

AllerGen NCE Inc. provides value-added training and professional development opportunities for students and new professionals working in allergy, asthma, anaphylaxis and related immune diseases research. Through a national and international network of academic, clinical, industry, public policy and patient advocacy experts, AllerGen is committed to developing the next generation of researchers and innovators by creating unique, advanced research and capacity building opportunities in multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral environments.

In 2007, AllerGen launched the AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN) to foster networking and knowledge exchange and to promote excellence in research and professional skill development. The ASNPN is a student-led network composed of trainees and new professionals from across the country in all fields of allergic and immune disease-related research and practices. An elected ASNPN Leadership Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the AllerGen Advanced Education and Training Opportunities Advisory Committee, which in turn, provides strategic advice to the AllerGen Research Management Committee.

The ASNPN aims to enhance research and professional development opportunities by:

- Fostering relationships through networking and regular communications among and between AllerGen students and new professionals;
- Facilitating professional information exchange among trainees and new professionals, other Network participants and partner organizations; and,
- Promoting excellence in research and professional skill development through the development and delivery of annual capacity-building events.

Trainees and new professionals working on AllerGen-funded research projects automatically become ASNPN members. Students and new professionals not directly involved in AllerGen research, but training or working in the field of allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis and related immune disease research may apply for membership.

### Benefits of ASNPN Membership

...include eligibility to apply for a range of capacity-building opportunities:

- Annual Capacity-Building Symposium
- Undergraduate Summer Studentship Awards
- Travel Awards
- Research Skills Awards
- Paid Internships
- International Trainee Research Visits

### AllerGen's Strategic Goal for the Development of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP)

Create *value-added* opportunities for the training, education and professional development of HQP, students and new professionals that strengthen Canada's knowledge base, innovative capacity and work-force productivity.

**For more information contact Leah Graystone, HQP and Events Coordinator,  
at 905-525-9140, ext. 26633, [leahgraystone@allergen-nce.ca](mailto:leahgraystone@allergen-nce.ca).**

# **HQP Capacity-Building Programs**

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## **AllerGen Capacity Building Symposium**

AllerGen's annual capacity-building symposium provides a unique value-added professional development opportunity that allows for skill and knowledge acquisition to enhance career development and complement academic and scientific training. The event aims to foster networking and collaboration amongst trainees and young professionals with a shared interest in the field of allergy and asthma research and clinical practice. Workshop topics are varied and include: career planning, mentoring, interview skills, knowledge translation, media relations, ethics and grant writing. AllerGen pays for travel and accommodation costs.

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## **Research Skills Awards**

AllerGen funds workshops and individual training opportunities, including lab visits and equipment transfers that enable sharing and development of specialized technical and laboratory skills relevant to AllerGen research. The award must be matched 1:1 with non-AllerGen funding.

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## **Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship**

This fellowship enables Canadian allergists and clinical immunologists to pursue academic research training immediately following their sub-specialty training. An award of \$100,000 plus a \$25,000 research allowance is bestowed in each of the two years of this fellowship. Eligible academic foci include basic and/or clinical research related to allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis.

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## **AllerGen Undergraduate Summer Studentship Awards**

These studentships are intended to foster interest in allergic and related immune disease research. Ten awards of \$3,500 are issued annually, matched 1:1 with non-AllerGen partner funding for a total award value of \$7,000. To be eligible, students must be working with an AllerGen investigator on research aligned with AllerGen's mission and vision.

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## **Travel Awards**

Travel Awards support attendance and participation in national and international conferences, symposia and workshops that are aligned with AllerGen's mission and vision. These events must provide an opportunity for networking, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, new skill development and learning opportunities. Awards of up to \$1,200 are available, subject to 1:1 matching funding provided by non-AllerGen sources.

Applications are accepted on a first-come basis and must be received at least four weeks prior to travel.

## **AllerGen and Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS) Clinical Research Scholars**

AllerGen and FRQS jointly funds up to two Clinical Research Scholars - Junior 1 Career Awards per year. These awards are given to outstanding young clinical investigators who wish to pursue research in the areas of allergic and related immune diseases.

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

AllerGen and MSFHR co-fund the highest ranking candidates working in allergic disease research within the MSFHR regular training grants competition.

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## **International Trainee Research Visit Program**

This program supports Canadian trainees working on AllerGen-funded projects who seek to train with the most innovative researchers/clinician-scientists at laboratories around the world for a period of between six weeks to six months. Research visits must provide the opportunity for networking, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, new skill development, learning opportunities, and must be aligned with AllerGen's vision and mission.

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## **Internships**

AllerGen-funded internships provide opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to gain valuable workplace experience in short term, sector-specific employment and career-related training experiences in industry, not-for-profit, healthcare or government organizations.

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## **AllerGen Poster Competition**

The trainee research poster competition and oral presentations are central features of AllerGen's HQP Capacity-Building Programs. AllerGen Poster Competitions are held in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Annual Scientific Meeting and at AllerGen Research Conferences.

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## **Visiting Professors Program**

This program enhances AllerGen's efforts to recruit clinicians into the allergy and clinical immunology sub-specialty and/or to the clinician-scientist career path. In collaboration with CSACI, AllerGen organizes half-day workshops at medical schools across Canada to expose more medical students and internal medicine and pediatric residents to the professional and research opportunities available to them in the fields of allergy and clinical immunology.

