

HQP Share in Success of AllerGen Scientific Meeting

AllerGen’s first Network-wide Scientific Meeting since its inception in 2005 was held at the Kingbridge Conference Center & Institute in King City, Ontario in early June. Over 100 members of the Network, including 54 Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP), attended the meeting.



2013 AllerGen Scientific Meeting

Among other outcomes, key indicators of success included:

- Network-wide priority action items and overarching strategic thrusts were identified that will inform the future development of action plans and sustainability strategies;
- Project impacts (scientific, commercial and translational) and benefits were identified across sectors;
- Wide-ranging scientific discussions occurred, encompassing all Legacy Projects and Enabling Platforms;
- Principal Investigators and HQP presented on 36 research initiatives funded by the Network between 2012 and 2019.

In an interactive round-table discussion, three Network-wide priorities were identified:

1. Explore personalized health as a unifying concept for the Network;
2. Integrate and monetize data across projects;
3. Focus on sustainability and Legacy Projects over the long-term.

These action items will inform the development of future plans and sustainability strategies for the Network in 2013 and beyond.

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2013 AllerGen Trainee Symposium

In May 2013, 51 trainees from across Canada gathered in Montréal, Québec, with the goal of enhancing their career development and building upon the 'AllerGen Advantage' at the 8th Annual Trainee Symposium. This symposium provided ASNPN members with unique professional development opportunities that go beyond the type of training typically provided in the classroom and laboratory. The event was an ideal networking environment to foster new collaborations amongst trainees and young professionals who share interests in allergy and asthma research and clinical practice.

This year's program included specialized workshops on *Effective Reference Letters*, *Presenting and Defending Your Ideas*, *The Job Search* and *Knowledge Translation*.

The *Knowledge Translation* workshop provided 'hands-on' experience in how to translate AllerGen research findings into 140-character 'tweetable' messages for communication on Twitter. In addition, a *Career Panel* and a *Networking for Success Dinner* were highlights of the three-day event. The *Networking for Success Dinner*, which provided senior researchers and industry experts an opportunity to network with and mentor trainees in informal roundtable discussions, was extremely successful.



Trainees prepare their 'tweetable' message.

Dr. Phil Gold's Ten Rules



Dr. Gold captivates
AllerGen Trainees

A highlight of the ASNPN symposium was an address by McGill University Professor and Canadian Medical Hall of Fame inductee, Dr. Phil Gold. Dr. Gold shared his *Gold's Rules*, not to be mistaken with the Golden Rules, and most certainly not the 10 commandments!

Gold's Rules

1. You are never alone. There are always those to whom you can turn for help. Ask for it!!
2. You are free to question anything. This is your job!
3. Great ideas come from individuals.
4. Believe nothing, not even your own results. Let someone else do the experiment and see if they come up with the same results.
5. Listen, think and then act. But first listen! William Osler said, "Listen to your patient. He is telling you the diagnosis."
6. Be available to your students at all times. A teacher affects eternity. You can never tell where your influence will be felt.
7. Take pride in the successes of your colleagues and your students.
8. Concepts, not technologies, lead to great discoveries.
9. The half-life of knowledge is an important parameter in your lives.
10. Think of science as bench to bedside, and back to bench. It is not bench to bedside. In biomedical science, if there are no clinical implications, don't do it!

And number 11: *Menschlikeit* - be humane. Remember your humanity!

"The AllerGen Trainee Symposium was a valuable experience for me as an undergraduate student. It gave me the unique opportunity to meet with and learn from fellow students and experienced researchers alike."

Ryan Persaud, University of Manitoba (Supervised by Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj, University of Alberta)

"As an undergraduate level trainee, the symposium provided a terrific opportunity to gain exposure to the research process at the graduate level. It was a great way to see the various paths and directions that are available after graduation."

Ayanna Boyce, University of Waterloo (Supervised by Dr. Padmaja Subbarao, Hospital for Sick Children)



University of Calgary trainees take full advantage of ASNPN Membership.

