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NGDI Member News

Humboldt Research Fellowship awarded to NGDI Member, Dr. Jennifer Love, Associate Prof. Chemistry

Jennifer Love, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, has been awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers. She will work with Prof. Gerhard Erker at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster. Prof. Love's research interests include the development of efficient synthetic routes to drugs that treat neglected global diseases.

Enewsletter additions: NGDI member talks and journal articles

The NGDI would like to announce that we are pleased to list members talks regarding their neglected global disease work at preeminent meetings in our newsletter. We would also be pleased to list your journal articles for 2012 in our upcoming yearly report. Please forward any information to Jocelyn at jocelyn.conway@ubc.ca.

NGDI News

NGDI Stakeholder Retreat

The NGDI Advisory Board held a Stakeholder Retreat on August 27, 2012. The meeting was well attended and we thank all those who participated for supporting the NGDI with your time and ideas. The Advisory Board will discuss the retreat outcomes at the next meeting and move forward on specific outcomes in the coming year.

NGDI Sponsored Talks – SAVE THE DATE

Distinguished Lectureship Seminar Series – Clive Ondari Nov 2

Dr. Clive Ondari is the Head: Policy, Access and Rational Use of Medicines (PAR), Department of Medicines Policy and Standards (HTP/PSM) at WHO and a world expert in essential drug, indigenous medicines and better (safe) medicines for children. The talk will be held in the new pharmaceutical sciences building Lecture Hall 1101 from noon – 1:00 pm. The address is 2405 Westbrook Mall

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences – Graduate Program Seminar - Karl Werbovetz Sep 26

Dr. Werbovetz is with the Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy at Ohio State University College of Pharmacy. His talk is titled: *Synthetic and Semisynthetic Alkaloids with Potent Antiparasitic Activity*. The seminar will take place in Lecture Hall 1201 from 12:00 – 1:00 pm at the new pharmaceutical sciences building, 2405 Westbrook Mall.

Our lab focuses on the discovery and development of new drugs to treat diseases of the developing world caused by protozoan parasites such as *Trypanosoma brucei* (**human African trypanosomiasis or sleeping sickness**), *Leishmania donovani* (**visceral leishmaniasis**), and *Plasmodium falciparum* (**malaria**). My talk will describe our work with two classes of compounds that we are currently investigating as antiparasitic candidates. The dihydroquinolines are synthetic agents that were originally identified as antitrypanosomal compounds through a screen conducted by the World Health Organization. Using a hit compound from this screen, our lab has synthesized dihydroquinolines with potent in vitro activity against *Trypanosoma brucei* that also show excellent efficacy in an animal model of African trypanosomiasis. Mechanistic studies from our lab indicate that these compounds generate oxidative stress in trypanosomes. I will also discuss our recent work with semisynthetic derivatives of berberine that show potent activity against African trypanosomes, *Leishmania*, and *Plasmodium*.

NGDI Coordinator Days of Work Change

Jocelyn Conway, the NGDI Coordinator has changed her work schedule to the following days and times: Tues, Wed & Thurs from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. If you require immediate assistance on a Monday or Friday for NGDI items, please contact the Director, Kish Wasan at kwasan@mail.ubc.ca.

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NGDI Media and Publications

Success in Neglected Disease Research Leads to a Broad Alliance -- UPDATE

On May 4, 2012 an update was published in *Case Studies for Global Health*, a project funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), Global Health Progress (GHP), International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI), Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) and World Health Organization's Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR).

“In 1999, University of British Columbia (UBC) Professor Kishor Wasan, Ph.D., took on the challenge of reworking the drug Amphotericin B (“AmpB”) into an effective, tropically stable oral form to treat the parasitic disease visceral leishmaniasis. During that process he found himself immersed in more than a decade of laboratory research, support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a partnership with the Consortium for Parasitic Drug Development (CPDD) at the University of North Carolina and animal studies conducted with scientists at The Ohio State University. A licensing agreement for his AmpB work was signed with Vancouver-based iCo Therapeutics, Inc. in 2008.” [\[to read more or download a pdf\]](#)

NGDI mention in CBC's The Invisible Hand – July 11, 2012.

