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NGDI Call for Information

Our NGDI-UBC 2011 Annual Report needs your input!

Jocelyn would like to hear from all NGDI members regarding their activities for Neglected Global Diseases in 2011! Please forward any and all publications, awards, funding, and/or stories for inclusion in our upcoming report. Email [Jocelyn](#) by December 10, 2011 with the details! Thanks for your support.

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NGDI Member News

UBC, CFRI and BC Children's researchers to lead \$2.8-million project to reduce deadly infection in Bangladeshi mothers, children

Researchers from the University of British Columbia, Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI) and BC Children's Hospital (BCCH) have won a \$2.8-million grant from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to improve the survival rate of Bangladeshi mothers, newborns and young children through the prevention of sepsis, a life-threatening form of infection in which the bloodstream is overwhelmed by bacteria.

The *Interrupting Pathways to Maternal, Newborn and Early Childhood Sepsis Initiative* will be led by **Dr. Charles Larson**, a clinical professor in pediatrics in the Faculty of Medicine and associate member of the School of Population and Public Health (SPPH) at UBC, a senior associate clinician scientist at CFRI and Director of the Centre for International Child Health (CICH) at BCCH, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.

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The Stealth Art of Infectious Agents: Researchers Uncover Why the Body can't Defend against Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis, which kills over 2 million people each year, is caused primarily by infectious bacteria known as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* - or Mtb. Mtb targets human immune cells as part of its strategy to avoid detection, effectively neutralizing the body's immune response. Up until now, scientists had a general understanding of the process, but researchers in the Immunity and Infection Research Centre at Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and the University of British Columbia have shown Mtb produces a specific protein that allows it to defuse and bypass the body's security system. The results are published today in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, and provide a pathway for improved treatments against this disease.

"TB has been able to completely mislead our immune systems, convincing our body it isn't there, which is why it is such an effective killer," says **Dr. Yossef Av-Gay**, research scientist with the Immunity and Infection Research Centre at the Vancouver Coastal Research Institute and professor in the Division of Infectious Disease at UBC Faculty of Medicine. "We discovered that the cells in charge of targeting and destroying invading bacteria are being fooled by a special protein that blocks the immune cells ability to recognize and destroy it."

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PRE-EMPT PRE-eclampsia-Eclampsia Monitoring, Prevention & Treatment

The PRE-EMPT Co-ordinating Centre has released the Annual Report 2010-2011 for the program. Program head **Dr. Peter von Dadelszen** says in his opening letter, "In all settings, be they in low, middle or high income countries, pre-eclampsia ranks amongst the top three causes of direct maternal mortality. Over 99% of the estimated 50-80,000 pre-eclampsia-related maternal deaths annually occur in low and middle income

countries, and most of these lives are lost by women in their teens or early twenties – a tragic waste of human potential. This disproportionate risk borne by young women in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa represents a major social inequity.” The report will soon be posted on the program’s <http://pre-empt.cfri.ca> website.

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Schools can Help Combat HIV/AIDS

Dr. Shafik Dharamsi, Faculty Lead for the LIU Global Health Network recently participated in and helped organize an international colloquium led by Dr. Andrew MacNab on establishing and evaluating health promoting schools with reference to WHO Guidelines, held at The Wallenberg Research Centre, Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, Stellenbosch University, South Africa, November 9-11, 2011.

“Schools have a responsibility to improve the knowledge and change the attitudes and behaviour of learners regarding HIV/Aids,” said Dr Jyothi Chabilall of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University (SU). The colloquium was organised by STIAS and the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (PWIAS) at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada. Themed “Many Voices One Song.” Health-Promoting Schools: Evidence, Strategies, Challenges and Prospects, the colloquium offered opinion leaders and educators the opportunity to evaluate school-based health promotion programs and to discuss the implementation of this health model with reference to the World Health Organisation guidelines. [<read more>](#)

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Accessible Science Initiative hold first two Science Without Borders Webinars

On November 7th they featured Dr. Dr. Salim S. Abdool Karim, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, Columbia University; pro vice-chancellor (Research), University of KwaZulu-Natal; Director of Centre for the AIDS Program of Research in South Africa. His presentation was titled “*New hope for HIV Prevention*” *Achievements and Challenges of Research in South Africa*.