Chris Shelfoon, Suharsh Shah, Sami Shariff, Michelle Harkness (AllerGen HQP Coordinator), Abid Qureshi, Sergei Nikitenko and Jason Arnason

Thank you to the following speakers for participating in the 8th Annual AllerGen Trainee Symposium:

Phil Gold, Douglas G. Cameron Professor of Medicine, McGill University, Professor, Departments of Physiology and Oncology, McGill University; and the Executive Director of the Clinical Research Centre of the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre

Lisa deMena Travis, Professor of Linguistics; Associate Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, McGill University

Peter Palmer, Dale Carnegie Training, Montréal

Diana Royce, EdD, Managing Director and COO, AllerGen NCE Inc.

Jesse Vincent-Herscovici, Director of Strategic Accounts and Business Development, Mitacs, Montréal

AllerGen extends special appreciation to the following invited guests for participating in the AllerGen Trainee Symposium *Networking for Success Dinner*:

Howard Bergman, AllerGen Board Chair; McGill University

Moshe Ben-Shoshan, McGill University; McGill University Health Centre

Ann Clarke, McGill University; McGill University Health Centre

Guy Delespesse, Université de Montréal; Hôpital Notre-Dame du CHUM

Jean-Marc Gélinas, Health Canada

Anne-Cécile Desfaits, Fonds de recherche du Québec Santé (FRQS)

Jean-François Leprince, AllerGen Board of Directors, Managing Partner, CTI Life Sciences Fund

Luc Marengere, TVM Life Sciences Management

David Préfontaine, Novartis Pharmaceuticals

Claude Roy, CHU Sainte-Justine Centre de recherche

Number of 2013 Symposium Participants by University/Research Centre (n=51)

University of British Columbia (12)
 University of Calgary (9)
 University of Alberta (7)
 McMaster University (3)
 McGill University (6)
 University of Toronto (4)
 Hospital for Sick Children (2)
 University of Waterloo (2)
 Queen's University (1)
 Simon Fraser University (1)
 Université of Laval (1)
 University of Manitoba (1)
 Université de Montréal (1)
 University of Winnipeg (1)

Number of 2013 Symposium Participants by Level of Study (n=51)

Masters (16)
 PhD (13)
 PDF (9)
 Undergraduate (7)
 Fellows-in-Training (3)
 Research Staff (3)

AllerGen Funds Ten Undergraduate Research Projects

Ten undergraduates from across Canada have been awarded AllerGen **Summer Studentships** valued at \$6,000 each. The Studentship-holders will train under the supervision of AllerGen-funded investigators.

The strategic goal of AllerGen's **Summer Studentships Award** is to create 'value added' opportunities for the training, education and professional development of undergraduate students, with the intention of recruiting top students to work with AllerGen research teams.

It is hoped that this experience will spark an enduring interest in allergic and related immune disease research and/or clinical practice that will lead the Studentship-holders to pursue advanced studies in related areas.

Applications are evaluated on the excellence of the student, the excellence of the project and the quality of the learning environment. The top ten ranking candidates receive \$3,000 awards, matched 1:1 with non-AllerGen partner funding, for a total award value of \$6,000. Nineteen applications were received for this year's competition representing a success rate of 53%.

