

2012 Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Scientific Meeting



The 2012 Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI) Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Calgary, AB, October 11-14, 2012. The Scientific Meeting opened with the *Young Allergy Professionals Networking Reception* co-sponsored by CSACI and AllerGen NCE and hosted by Dr. Anne Ellis, AllerGen Investigator and Assistant Professor, Queen's University. Guests included AllerGen Trainees and Researchers, Fellows-in-Training, National Residents Educational Program (NREP) participants, Allergy and Clinician Immunology Sub-Specialty Program Directors and the CSACI Board of Directors.

In this issue:

2012 CSACI Scientific Meeting.....	p. 1
CSACI Poster Competition.....	p. 1
CSACI Board of Directors.....	p. 2
Dr. Pawan Sharma Fellowships.....	p. 2
Emerging Clinician-Scientist Award.....	p. 2
AllerGen Summer Studentships.....	p. 3
Trainee Symposium.....	p. 4
International Trainee Research Visits.....	p. 4
New ASNPN Members.....	p. 5

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CSACI Poster Competition

Once again this year, AllerGen trainees and ASNPN members took top honours in the CSACI Poster Competition and Abstract Presentations, placing first in four of five categories.

Asthma /Allergic Rhinitis:

Elinor Simons, The Hospital for Sick Children
Supervisors: Dr. Teresa To and Dr. Sharon Dell
Associations between Second-Hand Smoke Exposure in Pregnancy and Age of Childhood Asthma Development

Allied Health:

Doug Houlbrook, University of Manitoba
Supervisor: Dr. Allan Becker
Parental Asthma Diagnosis and Age of Onset as a Risk Factor in Children's Asthma

Allergy/Anaphylaxis:

Joanne P. Yeung, McGill University
Supervisor: Dr. Christine Lejtenyi
Oral Immunotherapy for Milk Allergy: A Systematic Review

Runner up

Sophia Xu, McMaster University
Supervisor: Dr. Susan Waserman
Anaphylaxis Deaths in Ontario: A Retrospective Review of Cases from 1986 to 2011

Basic Science:

Meghan B. Azad, University of Alberta
Supervisor: Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj
Infant Gut Microbiota and the Hygiene Hypothesis of Allergic Disease



Dr. Meghan Azad (right) and Supervisor, Dr. Anita Kozyrskyj (left)

2012 - 2014

CSACI Board of Directors

Dr. Paul Keith - President
Dr. Stuart Carr - Past President
Dr. Sandy Kapur - Vice President
Dr. David Fischer - Secretary-Treasurer
Dr. Eric Leith - Chair CAAIF
Dr. Liliane Gendreau-Reid - Director
Dr. Marie-Noël Primeau - Director
Dr. Dean Befus - Director
Dr. Harold Kim - Director
Dr. Anne Ellis - Director
Dr. Tim Vander Leek - Director
Dr. Christine McCusker - Immunology*
Dr. Francisco Noya - Asthma*
Dr. Edmond Chan - Pediatrics*
Mrs. Jo-ann St. Vincent - Allied Health Professionals*
Dr. Fanny Silviu-Dan - Rhinitis & Sinusitis*
Dr. Doug Mack - Anaphylaxis & Adverse Reactions*
Dr. Amy French - Fellow-In-Training*

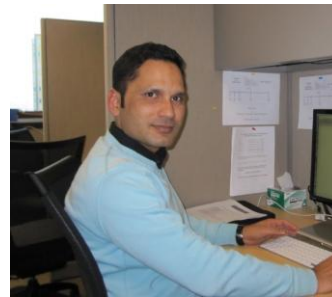
* Section Head



Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
Soci t  canadienne d'allergie et d'immunologie clinique

AllerGen Trainee Wins Two Prestigious Fellowships

Longstanding AllerGen ASNPN member, Dr. Pawan Sharma, University of Calgary, has been awarded the prestigious *CIHR Fellowship in Respiratory Health*. This national award is offered by the CIHR Office for Patient-Oriented Research in partnership with the Canadian Lung Association and GlaxoSmithKline. Dr. Sharma has also been awarded the Alberta Innovates - Health Solutions' *Early Career Development Fellowship Award*, ranking first out of 72 applicants.



Dr. Sharma joined the Airway Inflammation Group and Dr. Mark Giembycz's laboratory at the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases, University of Calgary, in 2011 after

completing his PhD at the University of Manitoba.

Dr. Sharma will investigate the novel molecular mechanism by which PDE4 inhibitors reduce the expression of many inflammatory genes in COPD and will dissect out the biological machinery inside cells that are used by these new medicines to activate these genes.

AllerGen

Allergy, Genes and Environment Network
Le r seau des allergies, des g nes et de l'environnement

Emerging Clinician-Scientist Research Fellowship

Application Deadline
April 12, 2013

\$250,000 AWARD

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents who are clinicians enrolled in or have completed Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training at a Canadian academic health sciences centre.

Applicants are eligible to apply 18 months prior to and 18 months after completion of Clinical Immunology and Allergy sub-specialty training.

For more information contact michelleharkness@allergen-nce.ca

www.allergen-nce.ca

2013 Undergraduate Summer Studentships - Call for Applications Research Training Awards

AllerGen's *Undergraduate Summer Studentships* are intended to foster interest in allergy, asthma, anaphylaxis and related immune disease research. These *Studentships* provide young trainees with the opportunity to work on a summer research project under the supervision and mentorship of an AllerGen-funded Investigator.

