



**Institute of Human Development and Child and Youth Health
Newsletter – February 2005
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Message from the Scientific Director

After our move and the hiring of new staff, IHDCYH is enjoying a semblance of order and stability. We held a very successful “opening” of our beautiful new Montreal offices in November and are looking forward to hosting our Institute Day for CIHR Central in Ottawa on March 7th. In December we partnered with CIHR’s Ethics Office to launch an RFA to support both empirical and conceptual research on ethical, legal and social issues in studies involving pregnant women and children. Also late last Fall, we collaborated with CIHR’s Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health, and Addiction and Institute of Genetics, NIMH, NICHD, and NAAR (the U.S.-based National Alliance for Autism Research) in an RFA on the genetics of autism. We are currently partnering with several CIHR Institutes, AllerGen (a new addition to the NCE program), and a large number of government and industry partners to develop a large initiative on the etiologic roles of building construction, ventilation, and indoor air quality in the development of childhood asthma, allergy, and recurrent respiratory infections. The second launch of our Healthy Pregnancy RFA yielded 18 letters of intent. Four of the groups who applied have been invited to submit full applications, of which IHDCYH is hoping to fund two. Finally, we invite research trainees planning careers in reproductive and perinatal epidemiology or maternal-fetal pharmacology to apply to one of our week-long summer institutes that we will jointly fund with NICHD. We are very excited about the innovative strategic initiatives we are planning and invite you to read further to learn more about them.

Funding Decisions

Results of the Spring 04 Priority Announcements: IHDCYH Start-up Grants for Young Investigators

IHDCYH funded several start-up grants for young investigators through our Priority Announcement. These one-year grants of up to \$100,000 are non-renewable. For applicants who are successful in obtaining funding in the next open grants competition, start-up funding will terminate at the start date of the new grant. For more information, please visit CIHR’s website (www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca)

Results of the Letter of Intent Review for the “Healthy Pregnancy” Request for Applications (RFA)

For the “Healthy Pregnancy” RFA, a total of 18 letters of intent (LOIs) were received, of which 4 were invited to submit a full proposal. Further information is available on CIHR’s website.

Funding Opportunities

RFA on Ethical, Legal, and Social Issues in Studies Involving Pregnant Women and Children

In collaboration with CIHR's Ethics Office, IHDCYH launched an RFA in December entitled: "Empirical and Conceptual Research on Ethical, Legal and Social Issues in Studies Involving Pregnant Women and Children." The purpose of this RFA is to provide operating funds and to build research capacity by encouraging interdisciplinary work by trainees and mid-career investigators in this field. The deadline for registration is April 1, 2005. The [complete description of the RFA](#) is available on the website.

RFA on the Influence of Indoor Air Quality on the Development of Childhood Asthma, Allergy and Recurrent Respiratory Infections

A Partner Consortium Workshop was held January 27th in Ottawa to discuss the development of an RFA on the influence of indoor air quality on the development of childhood asthma, allergy and recurrent respiratory infections. Twenty-two participants met to define the major research themes and partner commitments. Potential partners included other CIHR Institutes (IAPH, IGH, III), Health Canada, the National Research Council, Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, among others. Three research areas will be addressed in the RFA: (1) characterizing the environment in which children live and play – home and daycare; (2) measuring indoor air parameters comprehensively; (3) and studying the health outcomes. This innovative RFA will seek applications for one or more cohort studies that begin prenatally and follow children through the first 4 years of life. It should yield clues about the etiology of asthma, allergy, and recurrent respiratory infections and suggest new standards for the building construction and ventilation industries. It will be launched in June 2005.

IHDCYH Workshop Funding Program

The Institute will provide support or partial support up to \$10,000 towards workshops or small meetings of investigators that have direct relevance to the Institute's mandate and research priorities. The workshop program is intended for a single, focused event, not repeated funding for annual meetings or conferences. Applications will be accepted twice a year (March 15 and September 15). For more information, please consult the Institute's [workshop guidelines](#).

Other Funding Opportunities

IHDCYH and its partners are pleased to announce the following IHDCYH-related funding opportunities (for more details, please click on the RFA's title):

- RFA: **Identifying Autism Susceptibility Genes**, in partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIMH and NICHD), CIHR Institutes of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), and Genetics (IG), and NAAR. LOI deadline is March 19, 2005.
- RFA: **Early Life Events and First Episodes of Brain Disorders** - New Discoveries, in partnership with CIHR-INMHA. Funding tools offered are: High-Risk Seed Grant, (registration deadline: September 1, 2005) and New Emerging Team (LOI deadline: April 1, 2005)
- RFA: **Research in Addiction: Innovative Approaches in Health Research**, in partnership with CIHR-INMHA (lead Institute), CIHR Institutes of Aboriginal Peoples'

Health, and Gender and Health. Various funding tools are offered; registration deadlines are in March or May 2005.