The CBC's Matthew Lazin-Ryder interviewed Dr. Kishor Wasan for an episode of The Invisible Hand titled: Profit and Capitalism.

The section on innovation and pharmaceuticals starts at minute 15:06 [\[to listen\]](#).

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NGDI Presentations

Jocelyn Conway presented information about the NGDI to the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences incoming Graduate Research class on Aug 29 during their orientation day.

Dr. Kishor Wasan presented *Role of lipids to improve the bioavailability and absorption of BCS class IV drug compounds* at the 244th American Chemistry Society's National Meeting on Aug 19-23, 2012 in Philadelphia. This talk was part of a symposium *Drug Delivery Technologies: Getting Your Compounds to the Clinic*.

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2012 AAPS Pharmaceuticals NGDI Travelships Awarded

NGDI-UBC is pleased to award the following travelships in the amount of \$750.00 for students presenting papers at the 2012 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition to be held in Chicago, October 14–18. This is the second year that NGDI-UBC has offered student travelships for the global health stream. We congratulate these students and look forward to



viewing their work at the October conference.

Controlled Delivery of Tenofovir Prodrug from Reservoir Intravaginal Rings

R. Rastogi¹, R. S. Teller¹, P. M. Mesquita², T. J. Johnson¹, B. C. Herold³, P. F. Kiser¹

¹University of Utah, ²Albert Einstein College, ³Albert Einstein College of Medicine

In Vitro Assessment of Potential Interaction between HIV Protease Inhibitor, Ritonavir and Anticancer Drugs, Erlotinib and Imatinib in Primary Cultures of Human Hepatocytes

V. C. Pillai, R. A. Parise, S. M. Christner, S. C. Strom, J. H. Beumer, R. Venkataramanan

University of Pittsburgh

*Mechanism of Reduced Efavirenz Metabolism by the CYP2B6*6 Allele In Vitro and Genotype-based Prediction of Efavirenz Pharmacokinetics by Physiologically-based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Modeling*

C. Xu¹, S. K. Quinney¹, Y. Guo², S. D. Hall², Z. Desta¹

¹Indiana University, ²Eli Lilly and Company

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Funding Opportunities

Postdoctoral Fellowship - CHESAI

Health Policy and Systems Research for the Collaboration for Health Systems Analysis and Innovation (CHESAI)

CHESAI is a four year collaborative endeavour between the University of Cape Town (UCT) and the University of Western Cape (UWC), Schools of Public Health, funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

This call is for TWO such Fellowships to commence January 2013, **Closing date for applications: 15th October 2012**, Website: <http://bit.ly/PmbK6X>

This collaboration is based on the understanding that Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR) is an emerging field within the broader terrain of health research, with conceptual and methodological foundations that require substantial development.

The overall aim for CHESAI is, therefore, to contribute to expanding and strengthening the health policy and systems knowledge base in Africa through building an intellectual hub for HPSR in Cape Town, South Africa, creating spaces for engagements between researchers and practitioners, supporting African HSPR capacity development and sharing/disseminating HPSR conceptual and methodological innovations.

The successful candidates will be required to register at the University of Cape Town OR the University of the Western Cape in January 2013. They will join the CHESAI team, led by Profs Lucy Gilson and Uta Lehmann. Contact details for submission of applications and for enquiries -Jill Olivier and Thubelihle Mathole (UWC) at chesai.mail@gmail.com

Selection of short-listed candidates will be made by the principal investigators and a sub-committee of academics from both institutions and IDRC representatives, and eligible applicants will be notified of the result of their applications by the end of November 2012.

