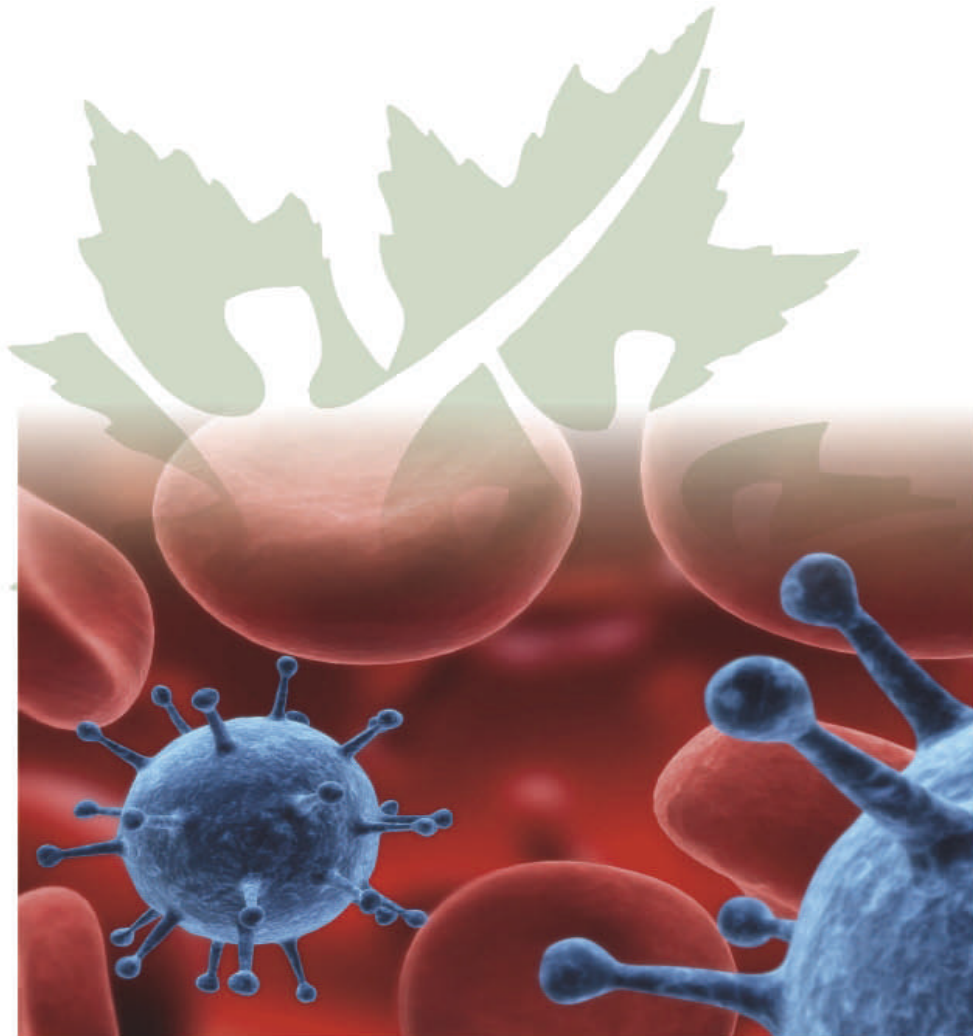


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## NEW INVESTIGATOR FORUM 2007

### FINAL REPORT



**IRSC CIHR**

Institut des maladies  
infectieuses et immunitaires  
Institute of Infection and Immunity

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## Table of Contents

<b>Background</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Meeting Overview</b>	
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Participants</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Format</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Workshops/Speakers</b>	
<i>Research Management Workshop</i>	<b>2</b>
<i>Multidisciplinary Research Workshop</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Grant Writing and Peer Review Workshop</i>	<b>3</b>
<i>Career Development Workshop</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>From Bench to Boardroom – What You Need to Know About Commercializing your Research</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Lessons Learned as a New Investigator</i>	<b>4</b>
<i>Saturday Evening Speaker - André Picard</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>CIHR Speakers</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>Poster Session</i>	<b>5</b>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix 1 – Program</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix 2—Participant List</b>	<b>8</b>

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### Background

Researchers, clinicians and decision makers share a common interest in the health of Canadians and a responsibility related to research. The CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity recognizes that the ongoing development of new researchers is fundamental to a strong and innovative health research capacity within the Institute's mandate. Initiatives such as the CIHR Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research and the New Emerging Teams program have sought to expand the resources available for development of new Canadian researchers. The New Investigators Forum seeks to initiate a dialogue with infection and immunity related investigators in the early stages of their research careers and provide additional information and tools to enhance their success.

