



November 2009

AIRWAYS
Official Newsletter for AllerGen's Highly Qualified Personnel

ALLERGEN STUDENTS AND NEW PROFESSIONALS NETWORK (ASNP) ELECTION RESULTS:

AllerGen NCE is pleased to announce the 2009 – 2010 ASNP Executive Committee:

President: *Jennifer Protudjer*, PhD, University of Manitoba: protudjer@mich.ca

Vice-President: *David Préfontaine*, PhD, McGill University: david.prefontaine@mail.mcgill.ca

Past President: *Michelle North*, PhD, University of Toronto: m.north@utoronto.ca

Secretary/Treasurer: *Umme Akhtar*, PhD, University of Toronto: umme.akhtar@utoronto.ca

Events & Communications Director: *Kathleen Fraser*, MSc, Queen's University: fraserk@queensu.ca

Regional Director - Pacific/West/Central: *Steven Maltby*, PhD, University of British Columbia:
Smaltby@brc.ubc.ca

Regional Director – Ontario: *Victoria Arrandale*, PhD, University of Toronto:
victoria.arrandale@utoronto.ca

Regional Director – Québec/Atlantic: *Lianne Soller*, MSc, McGill University: liannesoller@gmail.com

CLINICIAN SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP

AllerGen will be launching its new *Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship* award programme in winter 2009-10. The goal of this Fellowship is to develop Canadian clinical investigators pursuing allergy, asthma and/or anaphylaxis research training simultaneously with and/or immediately following their Allergy/Clinical Immunology (A/CI) sub-specialty training in order to increase the numbers and level of academic excellence of MDs with a specialty in allergy and clinical immunology, enhance patient care and increase translational allergy and clinical immunology research and academic capacity in Canada.

The *AllerGen Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship* provides a stipend of up to \$100,000 for a maximum of two years, for health professionals who are completing their A/CI sub-specialty training or have completed such sub-specialty training within the past 18 months and have a clinical posting at an 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.

Check the AllerGen website for updated information in December, 2009 at www.allergen-nce.ca.

ALLERGEN'S CANADIAN ALLERGY & IMMUNE DISEASES ADVANCED TRAINING INITIATIVE (CAIDATI) AWARDS

AllerGen NCE Inc. is pleased to announce \$153,850 in studentship support for research that reduces the morbidity, mortality and socio-economic burden of allergic and related immune diseases and has been matched by partner organizations to support Canadian students. AllerGen's contribution of \$76,925 has leveraged an equal amount of funding from non-NCE sources in support of these awards.

AllerGen's Canadian Allergy and Immune Diseases Advanced Training Initiative (CAIDATI) awards are intended to contribute to a significant increase in Canada's research capacity in allergy, asthma and related immune/inflammatory processes and disease through joint funding of new studentships in partnership with other programmes across Canada.

After expert peer review by AllerGen's Advanced Education and Opportunities Advisory Committee (AETOAC), outstanding students from eight academic institutions across Canada have been selected for funding.

The eight successful applicants are now considered AllerGen trainees, have signed the AllerGen Standard Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) Acknowledgement Form, and are expected to participate in AllerGen training activities and attend the Network's Annual Scientific Meeting, as appropriate.

AllerGen Fellowship Awards 2009

(These AllerGen awards are matched 1:1 by partner organization, doubling the total value of each award)

Dalhousie University

Mechanisms and regulations of IgE-dependent mast cell activation in allergy

Trainee: S. Carrigan **\$18,375**

Supervisor: T. Lin

McMaster University

The contribution of distinct immunological pathways leading to peanut induced anaphylaxis (PIA)

Trainee: K. Arias **\$5,000**

Supervisor: M. Jordana

University of Alberta

The Metabolomic analysis of respiratory virus infection in an asthma Model via Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy

Trainee: C. Skappak **\$8,925**

Supervisor: D. Adamko

University of British Columbia

Epigenetic profiling of bronchial epithelial cells

Trainee: C. Taplin **\$8,925**

Supervisor: P. Paré

University of Chicoutimi

Gene-Gene Interaction for CX3CR1 in asthma

Trainee: MH. Lambert **\$8,925**

Supervisor: C. Laprise

University of Guelph

Prophylaxis of food allergy by defined bacterial component pre-treatments in a neonatal swine model of allergy

Trainee: J. Schmied **\$8,925**

Supervisor: B. Wilkie

University of Toronto

The longitudinal impact of environmental exposures on the development of childhood atopy

Trainee: E. Simons **\$8,925**

Supervisor: T. To, Co-Supervisor: S. Dell

Queen's University

Assessing the regulatory capacity of dendritic cells as a marker of atopy in cord blood

Trainee: K. Fraser **\$8,925**

Supervisor: A. Ellis

HQP Exchange with Karolinska

AllerGen and the Centre for Allergy (CfA) of the Karolinska Institutet (KI) have agreed to internationalize and further enrich the training environment of their HQPs through joint AllerGen-Karolinska HQP Research Exchange Awards.