In the 2012 competition, the success rate was 38%. There were twenty-six applications received and ten studentships awarded. Awards were held by undergraduate students at the following institutions:

- Juliana Xie, McMaster University; supervised by Dr. Manel Jordana
- Janet Xu, University of British Columbia; supervised by Dr. Delbert Dorscheid
- Ting-I (Tina) Wang, University of British Columbia; supervised by Dr. Stuart Turvey
- Madelaine Yona, McGill University; supervised by Dr. Bruce Mazer
- Sina Rusta-Sallehy, McMaster University; supervised by Dr. Judah Denburg
- Valérie Gagné-Ouellet, Université du Québec à Chicoutimi; supervised by Dr. Catherine Laprise
- Kiho Son, University of Alberta; supervised by Dr. Dean Befus
- Tin-Shan (Tim) Chung, University of Alberta; supervised by Dr. Brian Rowe
- Danielle Tougas, University of Alberta; supervised by Dr. Dean Befus
- Laura Feldman, The Hospital for Sick Children; supervised by Dr. Teresa To

“The connections I made at the University of Alberta are an invaluable asset to my future career,” states Timothy Chung, University of Toronto. Under the supervision of Dr. Brian Rowe, University of Alberta, Timothy’s project explored *Acute Management of Anaphylaxis* in Edmonton’s Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

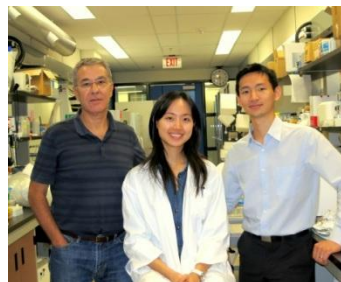
Summer Studentships 2012

2013 Undergraduate Summer Studentships Application Deadline February 1, 2013

Applications are being accepted for the 2013 award competition until February 1, 2013. Ten studentships are available, providing a stipend for each successful applicant of \$6,000 (\$3,000 provided by AllerGen and \$3,000 from non-AllerGen partner funding).

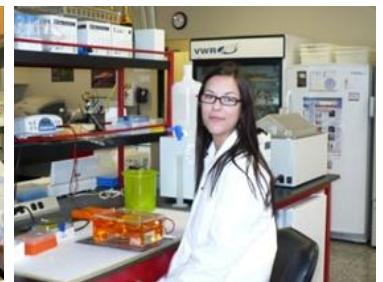
In order to apply, applicants must have completed at least one year of undergraduate study and be returning to school in the fall. Students in Medical School may also apply.

Full details and the application form can be found on the [AllerGen website](#).



Juliana Xie’s experience working in the laboratory of Dr. Manel Jordana at McMaster University affirmed her interest in research.

Summer Studentships 2012



Under the supervision of Dr. Catherine Laprise, Valérie Gagné-Ouellet received training in sequencing and qRT-PCR during her studentship at Université du Québec à Chicoutimi.

Summer Studentships 2012

**AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network
8th Annual
Trainee Symposium**

May 2 - 4, 2013 - Montreal, Quebec

**Open to all AllerGen Trainees and ASNPN Members
Space is limited.**



Registration Opens January 15, 2013

**AllerGen International Research Visit Program
2013 Application Deadlines**

Building on previously successful lab exchanges and the momentum of the International Partnership Initiative (IPI) program, AllerGen has launched a new capacity building opportunity for Network HQP's. Through a competitive process, the *International Trainee Research Visit Program* offers funding for AllerGen trainees and new professionals to spend from six weeks to six months outside of Canada working on research projects with international investigators and their research teams. In turn, AllerGen encourages visiting research students from outside Canada to work with AllerGen Investigators on AllerGen-funded research projects.



Applications will be evaluated based on the potential benefits of the research visit related to: networking; research collaboration; knowledge exchange; new skill development; and, maximized learning opportunities. Applicants must be able to demonstrate the relevance and potential impact of the proposed research activities as it relates to AllerGen's current research foci. Funding is restricted to a living allowance and travel-related expenses for AllerGen trainees.

The 2013 application deadlines are as follows:

- January 15, 2013 (2012-2013 Competition)
- April 1, 2013 (2013-2014 Competition)
- September 16, 2013 (2013-2014, subject to available funding)

Interested trainees must contact the AllerGen HQP and Events Coordinator, Michelle Harkness, indicating their intent to apply for *Research Visit* funding prior to completing an application.

Full details including an application form can be found on the [AllerGen website](#).



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:

Bin Yang, PhD, University of Manitoba; Supervisor, Dr. Zhikang Peng
Tracee Wee, MSc (c), University of British Columbia; Supervisors, Dr. Darryl Knight and Dr. Tillie Hackett
Sara Leo, MD, University of British Columbia; Supervisor, Dr. Edmond Chan
Leslie Moss, MD, McMaster University; Supervisor, Dr. M. Cyr
Karine Issa-El-Khoury, MD, McGill University; Supervisor, Dr. Christine Lejtenyi

ASNPN Leadership Committee Members

Lianne Soller, PhD (c)	<i>President</i> ; McGill University
Pia Reece, PhD (c)	<i>Vice-President</i> ; McMaster University
Elaine Fuertes, PhD (c)	<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i> ; University of British Columbia
Luisa Giles, PhD (c)	<i>Events/Communications Director</i> ; University of British Columbia
Jeremy Hirota, PhD	<i>Regional Director</i> , West (BC); University of British Columbia
Meghan Azad, PhD	<i>Regional Director</i> , Central (AB/SK/MB); University of Alberta
Claudia Hui, PhD (c)	<i>Regional Director</i> , Ontario; McMaster University
TBA	<i>Regional Director</i> , Quebec/Atlantic

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