Halloween is now over and kids have done their trick or treating. Major grant deadlines have past and we can now look forward to winter and Christmas (not necessarily in that order). This year the MICB Christmas party will be held at Canad Inns on December 20th and I will have more details to share next month. This past month has been a busy but productive month with many events related to research and personal news. We are looking forward to more good news in the coming months. Keep up the good work!

The Manitoba Health Research Council recently held a retreat to discuss the creation of a Research Cluster funding program for Manitoba. This will bring together groups of researchers to study a health issue or problem that affects Manitobans that each researcher individually will not be able to investigate. In keeping with this theme, MICB has initiated an examination of research activities within CancerCare Manitoba and the University of Manitoba that might align with this research cluster program. This could lead to new initiatives and directions for researchers at MICB. I will keep you informed on our progress.

I would like to officially announce the appointment of Dr. Ryan Zarychanski to MICB as a Senior Scientist. Dr. Zarychanski conducts research in the area of blood disorders and has established several national clinical trials. He also has a leadership role in the Specialized Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) program where the University was awarded a grant from CIHR. He has many publications but probably more importantly, has changed medical practice in Manitoba based upon his research. His expertise and interest in translational research will benefit both his research and MICB’s research. Welcome Ryan!

On October 3rd and 4th the 9th Annual National CLL meeting was held at the Inn at the Forks. The keynote address was given by Nicholas Chiorazzi, Head, Karches Center for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Research, The Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, NY. He introduced a new xenograft model of CLL that will impact CLL research for years to come. In addition, Dr. Kati Rai who created the staging system for CLL was also at the meeting. My trainees were so excited by his presence that they took pictures and had him sign textbooks. New and exciting discoveries in CLL research were discussed and new collaboration and ideas for research were generated. This has become the most important meeting for CLL researchers in Canada. I would like to thank Lynne Savage for her tireless efforts in organizing this conference.

Congratulations to Charlton Cooper on the birth of his new baby girl. Her name is Renee Alexina Khan Cooper!! 6 lbs 14 oz. Both parents and baby are doing great.

Sara Israels and Issai Vanan participated in the Inside Ride and raised nearly $5000 for CCMF. This will support pediatric research efforts at CancerCare Manitoba.

Yueqiu Zhou, a graduate student in Dr. Geoff Hick’s lab has published a paper in PLoS Genetics this month. She has discovered a mechanism by which a mutated gene called TLS/FUS causes amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This is
the first report describing how, at the molecular level, genes such as TLS/FUS cause ALS, and opens up avenues to possible new treatments. Congratulations!

A mountain of candy donated for Halloween! The kids from pediatrics did some trick or treating through CancerCare on Thursday. The first thank you goes to Eileen McMillan-Ward for decorating MICB and coordinating all the activities to include MICB in this special day. Also we have to thank Cheryl McFaddin at Cadbury for the chocolates, Marlene and her family for the pencils, stickers and chips, Flossy, Johnny and Darlene from St Vital Walmart for the wagon wheels and cookies, Ken Leslie at Royal Bank for full sized boxes of Smarties, Craig Poleshuk from Polo Park Boston Pizza for crayons, activity books, cookies, and a coupon for a free kids meal, McDonald’s for the apple slices, Old Dutch for the chips, and most importantly, everyone in MICB for their donations of candy and cash to help make Halloween a special day for kids with cancer!

Luke DeLange has retired from the University of Manitoba. He was a member of Dr. Geoff Hick’s laboratory for many years and had a long career in conducting research at the University of Manitoba. There was a Retirement Celebration held for him where staff at both MICB and University wished Luke the best in his retirement and presented him with gifts as a token of appreciation to what he has contributed to research. On behalf of all MICB staff, I would like to thank Luke for his research contributions and wish him the best as he enters retirement.

In November, the x-ray irradiator will arrive at MICB. This equipment will be located in the animal care facility and will be operated by Dr. Katyal’s laboratory. Please contact Dr. Katyal if you have an interest in using the irradiator to treat cells or mice.

The Canadian Cancer Research Alliance Conference will be held November 3-6th, 2013. Congratulations to the ten trainees who received a MICB travel award and the two trainees who received other awards. I hope to see all trainees at the conference and showcase the excellent research we conduct at MICB.

Our grade five students from Argyle Elementary school will be here on Nov 8th to prepare samples for their international space station experiment. We hope to have this project launched into space in November. Good luck to them in this experiment to prevent cancer.

Dr. Mai will be hosting a workshop on Microscopy, Optics and Imaging from November 25-29. University of Manitoba students can receive credit for this course “Basic Molecular Imaging” (IMED7300).

Cell Biology Club has started with a very interesting presentation by Dr. Katyal on comet assays. I encourage all MICB staff to attend and want to reinstate the expectation that all trainees attend. We will continue to have a mix of trainees and special talks on subjects of interest to continue to help and support our trainees.
It is with some sadness that we also have to say farewell to Angela Kemp. She was also a member of Dr. Hick’s lab and will be leaving to pursue other research opportunities. There will be a Farewell Get Together for Angela Kemp on Mon., Nov. 4th, 3:00-5:00 PM in Selkirk Room in MICB. We wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Dr. Morel Rubinger has passed away. Many of you might have worked alongside Dr. Rubinger throughout his many years at CancerCare Manitoba where he held various roles including Chair, Lymphoproliferative Disease Site Group and Medical Head, Hematology Lab. He worked tirelessly with his colleagues as a founding member of the Manitoba Blood & Marrow Transplant Program Team. In addition, Dr. Rubinger was a supporter of MICB and research efforts throughout CancerCare Manitoba. He will be missed.

