Research News

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Inside this issue:
- Research Funding Success
- RIOH Announcement
- In the News
- Trainee Success
- CIO Update
- Presentations
- Coming Events
- Publications
- Funding Opportunities

INTRODUCTION

Summer is here! Not because of the warm weather but our summer students are here. Welcome and enjoy the research experience. There will be a summer student symposium in August please look for the announcements. RIOH was also officially launched this month. In the coming months more news will be released on a new Director, Section Heads, appointments and letterhead. On June 18th I will give my last State of the Institute Talk on the past, present and last of MICB. Coffee and donuts will be served at 11:00am in the Greenberg theater. Please attend as this will give a history of the 46 years of MICB and you might learn something new. We will announce the Merit Award winner and show how we did with our strategic plan. See you there!

RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2015 operating grants from CancerCare Manitoba Foundation. This year, our Foundation has committed $6.71 million in overall funding.

Dr. Kirk McManus
“Examining PARP1 as a novel drug target in RAD54B-deficient colorectal cancer cells”

Dr. Versha Banerji
“Targeting glycogen synthase kinase-3 in chronic lymphocytic leukemia”

Dr. Boyd McCurdy
was awarded $240,000 from NSERC for a project entitled “Modeling the transport of photons from source to detector as a means of improving radiation therapy by enhanced utilization of kV and MV X-ray imaging”.

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**RIOH ANNOUNCEMENT**

CancerCare Manitoba has the provincial mandate to provide clinical services and leadership in cancer control to the people of Manitoba, as well as to provide academic excellence through world class research and education related to cancer and blood disorders. In 1969, the visionary leaders of CancerCare Manitoba and the University of Manitoba created an institution called the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology, which focused on research in molecular biology. I am very pleased to announce that the time has come to expand the scope of our research, through the new Research Institute of Oncology and Hematology (RIOH) at the CancerCare Manitoba Research Centre. With today’s announcement, our efforts will now include the vital pillars of cancer research: Discovery, Prevention, Clinical Innovation/Health Services, and Patient Experience. Multidisciplinary teams from across the cancer continuum will collaborate, innovate and translate research into state of the art care for our patients. Already, recruitment and operational efforts are underway to augment the current complement of research scientists, and we envision inclusion of RIOH in the future CancerCare Manitoba building. We celebrate this expansion of scope with our valued Regional and National partners.

Media coverage of the RIOH Announcement can be found at [Winnipeg Free Press](#), [CJOB Radio](#), [Metro News](#), and [The Carillon](#).

**RESEARCH FUNDING SUCCESS (continued)**

**Erin Streu**, a research nurse working with CLL patients, was awarded a grant for $255,000 from CSL to support subcutaneous immunoglobulin therapy for the province. She was also awarded the Merck Lectureship for the Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology National Conference to promote the SCIG program. The award recognizes those whom best exemplifies a nursing program that is innovative and focuses on improving quality of life for patients and caregivers.

**Dr Spencer Gibson** was awarded 2-year $320,000 grant from Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada to study changes in metabolism in aggressive chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

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**June 22nd—Nomination deadline for the MICB Terry Fox Rising Star Entrance Scholarship**

New graduate students supervised by an MICB Senior Scientist are invited to apply for this 1 year studentship & travel award. Email [Eilean McKenzie-Matwi](#) with a copy of your undergraduate transcript, proof of enrollment in Graduate Studies, CV and a letter of support from your MICB supervisor. Your supervisor’s letter should also contain information about which TFRI-sponsored lab you will receiving training from.
RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

Dr Stephen Pistorius’s portable solid-state microwave imaging system to detect breast cancer in rural areas and low-income countries was profiled by CBC News. Article highlights some of the research projects supported by Grand Challenges Canada “Stars in Global Health” [http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/reverse-innovation-brings-technology-from-developing-nations-to-canada-1.3065052](http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/reverse-innovation-brings-technology-from-developing-nations-to-canada-1.3065052)

Dr Afshin Raouf’s recent publication in *Endocrine Related Cancers* on the mechanism by which estrogen signaling promotes colony expansion in normal ERα+ human luminal progenitors cells and mediates expression of H19 gene was featured by a number of local news outlets including CTV News at 6, The Winnipeg Free Press, and CJOB.