In the fall of 2006, a request was sent out to relevant chairs of departments in the area of infection and immunity in Canada requesting nominations of new investigators who were within the first five years of their first research appointment. Those nominees provided the list to which formal invitations were sent out in December 2007.



### Meeting Overview

#### **Purpose**

- To provide an opportunity for new investigators in the disciplines and themes in infection and immunity to interact with their peers across Canada.
- To develop skills relating to planning and supporting a research career.
- To inform the Institute of potential opportunities for strategic programs relating to new investigators.

#### **Objectives**

- To celebrate and promote Canadian new investigators in the infection and immunity research community in a "retreat-like" setting.
- To learn about current infection and immunity research activity in Canada and elsewhere.
- To facilitate interaction, learning, sharing of knowledge, collaboration and networking.
- To provide an opportunity for new investigators to present their research programs.
- To participate in workshops that cover a range of skills required to establish and maintain a research career.

- To foster an interdisciplinary environment which includes all aspects of research.

### ***Participants***

Meeting participants represented all CIHR themes (basic science, clinical science, population health and health services) and included 72 researchers within 5 years of their first research appointment. The meeting also brought together a cross section of experts working on various aspects of research in infection and immunity. These expert researchers enriched the program by facilitating sessions and conducting workshops on a diverse range of topics. The list of participants is found in Appendix 2.



### ***Format***

The Forum was held at the Kingbridge Centre in King City, Ontario on April 13-15, 2007. The format of the Forum included plenary sessions, panel discussions and workshops allowing for optimal interactions among new investigators and workshop leaders. Workshop topics included multidisciplinary research, research commercialization, grant writing and peer review, research management and career development. For an overview of the program please see Appendix 1. In addition, all new investigators submitted an abstract on their research program and participated in poster sessions to facilitate networking between participants.

### ***Workshops & Speakers***

The Forum program consisted of five workshop and 4 plenary talks which are summarized below.

### ***Research Management Workshop***

The Research Management workshop provided new investigators with insight into running their personal research program. Tips on how to hire good employees, mentoring graduate students, dealing with budget issues, prioritizing tasks and keeping track of multiple research projects was discussed. Table discussions using supplied case studies were facilitated by members of the organizing committee and provided graphic examples of situations that may be encountered by Forum



participants in their own programs. Case studies focused on an array of research management issues including plagiarism of manuscripts, laboratory disagreements, employee benefits and fairness.

### ***Multidisciplinary Research Workshop***



The Multidisciplinary Research workshop illustrated some of the issues inherent in creating multi-disciplinary research groups of investigators working in a variety of research areas. Using supplied scenarios, small groups developed an outline for a mock Request for Applications (RFA) as well as responded with a Letter of

Intent (LOI) using the expertise in their group. Each group had an opportunity to present their LOI to the Forum participants. The goal of this workshop was to encourage researchers to look beyond their own labs/departments for collaborators as well as to introduce participants to the process of RFA development.

### ***Grant Writing and Peer Review Workshop***

This workshop provided valuable information to new investigators on successful grant writing and the peer review system. A brief presentation on the principles of grant writing covered the basics of grant preparation and the mechanisms of peer review, and included reference to the unique aspects of personnel grant applications.

This introduction was followed by a breakout session where participants were divided into small groups to act as members of "Mock Grant Review Panels". Each panel reviewed 2-3 grants with participants functioning as reviewers and/or readers and the panels were chaired by past or current chairs of CIHR peer review committees (PRC).



A plenary Q&A wrap-up explored themes in grant preparation and review with a panel composed of the PRC chairs.