| Name | Institution (* indicates student's academic institution) | Supervisor | Research Topic |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Richard Hae | McMaster University | Judah Denburg | Innate Immune Receptors in Eosinophil/Basophil Differentiation |
| Ryan Persaud | University of Alberta (*University of Manitoba) | Anita Kozyrskij | Impact of perinatal infant antibiotic exposure on allergic outcomes in the Winnipeg CHILD cohort |
| Laura Feldman | Hospital for Sick Children (*University of Toronto) | Teresa To | The Impact of Temperature, Humidity and Air Quality on Asthma Exacerbation |
| Angie Lam | University of British Columbia | Stuart Turvey | Role of a Common Single Nucleotide Polymorphism in the Mitochondrial Antiviral Signaling Gene (MAVS) in Severe Respiratory Viral Infection in Infancy and Subsequent Asthma Development |
| Timothy Chung | University of Alberta (*University of Toronto) | Brian Rowe | The management of acute asthma in an urban Emergency Medical Service (EMS) |
| Laura Churchman (declined) | University of Saskatchewan | John Gordon | Induction of allergen tolerance in a mouse model of food anaphylaxis |
| Ayanna Boyce | Hospital for Sick Children (*University of Waterloo) | Padmaja Subbarao | Are known biomarkers for asthma present in early infancy? |
| Ashley Yu | McMaster University | Judah Denburg | The Effects of Epithelial-Derived Thymic Stromal Lymphopoietin on Cord Blood and Peripheral Blood Progenitor Phenotypic and Functional Differentiation |
| John Ren | McGill University | Danuta Radzioch | Selection and validation of candidate genes involved in the regulation of severity of atopy and allergic asthma |
| Valérie Gagné-Ouellet | Université du Québec à Chicoutimi | Catherine Laprise | Role of CHRNA3 and CHRNA5 in Asthma and Lung Cancer |
| Abid Qureshi | University of Calgary | Richard Leigh | Human rhinovirus infection of human bronchial epithelial cells in vitro up-regulates the production of certain inflammatory mediators to facilitate HASM migration |

AllerGen Awards \$250,000 Fellowship



Dr. Philippe Bégin, a physician and associate researcher from CHUM and CHU Sainte-Justine in Montréal, Québec, has received the prestigious **AllerGen *Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship*** Award, valued at \$250,000.

This award is an innovative solution to the critical shortage of allergy and clinical immunology expertise in Canada, and the need to enable newly trained Canadian Clinical Immunologists and Allergists to pursue allergy, asthma and anaphylaxis academic research training.

Dr. Bégin's fellowship showcases an international collaboration between AllerGen, CHU Sainte-Justine and Stanford University in California. During his two-year fellowship, Dr. Bégin will perform clinical and fundamental research on oral immunotherapy for patients suffering from food allergy under the co-supervision of Dr. Elie Haddad, Chief of Immunology, CHU Sainte-Justine and Professor at Université de Montréal, and the internationally renowned Director of the Stanford Alliance for Food Allergy Research (SAFAR) and Associate Professor at Stanford University, Dr. Kari Nadeau.

“By giving me the means to visit the Stanford Alliance for Food Allergy Research, AllerGen has provided me with an unequalled opportunity to participate in cutting edge research on food immunotherapy and mechanisms of oral tolerance. The very strong biotechnology focus, the rich academic environment of Stanford University, and the Silicon Valley entrepreneurship culture create a synergy for a unique key experience in my career development as a clinician-scientist in the field of allergy and immunology. As we wrap up some of our phase 1 trials on OIT, we are very excited and preparing for our upcoming phase 2 clinical trials starting this summer and fall.”

Dr. Philippe Bégin

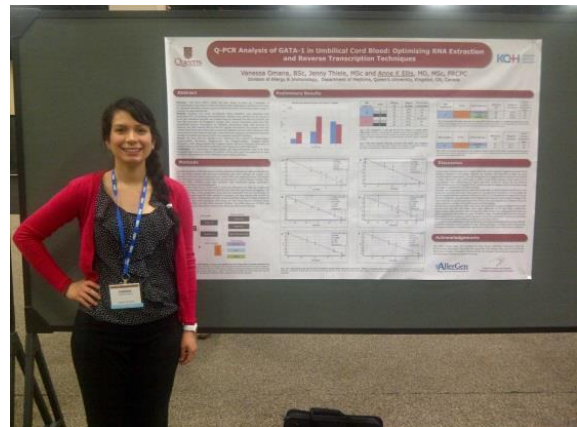
AllerGen Issues Record Number of Travel Awards

The popularity of the AllerGen *Travel Award Program* continues to grow. More trainees received funding in 2012-2013 than in any previous year. Forty-two travel awards were provided in to 37 trainees to attend 19 national and international events, representing a 61% jump in awards received and a 45% increase in the number of events attended.