On November 28th the featured speaker was Dr. Susana López Charreton Professor at National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) Co-recipient of the Carlos J. Finlay Prize for Microbiology (UNESCO, 2001). Dr. Charreton spoke about “*Strategies of rotavirus to subvert some of the antiviral host responses*” *Achievements and Challenges of Research in Mexico*.

Upcoming on December 14th Dr. Alexis Kalergis who is currently a lecturer of Immunology and Microbiology at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, will speak about “*Achievements and Challenges of Research in Chile*. His line of investigation deals with the molecular interactions controlling the immunological synapse between the dendritic cell and the T lymphocyte and its implications in the defense against pathogens and tumors and the prevention of autoimmunity. Specifically, these studies aim to elucidate the cellular mechanisms by which dendritic cells trigger the activation of T lymphocytes. His group is using animal models to develop strategies to prevent the formation of the immunological synapsys, thus interfering with the onset of autoimmunity. For more information on ASI goto <http://accessible-science.org/accessible/>.

Location: Life Sciences Centre, LSC3

Time: 12:30 to 1:30 pm

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NGDI News

NGDI Distinguished Lectureship Seminar featuring Dr. Stuart MacLeod **Tomorrow Dec 2nd at noon**

NGDI-UBC Distinguished Lectureship Seminar Series

Title: Better Medicines for Children: An international priority

Presenter: Dr. Stuart MacLeod, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Vice President, Academic Liaison & Research Coordination Professor, Department of Pediatrics,
University of British Columbia Child & Family Research Institute

Date: Friday, December 2, 2011

Time: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. (Seminar) / 1:00 — 2:00 p.m. (Reception)

Location: Auditorium (Seminar) / MSL Room 101 (Reception)
Michael Smith Laboratories: 2185 East Mall, Vancouver Campus

The full poster is available [here](#).

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NGDI Team Grant Meeting for USAID Development Innovation Ventures

The first team meeting for the USAID DIV grant was held on November 17th with 13 interested members. There is good momentum building to select a project that be able to achieve an accelerated growth path to reach tens of millions of beneficiaries worldwide within 10 years. Another meeting will be held in early January to for final project selection and a workshop will be held in February with the selected team. For more information on the grant or if you are interested in attending the 2nd meeting, please contact [Jocelyn](#) before December 15th.

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Canadian Academy of Health Sciences – Canadians Making a Difference released

The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences has released the report entitled [Canadians Making a Difference: The Expert Panel on Canada's Strategic Role in Global Health](#). This report, authored by an Expert Panel of leading Canadian and international global health experts, is based on a year-long evidence-based assessment process that was completed earlier this year. The report identifies five roles in which there is an opportunity for Canada to have significant global impact including:

- Indigenous and Circumpolar Health Research
- Population and Public Health
- Community-Oriented Primary Healthcare
- Smart Partnerships in Education and Research
- Global health innovation

Dr. Kishor Wasan represented the NGDI-UBC in December 2010 by providing expert witness evidence to the CAHS panel. Other members sending individual evidence to the general call were Dr. Robert Hancock, Dr. Jennifer Love, and Dr. Charles Larson. The NGDI is mentioned as a success story in the report on page 18.

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New University-Industry Liaison Office (UILO) Website features NGDI

The UILO has developed a new website with the new UBC branding format. This informative site features the NGDI as an [initiative](#) of the UILO (as they were a founding member) and also as an example of the use of UBC's [Global Access Principles](#) with for the Oral AmB project. Thank you to Jamie Hall and Angus Livingstone for the

continued support!