This will enable, on a matching basis, AllerGen HQPs to be associated with a KI CfA research project in Sweden, and KI CfA HQPs to be similarly associated with an AllerGen research project in a Canadian university. AllerGen will allocate a maximum of \$68,500 for this purpose in FY2009-2010, to be matched by the Karolinska Institutet.

This is an opportunity for Masters, PhD, MD, postdoctoral students, summer students, undergraduates and allied health professionals, matched and sponsored jointly by agreement between AllerGen and Karolinska CfA research project supervisors, to spend at least one month in the other jurisdiction, working on a similar or complementary AllerGen or Karolinska CfA project with the counterpart investigator and her/his research team.

These HQP awards will:

- Enhance AllerGen's partnership linkages with a foremost international centre of excellence in allergy and immune disease research and training, through knowledge sharing, knowledge exchange and partnered research training that contribute to the excellence of the Network's research programme and promote the development of a new generation of Canadian research professionals;
- Provide AllerGen and KI HQPs with a new opportunity to gain valuable short-term international research and training exposure in the other leading allergy research jurisdiction;
- Expose HQPs to cutting-edge international discovery and development efforts contributing to reductions in the impact of allergic diseases.

For more details please visit AllerGen's website www.allergen-nce.ca.

ALLERGEN'S FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AllerGen NCE Inc. will hold its Fifth Annual Conference *Innovation from Cell to Society*⁵ at the picturesque Fairmont Château Frontenac in Quebec City from February 7-9, 2010.

The conference will feature:

- A showcase of AllerGen's nationally networked research outcomes
- Keynote addresses from internally renowned speakers:
 - **Dr. Stephen T. Holgate** *Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology, Southampton General Hospital, United Kingdom*
 - **Dr. Neal H. Cohen** *Vice-Dean, Departments of Anesthesia & Perioperative Care & Medicine, University of California, San Francisco*
- Annual Research Poster Competition
- Networking opportunities, and a
- Gala Dinner

This year's conference offers an exclusive opportunity to network with AllerGen's 143 researchers and clinician- scientists, 379 research trainees and new professionals, international experts from a wide range of disciplines, as well as representatives from the Network's industry, government, academic and not-for-profit partner organizations.

The 2010 conference will showcase the results of AllerGen's nationally networked research across the full range of Network investment, share research outcomes and identify new research, commercialization, knowledge translation and transfer opportunities.

The Research Poster Competition will provide an opportunity for students to share their research, exchange ideas and network with other trainees and with researchers, clinicians, policy and decision-makers, health care administrators, and representatives from business, industry and government, all while increasing the visibility of research pertinent to AllerGen's mission.

Critical Dates

In advance:

- Monday, December 7, 2009 by 9:00 AM EST – Deadline for poster competition application form and abstracts
- Monday, January 4, 2010 – Notification of eligibility to display poster at conference

During Conference:

- Saturday, February 6, 2010 between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. – Set-up of posters. Must be set-up no later than 8:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 7, 2010
- Sunday, February 7, 2010 between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. - Manned Poster Judging and Viewing (each presenter must prepare a PowerPoint deck of their poster)
- Monday, February 8, 2010 between 2:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. - Oral Presentations from the top 2 trainees in each programme whose research posters received the highest ranking after poster viewing and judging
- Monday, February 8, 2010 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. - Poster award winners announced at the Gala Banquet

To register for the conference or obtain more details on the poster competition please visit AllerGen's website www.allergen-nce.ca.

CSACI POSTER WINNERS

Congratulations to AllerGen trainees Lianne Soller and David Préfontaine whose posters were successful in the Abstract Competition at the recent CSACI Annual Conference in Halifax, October 22-25, 2009.

Lianne Soller, a first year master student in Epidemiology at McGill University, was recognized for her abstract titled *Treatment of initial allergic reactions to peanut inside and outside healthcare facilities*.

David Préfontaine, Vice President of the ASNPN at McGill University, was awarded for his abstract titled, *Interleukin-33 in Asthma: Insights into Pro-Inflammatory Roles of Airway Structural Cells*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Network Wide Research Workshop, December 16-18, 2009, Toronto. The agenda for the workshop can be viewed at www.allergen-nce.ca
- Fifth Annual Conference *Innovation from Cell to Society*⁵, February 7-9, 2010, Québec City. Register now at <http://registration.allergen-nce.ca>
- Fifth Annual Trainee Symposium, June 6-8, 2010, to be held at the 89 Chestnut Conference Centre in Toronto. Watch AllerGen's website for more details in Spring 2010.

AllerGen would like to thank Jennifer Protudjer, ASNPN President and David Préfontaine, ASNPN Vice-President for being the first HQP to represent the ASNPN at AllerGen's annual Strategic Planning Retreat held on November 21-23, 2009. Their input and participation at the retreat was greatly appreciated and will help develop the HQP programs for the future.

*You are receiving this e-mail because of your involvement as an AllerGen Trainee. We will be sending out short e-mail updates like this throughout the year. If you want to remove yourself from this mailing list, please send an e-mail to <ielati@mcmaster.ca> with the following command in the subject line of your email message: **Remove***

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