CBC reported that the 7th annual Manitoba’s Motorcycle Ride for Dad is aiming to raise $1 million with this year’s fund raiser. Funds from this event go to support education, patient support and research in Dr Sabine Mai’s lab. [http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/ride-for-dad-gears-up-to-crack-1m-in-prostate-cancer-funding-1.3081937](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/ride-for-dad-gears-up-to-crack-1m-in-prostate-cancer-funding-1.3081937)

TRAINEE SUCCESS

**Rebecca Dielschneider** (supervisor Dr Spencer Gibson) won the People’s Choice award at the Western Canadian 3 Minute Thesis competition in Kamloops, BC. Rebecca received over 20% of the popular vote! Rebecca’s video is competing at the national 3MT competition. [http://www.cags.ca/3mt/index.php](http://www.cags.ca/3mt/index.php)

**Hongyan Sun** (supervisor Dr Stephen Pistorius) won the Anthony J MacKay Student Paper Contest at the Canadian Radiation Protection Association conference held here in Winnipeg May 12-15, 2015.

2015 Research Day was held on May 13th with exceptional turn out and participation from nearly every department. Congratulations to our winners!

- MICB award for 1st place Basic Science Poster — *Erin McAndrew* (McManus lab)
- Tied for 2nd place Basic Science Poster — *Amy Dahl* (Mai lab) and *Yasamin Asbaghi* (McManus Lab).
- Honourable mention — *Xiaotong Wang* (Hicks lab)
- 1st place clinical poster — *Danielle Desautels* (Czaykowski supervised)
- 2nd place clinical poster — *Susan Green* (Czaykowski supervised)
- 3rd place clinical poster — *Brittany Perija* (Zarychanski supervised)

- MICB award for 1st place basic science oral — *Laura Thompson* (McManus lab)
- 2nd place basic science oral — *Rebecca Dielschneider* (Gibson lab)
- 3rd place basic science oral presentation — *Brent Guppy* (McManus lab)

Honourable mention — *Yueqin Zhou* (Hicks lab)

- 1st place clinical oral — *Lin Yang* (Johnston supervised)
- 2nd place clinical oral — *David Christiansen* (Dawe supervised)
- 3rd place clinical oral — *Patrick Boreskie* (Zarychanski supervised)

Photos of the Research Day winners are available on the RIOH Facebook page.

Follow us on twitter @RIOH_Mb
CancerCare Manitoba has partnered with the Canadian Cancer Clinical Trial Network (3CTN) to improve patient access to clinical trials and improve the efficacy and quality of clinical trial activities in Canada. The aims are to provide support, coordination and a network of teams. Enable sites to increase capacity and capability to conduct trials. CCMB’s role is to be a Regional Coordinating Centre for Manitoba and Saskatchewan and a Network Cancer Centre. Four year funding contract for approximately $630,000 for increased staffing plus an additional $156,000 for recruitment to academic trails over an established baseline. Manitoba Health for the first time will contribute $250,000 for this effort. CancerCare Manitoba Foundation is also increase its commitment for clinical trials. This will be a new era for clinical trails at CCMB.

PRESENTATIONS

Canadian association of Radiation Oncologists CARO: Annual scientific Meeting Sept 2015

Oral: PATRIOT Trial: Randomized Phase II Study of Prostate Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy Comparing 11 versus 29 Days Overall Treatment Time Harvey Quon, Aldrich Ong, Patrick Cheung, William Chu, Hans Chung, Danny Vesprini, Amit Chowdhury, Dilip Panjwani, Geordi Pang, Renee Korol, Melanie Davidson, Ananth Ravi, Boyd McCurdy, Liying Zhang, Oliver Bucher, Alexandre Mamedov, Andrea Deabreu, Elizabeth Lylyk, Andrew Loblaw

Poster: Three-Dimensional Nuclear Profiles of Circulating Tumor Cells in High Risk Prostate Cancer Patients Undergoing Radiotherapy and Androgen Deprivation Landon Wark, Harvey Quon, Aldrich Ong, Shahida Ahmed, Rashmi Koul, Amit Chowdhury, Sabine Mai