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Funding Opportunities

Africa Initiative Graduate Research Grant

The Africa Initiative Graduate Research Grant offers fulltime graduate students enrolled at a Canadian university the opportunity to conduct field-based research in Africa, and full-time graduate student enrolled at an African university to conduct research in Canada for three months in one of six thematic areas: conflict resolution, energy, food security, health, migration, and climate change. Participants will receive a grant of up to CAD \$10,000 toward their research.

Eligible Applicants: Master's and PhD students

Amount of Award: up to \$10,000

Application Deadline: January 15, 2012

Contact: <mailto:aiexchange@cigionline.org>

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The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges in Global Health – 3 new grants

[Biomarkers of Gastrointestinal \(Gut\) Function and Health](#) Letter of Intent Jan 11, 2012 deadline 1-2 year grants \$1.5M max per grant

The goal of this opportunity is to identify and validate biomarkers of gut function to improve the health and development of children in the developing world. This funding initiative is intended to identify a promising biomarker or a biomarker signature that accurately reflects physical and physiological properties of the structural and/or functional integrity of the gut—especially the ileum or small bowel. To download the RFP, click [here](#).

[Preventing Preterm Birth Initiative](#) Letter Of Intent **Jan 31, 2012 deadline** 3-4 year grants \$2M max per grant

Challenge Statement

To discover and develop novel interventions for prevention of preterm birth and stillbirth associated with preterm birth through rigorous analysis of underlying biological mechanisms that lead to these adverse outcomes, focusing on the roles of infection, inflammation, and nutrition in altering the course of pregnancy in the developing world.

Request for Proposals

The present Request for Proposals (RFP) is meant to catalyze additional research on preterm birth and stillbirth associated with preterm birth, including attracting investigators new to the field of reproductive sciences. While these conditions are but a few of the number of adverse pregnancy outcomes, their primary importance is reinforced by: (1) the lack of existing widely applicable preventative solutions, (2) the broad applicability and particular relevance to developing world settings, (3) the likely overlap in causal exposures and biological mechanisms, (4) the wide array of data and hypotheses available upon which to develop proof-of-concept studies for novel pathways and interventions; and (5) the compelling burden of disease globally.

The primary goals of this RFP are to:

1. Explore underlying mechanisms leading to preterm birth or stillbirth (associated with preterm birth) with emphasis on the role of infection, inflammation, and poor nutrition.
2. Complete funded studies within three to four years that provide critical discoveries and evidence to guide development and testing of new interventions or refine the application of existing interventions. Support for clinical trials will not be provided in the context of this RFP. It is expected that studies funded in this RFP will

illuminate potential targets based on basic causes and mechanisms for new intervention development focused on prevention in future clinical trials.

To download the RPF click [here](#).

[Discover New Ways to Achieve Healthy Growth](#) Letter Of Intent **Jan 25, 2012 deadline** 3-4 year grants \$2M max per grant

The goal of this opportunity is to elucidate new pathways or mechanisms that will directly inform the development of interventions for the prevention of impaired growth, i.e. stunting and wasting, during the first 1,000 days following conception in the developing world. Ultimately we aim to identify simpler, less costly, and more effective interventions delivered before conception, during pregnancy, or in the first two years of life. To meet this goal, approaches should address the underlying biological mechanisms that lead to these adverse developmental outcomes focusing *specifically* on either or both infection and nutrition, the two primary factors involved in altering the course of fetal and infant growth and development in the developing world. To download the RPF click [here](#).

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NIAID Funds Research on HIV Incidence Assays With Improved Specificity

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has issued a FOA soliciting grant applications from institutions and organizations that propose to develop improved HIV incidence assays with increased specificity and reliability for distinguishing incident from chronic HIV infections. Any individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Program Director/Principal Investigator is invited to work with his or her organization to develop an application for support. The total amount awarded and the number of awards will depend upon the quality, duration, and costs of the applications received. A project duration of up to five years may be requested. Cost sharing is not required.