### ***Career Development Workshop***

The Career Development workshop focused on the issues faced by new investigators in managing their research career. The session drew upon the knowledge and insight of senior researchers who have experienced a wide variety of career development trajectories and have been actively involved in the management and mentorship of new investigators throughout their own careers. The emphasis was on providing practical career management advice in areas such as mentorship strategies, the importance of leadership roles, balancing work and personal life, preparation and application for tenure and effective management of administrative/clinical/teaching responsibilities.

### ***From Bench to Boardroom – What You Need to Know About Commercializing your Research***

*Sponsored by the International Centre for Infectious Diseases ([www.icid.com](http://www.icid.com))*

This workshop introduced the 'how-tos' of commercializing research breakthroughs. The speakers drew on their respective experiences to discuss:

- ✦ How to recognize the commercial potential of an invention and what to do about it – how to protect, when to publish, when to seek assistance
- ✦ How to commercialize a technology or product – what to patent, how to identify a market, convert a technology to a product, obtain resources, grow a company



The session concluded with a mock funding panel modeled on the popular CBC television program "Dragons' Den," featuring pitches by pre-selected Forum participants. The audience was enlisted to decide the fate of their peers' fictional ventures.

### ***Lessons Learned as a New Investigator***

Eric Brown (McMaster University) and Marina Klein (McGill University) spoke at the Forum as mentors in the infection and immunity research community who are not too far removed from being a "new investigator". They provided their insight for our "Lessons Learned as a New Investigator" seminar where they provided their "Top 10 Lessons Learned" to provide tips and advice on building a successful career as a research scientist.

### ***Saturday Evening Speaker***

André Picard, public health reporter for The Globe and Mail provided some insight to the participants on interacting with the media and how the media choose their stories. He emphasized that the ability to communicate science in a brief and effective way to the public is essential in being able to tell your story.

### ***CIHR Speakers***

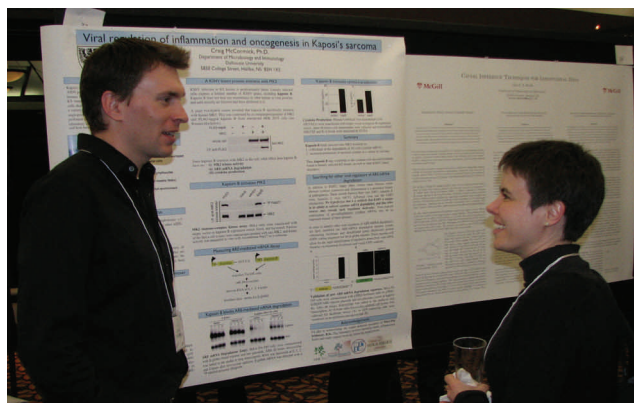
Dr. Bhagirath Singh, Scientific Director of the Institute of Infection and Immunity spoke on "Sustaining Excellence and Increasing Capacity in Infection and Immunity Research in Canada". He described the role of III in terms of championing research, supporting strategic initiatives, engaging the research community, partners and stakeholders, and developing partnerships to support research in strategic priority areas. Dr. Singh also described some of the accomplishments of III and the new III Strategic Plan 2007-2012.



Dr. Alan Bernstein, President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research spoke to the participants about the current state of CIHR and the future of research in Canada. He emphasized that he believes this is an excellent time to be working in science and answered questions from the new investigators about their concerns with the current funding situation.

### ***Poster Session***

The posters session took place on April 13 and April 14 where the new investigators presented their overall research program. Since participants were from various research areas in infection and immunity they were encouraged to focus their poster on their research program as opposed to specific research projects to enable interactions with their peers from other disciplines. This proved to be an excellent networking opportunity to meet with their peers from across Canada.





### Evaluation

At the conclusion of the Forum, 58 participants completed an evaluation to assess the program elements and make recommendations for future meetings. The evaluation showed that all of the respondents felt that the Forum was a good venue to make connections with new colleagues. As a result of attending the Forum three quarters or respondents are more likely to explore or engage in interdisciplinary research while just over half are planning new research collaborations as a result of attending this Forum. In conclusion, all of the respondents agree that the Forum workshops will be helpful to them when they return to their own research environment and all recommended that III hold a similar Forum in the future.