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CIHR – Upcoming Deadlines

Several CIHR grants have upcoming deadlines between Oct 1 and Oct 17th. Check the [find funding](#) page for more details.

The Bill and Melinda Gates – Grand Challenges Explorations Round 10

Grand Challenges Explorations Round 10 will open in September 2012. [Sign up](#) to receive news and announcements via email.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund: Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease

Awards for assistant professors to study infectious disease pathogenesis, with a focus on the intersection of human and pathogen biology. The program is intended to shed light on the overarching issues of how human hosts handle infectious challenge.

Application Deadline: **November 1, 2012**

Five-year awards provide \$500,000 for opportunities for accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to study pathogenesis with a focus on the intersection of human and microbial biology. The program is intended to shed light on the overarching issues of how human hosts handle infectious challenge. The awards give recipients the freedom and flexibility to pursue new avenues of inquiry and higher-risk research projects that hold potential for advancing significantly the biochemical, pharmacological, immunological, and molecular biological understanding of how infectious agents and the human body interact.

Candidate eligibility and institutional nomination requirements [\[information\]](#) For other grant programs, see www.bwffund.org.

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Call for Papers

Humboldt Colloquium “Excellence in Research”

Advanced PhD students and scientists and scholars who received their PhD degree fewer than 6 years ago are invited to submit an application to participate in the three-day colloquium and present a short paper during the workshops on November 3 and/or poster during the poster session.

Date: November 2-4, Toronto, Ontario

Place: Toronto, Ontario

Call for papers deadline: September 7, 2012

For more information, please visit: <http://www.vchri.ca/i/pdf/ECR-Papers.pdf>

To register, please visit: <https://mi.conventus.de/online/avh-toronto-earlycareer-2012.do>

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Save the Date

Upcoming Conference and Seminar Reminders

Gairdner Symposium Monday, October 22, 4-6 pm

Location: Life Sciences Centre, Lecture Theatre 2 (LSC 2), UBC, 2350 Health Sciences Mall

[Dr. William Kaelin](#) [2010 Canada Gairdner International Award Recipient], and [Dr. Jeffrey Ravetch](#) [2012 Canada Gairdner International Award Recipient]

Download the poster here:

<http://www.cmmt.ubc.ca/sites/default/files/Gairdner2012SymposiumVancouver%20June%202014.pdf>

More information about the symposium can be found at <http://www.cmmt.ubc.ca/events/2012/06/2012-gairdner-symposium-oct-22-2012>

More information about the Gairdner Foundation can be found at <http://www.gairdner.org/>

For questions or more information please contact Seetha at skumaran@cmmt.ubc.ca

Human Early Learning Partnership Fall Research Expo, October 24, 2012

Last year's Research Exposition connected the dots across the first 10 years of HELP's research. This year, we will focus on the future, highlighting emerging child development research at HELP. We will highlight:

[Monitoring Child Rights](#), [The Middle Years Development Instrument \(MDI\)](#), [Child Development Trajectories](#)

Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research: Inclusion and Innovation Towards Universal Health Coverage, Oct 31 – Nov 3, Beijing, China

Website: <http://bit.ly/LiL5It>

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Global Health & Innovation Conference 2013, April 13-14, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

Website: <http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference>

The Global Health & Innovation Conference is the world's largest global health conference and social entrepreneurship conference. This must-attend, thought-leading conference annually convenes 2,200 leaders, changemakers, students, and professionals from all fields of global health, international development, and social entrepreneurship.

Interested in presenting at the conference? [Submit an abstract](#) for consideration. The final abstract deadline is September 30.

The conference's confirmed Keynote speakers to date are:

- **Jeffrey Sachs**, PhD, Director of Earth Institute, Columbia University; Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, Professor of Health Policy and Management, Columbia University; Special Advisor to Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon
- **Sonia Ehrlich Sachs**, MD, MPH, Director of Health, Millennium Village Project, Earth Institute, Columbia University

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Global Conference on Health Promotion 2013, June 10-14, Helsinki, Finland

The conference is co-organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland

Website: http://www.stm.fi/en/ministry/international_cooperation/who/healthpromotion2013

The Conference will assess achievements and aims for health promotion globally from Ottawa to Nairobi. It aims to address what works and how, identifying options for action, available processes, mechanisms and tools.