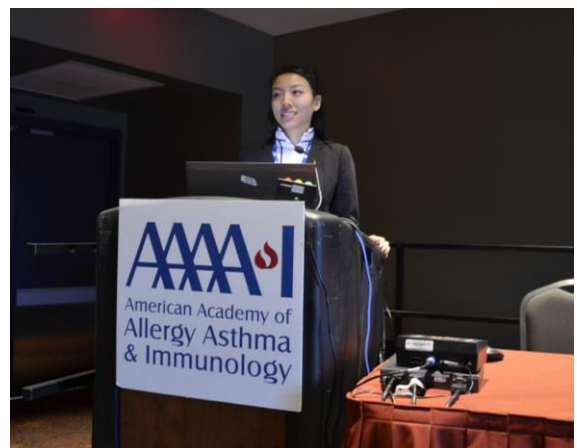
Travel awards are available to ASNPN members to support attendance and participation in non-AllerGen events that are aligned with AllerGen's mission, vision and goals. These events must provide an opportunity for networking, research collaboration, knowledge exchange, or new skill development, while maximizing learning opportunities.

Note: Limited travel funds remain for 2013-2014.

AllerGen Trainees attend American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas



Vanessa Omana, Queen's University



Claudia Hui, McMaster University

ASNPN Elects New ASNPN Leadership Committee (2013-2014)

President

Lianne Soller - McGill University



Lianne is a doctoral candidate in Epidemiology at McGill University under the supervision of Dr. Ann Clarke. Her research focuses on the prevalence and treatment of food allergy in Canada, for which she was recently awarded an FRQS Doctoral Award for the duration

of her studies. This is Lianne's second term as ASNPN President. She has also served as Vice-President and Regional Director for Quebec and the Atlantic provinces. Lianne was one of the inaugural winners of AllerGen's *International Research Visit Award*. She will be travelling to Cork, Ireland, in September 2013, to work with Drs. Jonathan Hourihane and Audrey DunnGalvin at University College Cork.

Vice-President

Pia-Lauren Reece - McMaster University



Pia received her B.Sc. in Biochemistry and a PhD in Medical Sciences (Immunology) from McMaster University. Her thesis, supervised by Dr. Judah Denburg, involved investigating the mechanisms of stem cell differentiation in relation to both

microbial influences and maternal atopy (*i.e.*, surrogate measure of infant-allergic risk). Her work has been published in *Immunology* and the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* and has been presented at both national and international meetings. Pia is beginning her post-doctoral studies under the joint supervision of Dr. Judah Denburg and Dr. Guillaume Pare, where she will investigate potential genetic variants in cord blood stem cells that may serve as biomarkers for allergic development in early life. This work will be conducted in collaboration with AllerGen investigators from the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study.

Communications Director

Luisa Giles - University of British Columbia



Luisa Giles, a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia, works with Dr. Chris Carlsten to research air pollution and human health. Luisa has served as the Events/Communications Director on the ASNPN since 2012. Luisa currently works as a Knowledge Translation

Scientist at the National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health. She feels that her work there can benefit the ASNPN and help to support AllerGen's mission to catalyze knowledge translation to reduce the socio-economic burden of asthma, allergies and anaphylaxis.

Events Director

Meghan Azad - University of Alberta



Meghan Azad received her PhD in Biochemistry & Medical Genetics from the University of Manitoba. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of

Alberta and a part-time student at the University of London, UK (M.Sc. Epidemiology program). As a member of Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj's cross-disciplinary SyMBIOTA (Synergy in Microbiota Research) team, Meghan is studying early-life development of the gut microbiome. Her preliminary findings were recently published in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* (2013 185:385-94), receiving widespread media attention, including articles in *The Globe and Mail* and *Time Magazine*. Using the CHILD Study birth cohort as a research platform, Meghan's ongoing research will characterize the role of the gut microbiota in the development of asthma, allergies, and childhood obesity.