[COS link](#) The next deadline for applications is **February 5, 2012**.

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The ACHIEVE Research Partnership: “Action for Health Equity Interventions”: Post-Doctoral Fellowship

www.crich.ca/education.php Submission Deadline: **February 13, 2012**; Decision announcements: May, 2012

ACHIEVE is aimed to equip new researchers with the competencies necessary for closing the gap between *measuring* inner city health inequities and *reducing* them. The program has two main foci:

- *Population Health and Health Services Interventions Research*
- *Community Engagement, Partnerships, and Knowledge Translation*

Information & Eligibility:

- PhD completed within the past 3 years OR Health professional degree + Master’s level degree (Master’s degree completed within the past three years)
- 2 year term: September, 2012 – August, 2014
- Stipend: Based on CIHR guidelines for qualified candidates
- Fellows are required to complete all training program components within the two years
- 3-5 Fellows may be accepted for the 2012-2014 term
- Fellows are required to work onsite in Toronto, Canada

Aboriginal Health Priority Placement:

Priority placement will be held for a qualified Aboriginal applicant interested in pursuing research related to urban Aboriginal Health issues. Aboriginal applicants are encouraged to self-identify within their applications,

and to describe their experience with Aboriginal community engagement and Aboriginal health knowledge. Candidates will be assessed on their knowledge of Indigenous approaches to health (broadly defined), their effectiveness and experience in Aboriginal community engagement, and their capacity to participate in and benefit from the ACHIEVE curriculum.

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Mitacs Internship Funding for BC Non-Industry Partners

The Accelerate program (www.mitacs.ca/accelerate) is pleased to announce a once-off addition to support internship projects in BC with non-industry partners.

Such partners include

- NGOs, First Nations Bands, industry associations, and Government agencies

Each internship is valued at \$15,000 (no overhead deducted)

- \$7,500 (cash) from the partner organisation(s) and \$7,500 from Accelerate
- \$10,000 minimum stipend to the intern,
- \$5,000 as stipend top-up, reagents, supplies, intern / professor travel

Foreign students and PhDs are eligible to participate. All research disciplines are supported.

To be eligible the standard Accelerate program guidelines will be followed. In addition, for these non-industry proposals

- Projects to ideally start January 2012. No later than February 15th 2012
- The on-site interactions (2 months per 4-6 month project) with the partner organisation must be within

BC

- A finite number of internships with NON-industry partners being available all approved projects will be awarded in **order of submission**

- A guide to preparing proposals can be found here <http://mitacs.ca/accelerate/program-guide/resources-applicants>

If you are interested in putting together a proposal please contact us Laurence Meadows –

lmeadows@mitacs.ca

Benefits of the Accelerate program

- Projects can be thesis-based or stand-alone
- Provides funding to a professor's research group
- No citizenship requirements for the interns
- Short proposals, peer-reviewed, ~ 6 week evaluation
- No limitations to the research area – all disciplines and fields supported

As a reminder, the standard Accelerate program involving industry partners is also available for projects Canada-wide, proposals can support multiple internships, and submissions are non-competitive.

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Call for Papers and Workshops

BC Forum Canadian Coalition of Global Health Researchers - Global Health Conference, Spring 2012

Knowledge to Action: Identifying BC's Contributions to Global Health Research

The BC Forum of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (www.ccghr.ca) is hosting its inaugural conference to promote global health research networking among individuals & institutions and provide mentorship to the next generation of researchers. To download the poster, click [here](#).