Outcome in Glioblastoma Multiforme; Saskatchewan experience Rashmi Koul, Arbind Dubey, P.Tai, V. Torri

Canadian Urology Association CUA Sept 2015

Treatment and outcomes of genitourinary small cell carcinoma in central Canada; Tad Kroczak, S.Ahmad, R.Koul, P.Czaykowski

June 5th—Nomination deadline for the MICB Merit Award

This award recognizes an RA, technician, support staff and/or administrative staff at MICB who shows outstanding contribution to research, going beyond their job description and promoting research excellence. Please email Eilean McKenzie-Matwiy with your nominee and describe why they deserve the award.


Pratima Basak, Sumanta Chatterjee, Steven Weger, M Christine Bruce, Leigh C Murphy, and Afshin Raouf Estrogen regulates luminal progenitor cell differentiation through H19 gene expression Endocr Relat Cancer ERC-15-0105 first published on 5 May 2015


COMING EVENTS

May 28—Improving Genomics through Collaboration and Innovation 2pm-4pm 2nd floor lecture theatre. The symposium is open to anyone who is interested in or is already using NGS in their research or diagnostic programs. The objective is to provide an overview of NGS, and a forum to discuss the science, applications, instrumentation, methods, and best practices in NGS. You will get to hear from academics and industry with experience in NGS, identifying challenges, and sharing progress. To register visit www.canadangssymposia.com or email Jeffrey.seitz@d-markbio.com

June 8—The Terry Fox Research Institute Prairie Node Symposium will be held at the Inn at The Forks. The keynote speaker is Dr. Sean Egen, Senior Scientist Developmental and Stem Cell Biology Program at the Hospital of Sick Children. Dr. Egen is the lead for the Terry Fox Research Institute Program Project Grant and will talk about Animal Models for Metastatic Breast Cancer.

June 18—Dr Spencer Gibson presents his annual “State of the Institute” talk on the past, the present and the last and results of MICB’s strategic plan will be revealed.

Do you have a research story you’d like to share? Please email Eileen McKenzie-Matwy before June 19th
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES HTTPS://WWW.GOOGLE.COM/CALENDAR/EMBED?SRC=MANITOBAINSTITUTEOFCELLBIOLOGY%40GMAIL.COM&CTZ=AMERICA/WINNIPEG

June 1—FAAF CIHR Joint Canada Israel Health Research Program
   - Child Neurology Foundation Research Grants
June 2—Pre-application deadline US Dept of Defense Lung cancer research program—Idea Development award
June 2—CIHR Health, Wellbeing and & Extended Working Life
June 3 - CIHR E-health innovation partnership program
   - Prostate Cancer Foundation—Young investigator Award
June 5—LOI American Thoracic Society unrestricted grants
June 12—FAAF Heart and Stroke Foundation Primary Prevention
   - MITACCS Globalink Research student travel award to Brazil, China, India, Vietnam, Mexico
June 15—CIHR Joint Canada Israel Health Research Program
June 17—Komen for the Cure Career Catalyst Grant (preapplication)
   - Komen for the Cure Post-doctoral and Clinical Fellowships (preapplication)
June 18—MITACCS Globalink student travel award
June 19—FAAF Lung Cancer Research Foundation Grant
   - FAAF North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition—Nursing, Pharmaceutical product innovation, nutritional research young investigator, Crohn’s and Colitis, and Mid-level career award
June 22—Weston Brain Institute Transformational Research Neurodegenerative Disease of Aging
June 24—The Company of Biologists Travel grant
June 25—CCSRI Prevention Research Grant
June 26—Weston Brain Institute Biomarkers Across Neurodegenerative Diseases
   - Heart and Stroke Foundation Primary Prevention
June 30—Weston Brain Institute Mechanisms of cell death in neurodegeneration
July 1—CanFASD Travel award
   - FAAF NSERC Idea to Innovation
July 2—LOI CCSRI Quality of Life Research grant
July 7—NSERC Idea to Innovation
July 15—NeuroDevNet Brain Canada studentship and post-doctoral fellowship