- RFA: **Facing our Future: Human Genetics, Ethics, Law and Society**, in partnership with CIHR-IG (lead Institute) and CIHR Institute of Population and Public Health. Registration deadline is April 1, 2005.
- RFA: **Genomic Medicine and Human Development Operating Grants**, in partnership with CIHR-IG (lead Institute) and other CIHR Institutes. LOI deadline is April 1, 2005.
- RFA: **Reducing Health Disparities and Promoting Equity for Vulnerable Populations- Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement Grants**, in partnership with CIHR-IGH, CIHR-IPPH (lead Institutes) and other CIHR Institutes. LOI deadline is May 1, 2005.
- **Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative (CTCRI)** offers a variety of grants.

IHDCYH News

IHDCYH opening

IHDCYH official opening was held in November 2004, in conjunction with the Institute's strategic funding announcement of \$6 million for healthy developmental trajectories research. It was also an occasion for IHDCYH to meet with researchers and stakeholders in the Montreal area.

(Picture: Dean Fuks with MK cutting the ribbon)



Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology (July 10-16, 2005)

IHDCYH and the National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) are pleased to announce their 1st Annual Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology. Graduate students and postdoctoral and clinical fellows interested in a research career in reproductive or perinatal epidemiology are invited to apply before March 1st, 2005. For more details, please consult the [application guidelines](#).

Summer Institute in Maternal-Fetal Pharmacology (July 24-30, 2005)

IHDCYH and NICHD are also jointly hosting the 1st Annual Summer Institute in Maternal-Fetal Pharmacology. Clinical and non-clinical scientists (including physicians, pharmacists, nurses, pharmacologists, and toxicologists) at the post-doctoral fellowship or early faculty stage of their careers are invited to apply before March 15, 2005. Please consult the [application guidelines](#) for more information.

Open Forum for Researchers

In conjunction with its Institute Advisory Board Meeting in Calgary on April 18, IHDCYH will organize an open forum for researchers. Presentations about the Institute, including its mandate, research priorities, and funding opportunities, will be followed by a reception. This will be an excellent opportunity for the research community to meet with the Institute staff and Advisory Board.

New Principal Investigators Meeting

With CIHR's Institute of Genetics, IHDCYH is planning a new principal investigators (PI) meeting. This meeting is for new faculty (in their first four years) at Canadian universities, including scientists and clinician-scientists in the reproductive, child health, and genetics communities. Approximately 100 new PIs from across the country will be invited to meet and engage with their peers. In addition, a major portion of the meeting will be devoted to mentoring through formal presentations and training sessions on topics such as grant writing, career planning, and lab management. The meeting will be held in November 2005. Watch for more information on our website and future newsletters.

Pfizer Prize

Bruce Murphy, member of the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire de l'Université de Montréal and Chair of IHDCYH's Advisory Board, has been awarded the 2004 Pfizer Prize for excellence in research. This honour recognizes the quality of his academic research career. Congratulations, Bruce!

2005 IHDCYH-Related Upcoming Events

March 20-23: Banff International Conferences on Behavioural Science - Child and Adolescent Mental Health: Evidence-based Interventions;

April 18-19: IHDCYH Board Meeting and Open Forum for Researchers (Calgary);

April 29-May 1: International Meeting on Inuit and Native American Child Health and 17th Annual IHS Research Conference (Seattle, USA);

June 16-21: 61st SOGC Annual Clinical Meeting in conjunction with the 39th Annual Conference of the AOGQ (Quebec City);

June 21-24: Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (CFBS) 48th Annual Meeting - Main theme is lifestyle & molecular bases of health and diseases (Guelph);

June 26-27: Society for Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research (SPER) 17th Annual Meeting (Toronto);

July 10-16: Annual Summer Institute in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology (Woods Hole, Massachusetts);

July 24-30: Annual Summer Institute in Maternal-Fetal Pharmacology (Grey Rocks, Quebec);

September 18-21: Canadian Public Health Association Conference - Mapping the Future of Public Health: People, Places and Policies (Ottawa).

(For more information, click on the event's title)

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