- To implement the intersectoral action for health and health in all policies approaches at the country level
- To exchange experiences in implementing Health in All Policies including the identification of effective tools and other prerequisites for country action
- To highlight the value of health promotion activities for health, their relevance for overall societal development and for development policies
- To inform about economic aspects of health promotion
- To highlight the important role of primary health care in health promotion
- To review progress, impact and achievements of health promotion since the Ottawa Conference

Linked to:

- Sustainability of health systems
- Implementation of recommendations on social determinants for health
- UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases
- Review of the Millennium Development Goals
- Sustainable development agenda

To support the preparations for the Conference, WHO and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland are seeking partners for collaboration who have an interest in health and its promotion and/or in related critical issues for health such as education, environment, employment, agriculture, transportation, housing, trade, finance, and foreign and development policy.

Partners with practical implementation experience on intersectoral action for health will have the opportunity to collaborate in organizing a landmark event that aims to develop concrete guidance on what works to promote health through public policies.

Further information

Ministerial Adviser Outi Kuivasniemi, tel. +358 9 160 73230, forename.surname@stm.fi

Ministerial Adviser Eeva Ollila, tel. +358 9 160 74032, forename.surname@stm.fi

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PAHO/WHO KMC Seminar Series:

“eHealth in the Americas” The Member States of the Pan American Health Organization approved in 2011, the implementation of a Regional eHealth Strategy and Plan of Action to all the countries in the Americas Region. One of the key elements of the strategy is knowledge and information sharing among member states and stakeholders.

The proposed KMC Seminar series on eHealth aim at contributing to this important debate by bringing different themes of relevance and key players working on eHealth globally to ensure knowledge sharing among people and institutions and convergence in the implementation of eHealth National Strategies and plan of actions; and also to inform public health stakeholders and other decision makers in the health sector, to better take part in the debate.

Seminar №1: eHealth and The Rockefeller Foundation Experience and Vision

By Karl Brown, Associate Director, Applied Technology at Rockefeller Foundation

Karl Brown joined the Rockefeller Foundation in 2006. As Associate Director of Applied Technology, Brown is focused on the application of information technology to the programmatic work of the foundation. He is working on exploring and nurturing imaginative uses of technology by Rockefeller grantees, and improving collaboration and knowledge management within the Foundation.

Prior to joining the Rockefeller Foundation, Brown worked as the Chief Technical Officer of GNVC, an NGO that fostered entrepreneurship in Ghana. Previously, Brown was a technical team lead with Trilogy, where he developed and deployed enterprise systems and consumer-facing websites for Fortune 500 companies such as Ford and Nissan. Brown received a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Stanford University and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs.

When: Friday October 5th. 2012

Language: English

Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm - EDT (Washington, DC USA) To check your time zone, see the [World Clock](#)

Virtual room: <http://www.paho.org/virtual/ict4health>

Agenda

2:00: Welcome Remarks - Marcelo D'Agostino KMC Area Manager PAHO/WHO

2:05 eHealth and The Rockefeller Foundation Experience and Vision

Karl Brown, Associate Director, Applied Technology at Rockefeller Foundation

2:30 Comments, Questions & Answers

Moderator: PAHO/WHO

3:00 Concluding Remarks:

Marcelo D'Agostino KMC Area Manager PAHO/WHO

To participate online: To login to the Virtual session, use the link below and type your name on the sign in page:

URL: <http://new.paho.org/virtual/ehealth>

Related material:

PAHO/WHO eHealth portal: <http://new.paho.org/ict4health> [CD51/13](#) — PAHO/WHO Strategy and Plan of Action on eHealth