Pacific Director

Amrit Singh – University of British Columbia



Amrit graduated from McMaster University in 2010 with a B.Sc. in Biology and Mathematics. Amrit is currently a PhD student in Experimental Medicine at the University of British Columbia under the supervision of Dr. Scott Tebbutt. His main research focus

is to discriminate allergen-induced isolated early and dual responders by using various 'omics' data sets derived from peripheral blood, as part of the AllerGen Clinical Investigator Collaborative. Amrit is also a trainee at the PREvention of Organ Failure (PROOF) Centre.

Central Director (AB, SK, MB)

Sami Shariff – University of Calgary

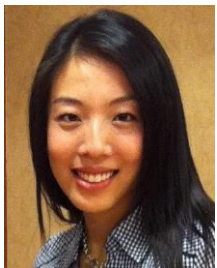


Sami joined the M.Sc. program at the University of Calgary in 2011 to pursue his dream of working in the medical research field. Utilizing his undergraduate career to instill strong research fundamentals through animal work, Sami seamlessly

transitioned into basic science and benchwork under the guidance of his supervisor, Dr. Richard Leigh. Sami's interest evolved into studies on the pathogenesis of asthma where he examines the migration of bronchial smooth muscle and the processes underlying airway remodeling.

Ontario Director

Claudia Hui - McMaster University



Claudia Hui received her B.Sc. in Physiology from McGill University. Subsequently, she joined Dr. Mark Larché at McMaster University where she received her M.Sc. investigating the immunomodulatory role of bronchial epithelial cells in asthma. Currently, Claudia is

pursuing her PhD with Dr. Judah Denburg under the Medical Sciences - Infection and Immunity Program. Claudia's research focuses on examining how environmental exposures influence the development of allergic diseases and asthma, with particular emphasis on the role of epithelial-derived thymic stromal lymphopoietin in linking epithelial injury, tissue

responses, and the recruitment and differentiation of eosinophil and basophil precursors (*in situ* hemopoiesis).

Québec/Atlantic Director

Stephanie Nairn - McGill University



Stephanie is a PhD student in the Social Studies of Medicine, Bioethics and Sociology Department at McGill University. She completed her Master's degree at Queen's University in Sociology and studied the everyday experience of food allergy and food intolerance. Specifically, Stephanie

showed how individuals with food allergies navigate risks and the desire to experience pleasure in consumption in everyday life. Her current research interests lie at the intersection of sociology, psychology and biological studies of health and illness. Stephanie is a research assistant on a number of different projects at McGill. Specifically, she is interested in the social construction of scientific, medical and individuals' knowledge about food allergy and intolerance and uses social theory and ethnographic methodologies to explore these phenomena. She also researches the experience of chronic stress, its impacts on health, and the ways in which individuals are made resilient to adverse health and illness *via* access to social support.

Member-at-Large

Carlo de Olim Rugginenti - University of Montréal



Carlo currently studies at the University of Montréal in the Biomedical Sciences Masters Degree program under the supervision of Drs Catherine Lemièrre and Michel Gérin. His research interest includes the evaluation of qualitative assessment methods of

occupational exposures in work-related asthma. Carlo received his B.Sc. in Biomedical Sciences with a specialty in Clinical Biochemistry from the University of Mogi das Cruzes in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Following the completion of his B.Sc., he worked as a medical laboratory technician in clinical pathology and anatomic pathology laboratories. Aside from his interest in epidemiology and clinical biochemistry, Carlo also has strong interest in the knowledge translation of research results.

Celebrating AllerGen Trainees

AllerGen would like to congratulate its Network trainees and new professionals on their receipt of the following awards and accomplishments:

Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan received the 2013-2014 FRQS/AllerGen *Clinical Research Scholar - Junior 1 Career Award*. Dr. Ben-Shoshan is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at McGill University and a physician in the Department of Allergy/Immunology at Montréal Children's Hospital. Dr. Ben-Shoshan received the inaugural AllerGen *Emerging Clinician-Scientist Fellowship* in 2011 and is currently an AllerGen Principal Investigator on the Canadian Food Allergy Strategic Team (CANFAST).