Information that might be interesting only to a Director: Even though research funding has been a challenge for most laboratories and our publications are reduced in number, the quality of our research keeps improving. In a recent Economist article, researchers were criticized for the lack of reproducibility of research results. In particular, many findings that were published in Nature could not be reproduced in other laboratories. One indirect measure of reproducibility is citations in other journals. In this regard, MICB researchers are being sighted at increasing levels over the past 8 years indicating that our research or aspects of our research are being recognized and reproduced by other researchers.

Publications:

Yoon JY, Ishdorj G, Graham BA, Johnston JB, Gibson SB. Valproic acid enhances fludarabine-induced apoptosis mediated by ROS and involving decreased AKT and ATM activation in B-cell-lymphoid neoplastic cells. Apoptosis. 2013 Sep 22

Gadjı M, Crous-Tsanaclıs AM, Mathieu D, Mai S, Fortın D, Drouıın R. A new der(1;7)(q10;p10) leading to a singular 1p loss in a case of glioblastoma with oligodendroglioma component. Neuropathology. 2013 Sep 30

Wark L, Danescu A, Natarajan S, Zhu X, Cheng SY, Hombach-Klonisch S, Mai S, Klonisch T. Three-Dimensional Telomere Dynamics in Follicular Thyroid Cancer. Thyroid. 2013 Sep 4


**Grants and Fellowships opportunities**

**Nov 1**
- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Research Fellowship
- CIHR Partnership for health systems improvement
- Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program
- NSERC Discovery Grant program full application
- Cancer Research Institute Clinic and Lab integration program
- MICH Travel Grant
- Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigation in the pathogenesis of infectious disease
- Canadian Cancer Society Quality of Life research grant
- CIHR Network Catalyst grant
- EOI – Prostate Cancer Canada Team Grant
- Brain Canada Platform Support Grant deadline (EOI May 20)
- Canadian Federation of University Women Scholarship and Fellowship
- FAAF Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator Award
- FAAF CIHR Fellowship

**Nov 4**
- LOI MITAC Elevate Fellowship
- FAAF CBCF CIHR Breast cancer in young women research program
- FAAF Canadian Hemophilia Society Dream of a cure research program

**Nov 5**
- Alliance for Cancer Gene Therapy Young Investigator’s Award
- FAAF Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Seed Funding

**Nov 6**
- Alzheimer’s Society of Canada
  - Post Doctoral Fellowship
  - Young Investigator’s Grant
  - Regular Grant
- FAAF Canadian Hemophilia Society Pfizer Care until Cure Research Program

**Nov 11**
- Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario Seed Funding
- CIHR Population and Public Health Awards
- FAAF MITAC Elevate Fellowship

**Nov 13** Prostate Cancer Foundation Young Investigator’s Award

**Nov 15**
- UofM GETS funding for students on Tri-Council funds
- CIHR Prizes (Various Research Priority Areas)

October 2013
- CIHR Fellowship
- CIHR Priority Fellowship in Lung Cancer
- CIHR Fall Priority Announcements (Specific research areas)
- CIHR NSERC Discovery Frontiers Advancing big data in science in genomics
- Traditional Fulbright Scholarship (by nomination only)
- Canadian Blood Services Fellowship
- Canadian Hemophilia Society Until a Cure Research Program
- Canadian Hemophilia Society Dream of a Cure program
- Canadian Hemophilia Society Hemostasis Fellowship
- LOI Canadian Hemophilia Society Novo Nordisk Psychosocial Research program
- LOI Canadian Hemophilia Society Baxter Nursing fellowship
- Fulbright Canada Visiting Research Chairs
- Jonas Salk award nomination deadline

Nov 18
- FAAF Burroughs Wellcome Fund pre-term birth initiative
- FAAF CIHR New Investigator’s Salary Award
- FAAF CIHR Knowledge to Action grant
- Burroughs Wellcome Innovation in regulatory science

Nov 19 – MITAC Elevate Fellowship
Nov 20 – CIHR CBCF Breast Cancer in Young Women Program
Nov 22 – LOI CCMF Infrastructure and Applied/Basic/Clinical Scientist grant
Nov 25 – Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario post doc fellowship and clinician scholar award
Nov 28 – Grant writing workshop with Lorrie Kirschbaum
Nov 29 – UoM Nomination close for Junior Rh Awards

Nov 30
- Canadian Medical Association Special Awards
- Canadian Cancer Society Award for excellence in cancer research

Dec 1
- Manning Innovation Award nomination deadline
- CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health Travel awards
- CIHR Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health Young Investigator award
- MICH Travel grant
- Canadian Graduate Scholarship – MSc program
- Friends for an earlier breast cancer test

Dec 2
- CIHR Knowledge to Action
- CIHR Consortium on neurodegeneration in aging (EOI May 21)
- CIHR New Investigator’s Salary award
- Canada Summer Jobs applications open
- Burroughs Wellcome Pre-term birth initiative

Dec 3
- American Association for the study of liver disease clinical and translational research awards
- American Liver Foundation Post doc fellowship

October 2013
- American Liver Foundation Scholar award

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