Save the Date

Inaugural BC Forum Global Health Conference

The Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Simon Fraser University's Harbour Centre
Vancouver, BC

March 16—17, 2012

Calling for:

Workshop Proposals

We are now accepting workshop proposals related to the conference's main theme Knowledge to Action. The purpose of the 1.5 hour workshops held on day 2, are: a) to provide learning, mentorship and leadership to students undertaking global health research, b) to build knowledge and expertise on specific issue areas related to pursuing global health research, and c) to promote partnering and networking amongst BC's academic institutions. Proposals should be no longer than one page and include title, Facilitator credentials and/or experience, description (250 words max.), clear learning outcomes and contact information. Please submit to

jocelyn.conway@ubc.ca no later than **5:00 pm PST on January 6, 2012.**



**Knowledge to Action:
Identifying BC's Contributions to
Global Health Research**
Inaugural BC Forum Global Health Conference
The Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Simon Fraser University's Harbour Centre
Vancouver, BC
March 16—17, 2012

Event Information
The BC Forum of the
Canadian Coalition for Global
Health Research
(www.ccghr.ca) is hosting its
inaugural conference to
promote global health research
networking among individuals
& institutions and provide
mentorship to the next
generation of researchers.

For more information on the BC Forum of the Coalition and the
upcoming conference, please visit www.ccghr.ca/2012/2/

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Poster Session:
Students are invited to submit up to 2 abstracts showcasing their work or research on any global health subject. The abstracts will be adjudicated by a peer-review committee and accepted students will be invited to present their work in a poster session at the end of Day One. All posters will also be displayed during Day Two. Prizes will be awarded for the top three submissions. Abstracts can be submitted on no more than one page in either of two formats: 1) Scientific abstracts with the following headings: Background, Methods, Results, Conclusion, or 2) Programmatic abstracts with the following headings: Issues, Description, Lessons Learned and Recommendations. Please submit with "BC Forum Conference Poster Submission" as the subject to katerine.muldoon@gmail.com no later than 5:00 pm PST on January 6, 2012.

Deadline for Submissions: January 6, 2012

Save the date

Poster Session

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Launch of new Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society in 2012

The *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society* (JPIDS), the official journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, is dedicated to perinatal, childhood, and adolescent infectious diseases. The journal is a high-quality source of original research articles, clinical trial reports, guidelines, and topical reviews ranging from bench to bedside, with particular attention to the interests and needs of the pediatric infectious diseases community. [<more>](#)

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Upcoming Conferences

You have Three Minutes to Change the World

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) is an academic competition that challenges graduate students to improve their oral presentation and communication skills by having them explain, in just three minutes, the breadth and significance of their research to a broad audience.

In the spring of 2011, UBC became one of the first universities in North America to host a 3MT competition with nearly 100 students participating in our inaugural event. Videos from our 3MT competition may be viewed on-line at <http://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/gps-graduate-pathways-success/three-minute-thesis>. Feedback from student participants, judges and audience members was extremely positive. Deadlines, rules and eligibility available [<here>](#).

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CHI's Third Annual Encouraging Development of Therapeutics for Neglected Diseases

March 12-13, 2012 | Crowne Plaza Philadelphia Downtown Hotel | Philadelphia, PA

In order to make a significant impact in targeting neglected tropical diseases, many issues are at stake and need to be addressed. Which diseases are most prevailing and which present newly emerging targets for developing therapeutics? Are there novel opportunities for collaborations? How can the communication and collaboration between the developed and the underdeveloped countries be improved and what are the most pressing issues? Can lessons learned be adapted to different countries or for different diseases? What are the current strategies pursued by consortia and collaboration efforts? And lastly - is there a good way for dealing with IP issues and concerns?

This meeting strives to bring together worldwide experts from various organizations, academia, consortia and the life science industry to discuss, brainstorm and discover novel ideas and possibilities for developing therapeutics for neglected tropical diseases.

Coverage Includes:

- Promising Therapeutic Targets and Strategies
- Case Studies of Successful Collaborations
- Drug Repositioning
- Screening for Novel Therapeutic Possibilities
- Help from within - What Research and Industry in Less "Developed" Countries Have to Offer
- Possibilities for Collaboration and Funding
- Success and Progress in ND, Including Malaria and TB

[VIEW PRELIMINARY AGENDA](#)

[REGISTER BY DECEMBER 16 & SAVE UP TO \\$400!](#)

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