Additional information:

- The KMC Seminar series will happen every two months
- All Seminars will be life-streamed, and opened for participation via Elluminate, or via telephone line.
- For those who cannot follow the live seminar, we will have the recordings and presentations available at PAHO ICT4health at: <http://new.paho.org/ict4health/>

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Reports of Interest

South-South Collaboration in Health Biotechnology: Growing Partnerships Amongst Developing Countries

Editor and Contributor: Halla Thorsteinsdóttir *Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto*

Launched on July 6, 2012 at the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum in New York City, *South-South Collaboration in Health Biotechnology* disseminates research from a large-scale project involving contributions from research teams in six countries. The book fills a gap in knowledge on science-based collaboration between

developing countries and focuses both on health biotechnology partnerships involving emerging economies, such as China and India, and lower income countries such as Bangladesh. Through detailed analyses of collaborations between public sector institutions and of partnerships between firms, the book shows that South-South collaboration can strengthen innovation capabilities to address local health problems and lead to increased availability of affordable health products in Southern markets. To harness this potential, however, there is a need for greater investment in South-South collaboration by governments, the private sector, and international organisations.

The project was led by Dr. Halla Thorsteinsdóttir, previously a member of the Sandra Rotman Centre, formerly the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, and the key collaborating team was: Brazil – Tirso Sáenz, University of Brasilia, China - Wen Ke, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Egypt - Magdy Madkour, Library of Alexandria, India - Sachin Chaturvedi, Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries Zambia - Victor Konde, University of Zambia.

The book is published jointly by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC, Ottawa, Canada) and Academic Foundation (New Delhi, India) and is based on research supported by Genome Canada and IDRC.

For purchasing information, please [CLICK HERE](#). The book will also be available as an open access publication at IDRC's website. For further information please contact Halla Thorsteinsdóttir at halla.thorsteins@gmail.com
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Child Development Index 2012: Progress, Challenges and Inequality

Save The Children Available online PDF [36p.] at: <http://bit.ly/P6Pfmi>

“.....The 2012 edition of the Child Development Index tells a story of success. This edition of the Index shows that substantial progress has been made in addressing the most basic threats to child survival and well-being. On average, the lives of children around the world in the indicators we measured improved by more than 30%. This means that the chances of a child going to school were one-third higher, and the chances of an infant dying before their fifth birthday were one-third lower at the end of the 2000s than a decade before. During this period child well-being improved in 90% of the countries surveyed.....”

Content: Executive Summary, 1. A decade of progress in child well-being, 2. Undernutrition: holding back progress, 3. Food and financial crises threaten increased undernutrition.

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India's Role in Global Health R&D

Paul Wilson and Arthi Rao,

This work was supported by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

Results for Development Institute. R4D – 2012

Available online PDF [96p.] at: <http://bit.ly/ObZcyW>

“.....Despite India's rapid economic growth and growing technological prowess, it continues to suffer from widespread poverty and a heavy burden of infectious disease, including high rates of tuberculosis, malaria, and other so called neglected diseases.

To reduce this burden, India will have to strengthen its health system, especially for the poor, and increase access to existing medicines. But in India, as in other developing countries, new health technologies—such as affordable and locally adapted drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics—can also make a big contribution to combating disease. For some important diseases, there are currently no effective drugs or vaccines, whereas for others, existing technologies are too expensive, require infrastructure that is not broadly available, or are ill suited in other ways to local needs.

This report, based on interviews with policymakers, industry executives, and Indian and international experts, explores these questions. It surveys the landscape of neglected diseases R&D in India, assesses strengths and weaknesses, and makes recommendations for both the government of India and international organizations interested in the development of new technologies to combat neglected disease in developing countries....”

Content: Executive Summary, 1. Introduction, 2. The Supporting Environment for Biomedical Innovation, 3. Vaccines, 4. Drugs, 5. Diagnostics, 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

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