### Next Steps

Overall the Forum proved to be an excellent opportunity for new investigators to exchange ideas and discuss common issues that they are facing at this point in their careers. Based on the results of the Forum evaluation there is no doubt that the III New Investigator Forum should be repeated in the future.



## FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2007

3:00 p.m.	Registration open	Auditorium
2:30 p.m.	Bus #1 departs from Pearson International Airport	Terminal 1 Ground Transportation Arrivals Level
4:15 p.m.	Bus #2 departs from Pearson International Airport	Terminal 1 Ground Transportation Arrivals Level
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Poster set-up	Ballroom
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner	Auditorium
7:00 - 7:15 p.m.	<b>Bhagirath Singh, Scientific Director III - Welcome</b> <b>Chair : W. Hill</b>	Auditorium
7:15 - 8:00 p.m.	<b>Alan Bernstein - President CIHR</b>	Auditorium
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Poster Session/Networking <b>Chairs: D. Granville &amp; W. Köster</b>	Ballroom

## SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2007

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:30 - 8:45 a.m.	Introduction of goals and objectives <b>Chair: K. Fowke</b>	Auditorium
8:45 - 10:15 a.m.	Workshop: Multidisciplinary Research <b>Chair: C. Cooper</b>	Auditorium
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Refreshment Break	Main Lobby
10:30 - 12:00 p.m.	Workshop: From Bench to Boardroom – What You Need To Know About Commercializing Your Research (Sponsored by ICID) <b>Chair: L. Krishnan</b> <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Francisco Diaz-Mitoma - University of Ottawa</li> <li>• Terry Duguid - International Centre for Infectious Diseases</li> <li>• Darren Fast - Solalta Advisors Ltd.</li> <li>• Mike Williams - Ade &amp; Company Inc.</li> </ul>	Auditorium
12:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Lunch/Free time/Recreation	Dining Room
2:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Workshop: Grant Writing and Peer Review <b>Chair: K. Fowke</b> <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roy Duncan - Dalhousie University</li> <li>• David Speert - University of British Columbia</li> <li>• Jean Marshall - Dalhousie University</li> <li>• Joaquin Madrenas - University of Western Ontario</li> <li>• Karl Tibelius - Canadian Institutes of Health Research</li> <li>• Miguel Valvano - University of Western Ontario</li> </ul>	Auditorium Break-out rooms
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Dinner	Auditorium
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	André Picard, Globe & Mail <b>Chair: B. Fischer</b>	Auditorium
8:30 - 10:00 p.m.	Poster Session/Networking <b>Chairs: D. Granville &amp; W. Köster</b>	Ballroom

## SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 2007

7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Dining Room
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	“Lessons Learned as a New Investigator” <b>Chair: D. Heinrichs</b> <b>Speaker:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric Brown - McMaster University</li> </ul>	Auditorium
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	Workshop: Research Management <b>Chair: D. Jakeman</b> <b>Speaker:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miguel Valvano - University of Western Ontario</li> </ul>	Auditorium
10:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Refreshment Break	Main Lobby
10:45 - 11:45 p.m.	Workshop: Career Development <b>Chair: N. Shoukry</b> <b>Speakers:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lorne Tyrrell - University of Alberta</li> <li>• Katherine Siminovitch - Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto</li> </ul>	Auditorium
11:45 - 12:15 p.m.	“Lessons Learned as a New Investigator” <b>Chair: C. Cooper</b> <b>Speaker:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marina Klein - McGill University</li> </ul>	Auditorium
12:15 - 12:45 p.m.	Wrap-up/Summary/Evaluation <b>Chair: K. Fowke</b>	Auditorium
1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
2:00 p.m.	Bus departs for Pearson International Airport	

## Organizing Committee

Curtis Cooper	University of Ottawa
Benedikt Fischer	University of Victoria
Keith Fowke (Chair)	University of Manitoba
David Granville	University of British Columbia
David Heinrichs	University of Western Ontario
David Jakeman	Dalhousie University
Wolfgang Koester	University of Saskatchewan
Lakshmi Krishnan	National Research Council – Ottawa
Naglaa Shoukry	University of Montreal

