIF](#)) and the Allergy, Genes and Environment Network ([AllerGen NCE](#)), a national research network, are pleased to announce that **Dr. Lauren Solomon** has been awarded the **2017 CAAIF-AllerGen Research Fellowship**, an award that supports the research of exceptional young scientists in the field of allergy and clinical immunology.

Valued at \$55,000, the 12-month research fellowship will allow Dr. Solomon to work with Dr. Lisa Cameron, an associate professor at Western University, to study molecular pathways regulating severe asthma in women.

T helper type 2 (Th2) cells are a type of immune cell involved in orchestrating the inflammation seen in asthma. Dr. Solomon will research how Th2 cells respond to inhaled steroids and to hormone replacement therapy. A better understanding of how these therapies affect Th2 levels may contribute to improved treatment options for women with severe asthma.

"I am honoured to receive the *CAAIF-AllerGen Research Fellowship* and I look forward to contributing towards CAAIF's and AllerGen's efforts to discover how the immune system is involved in asthma, and how specific immune cells can be targeted to improve patient care," says Dr. Solomon, who holds a PhD in biochemistry and has completed a postdoctoral fellowship in immune system genetics. "I am excited to apply personalized genetic technologies to the way asthma is modelled in the lab, diagnosed, and eventually treated in the clinic."

"CAAIF, in partnership with AllerGen, is delighted to offer this Fellowship, which will raise awareness and contribute new knowledge for conditions such as asthma, allergies, anaphylaxis, immune deficiency, and other immunological diseases," adds CAAIF President Dr. Susan Wasserman. "Dr. Solomon's research, which will study Th2 cells in women, will help us understand how certain gender factors may influence the development of severe asthma."

This is the third *CAAIF-AllerGen Research Fellowship* award. Dr. Catherine Biggs (University of British Columbia) and Dr. Nicholas Jendzjowsky (University of Calgary) received the *Fellowship* in 2016.

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