Dr. Jeremy Hirota is one of the inaugural recipients of AllerGen's *International Research Visit Award*. Dr. Hirota will visit Dr. Phil Hansbro's laboratory in the Priority Research Centre for Asthma & Respiratory Diseases at The University of Newcastle in Australia. Dr. Hirota is supervised by Dr. Chris Carlsten at the UBC.

Lianne Soller received the *Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS) Doctoral Training Award*, ranking 2nd out of 426 applications. Lianne is a PhD candidate at McGill University under the supervision of Dr. Ann Clarke. Her research focuses on the prevalence and treatment of food allergy in Canada and her publication *Overall Prevalence of Self-reported Food Allergy in Canada* is referenced on Health Canada's website - *Food Allergies and Intolerances*. Lianne is also one of the inaugural winners of AllerGen's *International Research Visit Award*, and will be travelling to Cork, Ireland, in September, 2013, to work with Drs. Jonathan Hourihane and Audrey Dunn Galvin at University College Cork.

Dr. Meghan Azad, Postdoctoral Fellow, and AllerGen researcher Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj of the University of Alberta, published new evidence in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ)* (2013 185:385-94), that the method of delivery (vaginal versus cesarean) and the method of infant feeding (breastfeeding versus formula) influences the bacterial colonization of an infant's gut.

To highlight the study, CMAJ issued a news release that generated overwhelming interest from national and international media outlets. The study was featured more than 40 times in print and/or web articles.

Elaine Fuertes will make an oral presentation at the 6th Annual European Public Health Conference (EPF) conference in Brussels, Belgium, in November. Her abstract, "Traffic-related air pollution as a risk factor for the development of childhood allergic diseases: the Traffic, Asthma and Genetics (TAG) project," received the highest score, placing 1st out of 796 submitted abstracts. Elaine is a University of British Columbia PhD candidate supervised by Drs Chris Carlsten and Michael Bauer. She is currently completing an internship at the Helmholtz Zentrum München - German Research Centre for Environmental Health in Germany under the guidance of Dr. Joachim Heinrich.

Dr. Tillie-Louise Hackett became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics at UBC in February 2013. Dr. Hackett is the first female Associate Director of the James Hogg Research Centre and a former AllerGen trainee.

Dr. Daniel Harrington received the 2012 *Risk Perception/Communication Paper of the Year* award for the Journal of Human and Ecological Risk Assessment (HERA). His winning paper is titled, *Exploring the Determinants of the Perceived Risk of Food Allergies in Canada*. Dr. Harrington is a Population Health Intervention Research Network (PHIRNET) postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto Mississauga under the supervision of AllerGen Investigator Dr. Kathi Wilson.

Timothy Chung, an undergraduate student in Paramedicine at the University of Toronto, had two abstracts accepted for presentation at the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians 2013 Annual Conference. Timothy's *EMS Anaphylaxis Study* was funded, in part, through a 2012 AllerGen Summer Studentship. Timothy conducted his research at the University of Alberta under the supervision of Dr. Brian Rowe.

Derek Chu and **Jyoti Balhara** were invited to deliver oral presentations at the American Association of Immunologists (AAI) Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. Derek is enrolled in the MD-PhD at McMaster University and is supervised by Dr. Manel Jordana. Dr. Jordan describes Derek as the “most outstanding student” he has met in his 25 years on faculty. Jyoti Balhara is a University of Manitoba PhD candidate, supervised by Dr. Soussi Gounni. Derek and Jyoti’s attendance at the conference was supported by an AllerGen Travel Award.