### *IAB Representatives:*

Warren Hill	BC Centre for Disease Control
Joaquin Madrenas	University of Western Ontario/Robarts Research Institute

### *Staff:*

Bethany Heinrichs	Administrative Officer, III
Bruce Moor	Assistant Director, III

## Speakers

Alan Bernstein	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Eric Brown	McMaster University
Francisco Diaz-Mitoma	University of Ottawa
Terry Duguid	International Centre for Infectious Diseases (ICID)
Roy Duncan	Dalhousie University
Darren Fast	Solalta Advisors Ltd.
Marina Klein	McGill University
Jean Marshall	Dalhousie University
André Picard	The Globe and Mail
Kathy Siminovitch	Mount Sinai Hospital
Bhagirath Singh	Institute of Infection and Immunity
David Speert	University of British Columbia
Karl Tibelius	Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)
Lorne Tyrrell	University of Alberta
Miguel Valvano	University of Western Ontario
Mike Williams	Ade & Company Inc.

### **CIHR Staff**

Lynne Côté	Program Delivery Officer, CIHR
Jennifer Gunning	Team Lead, HIV/AIDS Research Initiative, III
Carol Richardson	Manager, External Relations, Strategic Initiative and Evaluation, III

### III New Investigator Forum 2007 – List of Participants

#### New Investigators

Ninan Abraham	University of British Columbia
Emma Allen-Vercoe	University of Calgary
Pertonela Ancuta	Université de Montreal
Nathalie Arbour	Université de Montréal
Troy Baldwin	University of Alberta
Dan Barreda	University of Alberta
Sam Basta	Queen's University
Carole Beaudoin	Public Health Agency of Canada
Lionel Berthoux	Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Julie Bettinger	University of British Columbia
Peter Cadieux	University of Western Ontario
Caroline Cameron	University of Victoria
Lisa Cameron	University of Alberta
Shan Cen	McGill University
Brian Coombes	McMaster University
Leah Cowen	University of Toronto
Lisa Craig	Simon Fraser University
Javier Di Noia	Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal
Jolyne Drummelsmith	Université Laval
Brenda Elias	University of Manitoba
Marie Elliot	McMaster University
Michael Eze	University of Winnipeg
Mario Feldman	University of Alberta
Louis-Charles Fortier	Université de Sherbrooke
Andrew Freywald	University of Regina
Erin Gaynor	University of British Columbia
Katrina Gee	Queen's University
Elias Haddad	McGill University
Elie Haddad	Université de Montréal
Mansour Haeryfar	The University of Western Ontario
Steven Hallam	University of British Columbia
Trevor Hart	York University
Laura Hertel	The University of Western Ontario
Janet Hill	University of Saskatchewan
Kim Jones	McMaster University
Neelam Khaper	Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Tobias Kollmann	University of British Columbia
Marko Kryworuchko	Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO)
Sylvie Lesage	Université de Montréal
Shawn Lewenza	University of Calgary
Brian Lichty	McMaster University
Robert Lorway	University of Manitoba
Brian Mark	University of Manitoba



Vera Mazurak	University of Alberta
Donna-Marie McCafferty	University of Calgary
Craig McCormick	Dalhousie University
Tina Mele	University of Western Ontario
Erica Moodie	McGill University
Nades Palaniyar	SickKids/University of Toronto
Angela Pearson	Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique
Svetlana Popova	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Balaji Ramanathan	University of Prince Edward Island
Julia Rempel	University of Manitoba
Stacey Ritz	Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Yan Shi	University of Calgary
Patricia Spittal	University of British Columbia
James Stafford	University of Alberta
Jan Storek	University of Calgary
Woong-Kyung Suh	Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal
Kelly Summers	Lawson Health Research Institute
Nikhil Thomas	Dalhousie University
Dat Tran	The Hospital for Sick Children
Marina Ulanova	Northern Ontario School of Medicine
Jude Uzonna	University of Manitoba
Louis Valiquette	Université de Sherbrooke
Peter van den Elzen	University of British Columbia
Guido van Marle	University of Calgary
Veronika von Messling	INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier
Jun Wang	Dalhousie University
Joyce Wilson	University of Saskatchewan
Susan Wootton	University of British Columbia
Yan Zhou	University of Saskatchewan