@AllerGen_NCE

Scientific exchange happens on Twitter with growing frequency. Social media provides a platform for enhancing professional networking, posting of published findings and mobilization of knowledge to the general public. According to Emily Darling, a postdoctoral fellow at Simon Fraser University, tweeting new ideas to other scientists can push ahead “open science in real time.” Darling and her colleagues found that 45% of scientists’ followers included people from the media, non-government organizations and the general public.

AllerGen was recently ranked first in “tweet intensity” out of the 16 classic NCE’s by an independent blogger.

Follow us on Twitter @AllerGen_NCE



New to Twitter? AllerGen recommends:

@DrAnneEllis
@CaulfieldTim
@ryanpersaud
@anaphylaxisCAN
@igecpd
@aller_MD
@picardonhealth

AllerGen Welcomes New ASNPN Members

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.

The following trainees were recently approved for ASNPN membership:

Mustafa Al-Saiedy, M.Sc. (c), University of Calgary; Supervisor, Dr. Matthias Amrein
Jason Arnason, M.Sc. (c), University of Calgary; Supervisor, Dr. Richard Leigh
Martine Bordeleau, M.Sc. (c), Université Laval; Supervisor, Dr. Louis-Philippe Boulet
Jennifer Cross, PDF, University of British Columbia; Supervisor, Dr. Tillie Hackett
Caroline Ethier, B.Sc., University of Alberta; Supervisor, Dr. Francis Davoine
Andrea Fong, Clinical Fellow (FIT) University of Manitoba; Supervisor, Dr. Nestor Cisneros
Kyla Jamieson, B.Sc. (c), McMaster University; Supervisor, Dr. David Proud
Meaghan Jones, PDF, University of British Columbia; Supervisor, Dr. Mike Kobor
Taruna Joshi, PhD (c), University of Calgary; Supervisor, Dr. Mark Giembycz
Danielle Minor, M.Sc. (c), University of Calgary; Supervisor, Dr. David Proud
Andrew O’Keefe, Clinical Fellow (FIT), McGill University; Supervisor, Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan
Christopher Rider, PhD (c) University of Calgary; Supervisor, Dr. Robert Newton
Min Hyung Ryu, M.Sc. (c), University of Manitoba; Supervisor, Dr. Andrew Halayko
Christopher Shelfoon, M.Sc. (c), University of Calgary; Supervisor, Dr. David Proud
Suharsh Shah, PhD (c), University of Calgary; Supervisor, Dr. Robert Newton
Nami Shrestha, PDF Fellow, University of Alberta; Supervisor, Dr. Lisa Cameron
Gina Tsai, Clinical Fellow (FIT), University of Western; Supervisor, Dr. DW Moot

HQP Capacity Building Programs

AllerGen Capacity Building Symposium

An annual 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. Registration is limited.

Research Skills Acquisition Awards

AllerGen funds workshops and individual training opportunities, including lab exchanges 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.

Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship

Value \$250,000 Next Competition: Opens October 2013

The AllerGen Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research 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.

AllerGen Undergraduate Summer Studentship Awards

Next Application Deadline: January 31, 2014

AllerGen's Undergraduate Summer Studentships are intended to foster interest in allergic and related immune disease research. Ten awards of \$3,000 are issued annually, matched 1:1 with non-AllerGen partner funding for a total award value of \$6,000. To be eligible, students must be working with an AllerGen Investigator on research aligned with AllerGen's mission and vision.

Travel Awards - Limited Funds Remain for 2013-2014

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 FRQS (Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé) Clinical Research Scholars

Letter of Intent Deadline: August 2013

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.

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

Next Call: 2014

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

International Research Visit Program

Next Application Deadline: September 16, 2013

This program will support 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. MOUs with international partners envision reciprocal investment in international students seeking to undertake research visits in Canada.

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.

AllerGen Poster Competition

Next Poster Competition: October 3-6, 2013 in Toronto

The trainee research poster competition and oral presentations are central features of AllerGen's HQP Capacity Building Programs. An AllerGen Poster Competition will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Annual Scientific Meeting in 2013 and 2014.

Visiting Clinician-Scientist Professorships

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.

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