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NGDI Member and Partner News

New Funding Award for Dr. Tobias Kollmann – Operating Grant \$420K

Project: Lower GBP1 expression reduces human host defense against *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Abstract: Infections cause severe illness and death in newborn babies much more commonly than in adults. One of these infections is caused by a bacterium called *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Listeria*). The reason for this increased risk of newborns to suffer and die from *Listeria* is only partially understood. In our ongoing work aimed at finding out why newborn babies are at such high risk, we looked at 40,000 possible differences between the responses of newborns vs. adults to *Listeria* infection. We found that infected newborn cells made much less than the adult of one particular protein called guanylate binding protein 1, or GBP1. In this proposal we will determine the precise role played by GBP1 in protection vs. susceptibility of human cells to severe infection with *Listeria*.

New Funding Award for Dr. Brett Finlay – Operating Grant \$645K

Project: The role of the microbiota in enteric infectious diseases.

Abstract: The intestinal (digestive) tract is filled with vast numbers of microorganisms, including bacteria, viruses and other microbes. Collectively, these microbes are called the 'intestinal microbiota'. We have known about their presence for centuries, but we are only beginning to realize the large role they play in health and disease. Our laboratory has developed animal infection models using pathogenic bacteria that can cause diseases in humans, including those that cause food poisoning (called *Salmonella* and pathogenic *E. coli*). Importantly, we demonstrated that the intestinal microbiota can alter the outcome of a disease caused by these pathogens: i.e. whether one gets sick or not. But determining how they impact on disease occurrence and outcomes is a key question, and this is the main focus of this application.

Newest Star in Global Health – Dr. Tabassum Firoz – Award from Grand Challenges Canada - \$100K

Dr. Firoz is a young clinician investigator trained in General Internal Medicine and Obstetric Medicine at the UBC. She is currently completing her research training through the UBC Clinician Investigator Program and a Master of Science in Global Health Policy at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Her research interest is in global maternal health. She is also involved in the WHO Maternal Morbidity Working Group and the UN Commission for Life Saving Commodities.

Project: Mapping Outcomes for Mothers (MOM): mobile health (mHealth) application for mapping and predicting community specific risk of pregnancy related illness and death

Abstract: MOM is a mHealth application that uses geographic mapping methods to create an integrated picture of maternal health in the context of local social and physical environments. It is unique because it looks at pregnancy risk in 4 dimensions: 1) social environment, 2) physical environment, 3) health care system, and 4) the woman's individual characteristics. The use of geo-spatial mapping is novel: this is the first time it is being used for identifying maternal health risk. By overlaying health with the local social and environmental contexts, MOM identifies the positive and negative influences and how they interact to create risk. It is a point of care diagnostic tool that aids real-time decision making by the frontline health worker. By breaking down a complex phenomenon into its root causes, MOM will ultimately put solutions in the hands of communities.

CORE Welcomes New Science Communication and Policy Researcher

The Collaboration for Outcomes, Research, and Evaluation group welcomes **Nicolas Dragojlovic**, a science communication and policy researcher, has joined the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences as a postdoctoral student to study the impact of moral arguments on societal values for orphan drug coverage under Dr. Larry Lynd, Associate Professor. He is the recipient of the 2013 Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Orphan

Drug Policy Fellowship and Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) Post-Doctoral Fellow Trainee Award.

Dragojlovic's research will focus on Canadian societal preferences for orphan drug funding. To accomplish this, he will administer surveys to 3,000 people that feature different scenarios in which provincial health authorities must decide whether or not to fund a specific treatment through the provincial insurance system. Scenarios will vary based on factors such as the cost of the treatment, severity and prevalence of the targeted disease, and types of arguments used by proponents and opponents of treatment funding. Surveys will provide an estimate of societal willingness to pay for the treatment of rare diseases under conditions that approximate the real-world context in which Canadians might learn about the policy challenge posed by orphan drugs.

Centre for Drug Research and Development – Fellowship in Drug Development

LOI Deadline: **September 7, 2013**

The aim of this program is to provide a unique opportunity for young entrepreneurial Canadian-based researchers to work at CDRD, and be provided with full research support and access to all infrastructure in order to develop their early-stage innovative technologies towards commercialization over a two year period with the following specific objectives: To progress their technologies through the pre-clinical drug development pipeline, to broaden their practical investigative skills, and gain invaluable experience under the mentorship of leading authorities in their fields, and to generate commercial interest in their technology. Successful applicants will receive a full-time competitive, Post-Doctoral remuneration package for a maximum of two years, and join a vibrant health sciences community based in Vancouver, BC where entrepreneurship and innovation are cornerstones of CDRD's values.

At the time of submission, it is expected that applicants will have: completed initial proof-of-concept studies towards a specific therapeutic market opportunity, developed a proposed commercialization strategy addressing both scientific and business objectives. To be eligible candidate should have received the PhD no earlier than 2008 and be Canadian citizens. More information on the program, the application procedure can be found [here](#).

NGDI Welcomes Indel Therapeutics Inc. as new Affiliate Member

Indel Therapeutics Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to developing new drugs to address the global health crisis caused by antibiotic resistance. The company has a growing pipeline of novel antibiotic drug discovery programs that focus on curing difficult-to-treat and hospital-acquired infections. These programs are based on Indel's paradigm-changing antimicrobial drug discovery platform, a patented technology that has opened a rich, new area of drug targets for the treatment of bacterial and parasitic infections and, potentially, fungal and viral infections.



The Indel platform technology allows it to identify and target discrete amino acid insertion / deletion differences ("indels") between essential homologous proteins that are evolutionarily conserved across the pathogen (bacteria) and humans. Based upon these structural differences, the Company can selectively target the pathogen protein with small molecules without hitting the human counterpart protein, thereby reducing toxicity concerns. And because these proteins are conserved across species, they tend to have important roles, not only making them attractive drug targets but also making it more difficult for the pathogen to mutate and develop resistance because any mutation of these essential proteins could be lethal.

Elongation Factor-1 α (EF-1 α) has been identified as an important indel-differentiated target that is conserved across the top seven parasitic disease that affect humans, including Leishmania, Malaria, Chagas Disease, African Sleeping Sickness and others. In addition to in vitro validation of this targeting approach in Leishmania, Indel also has preliminary data indicating activity and selectivity in Malaria.

Indel targets, a scientific and medical breakthrough, are thought to be one of the first new major classes of antimicrobial targets identified in decades, and provide a way to attack drug-resistant microbes by inhibiting indel-differentiated targets with novel drugs. For more information about Indel's Neglected Disease Program

For more information about Indel Therapeutics' technology and pipeline, visit their website at:

<http://www.indeltherapeutics.com>

Fall 2013 Global Health Conference, UAEM

Date: September 28, 2013

Time: 10:30 am – 7:00 pm

Location: The Fred Kaiser Building, 2332 Main Mall, Room 2020

Registration opens soon!



UAEM welcomes all who are interested to visit our [website](#) for more information.

Universities are an integral part of the drug development process. Cutting-edge research done on campuses, like UBC, results in medicines and technology for the treatment of a myriad of life-threatening diseases. However, an "access gap" hinders dissemination of live-saving drugs to low and lower-middle income countries. A "research gap" exists, furthermore, in the disproportionate funding towards neglected disease research, in respect to the contribution to the global disease burden by these illnesses.

To address these issues, the UBC Chapter of Universities Allied for Essential Medicines (UAEM) is hosting a Global Health Conference on **September 28, 2013**. Students and other members of the community are invited to learn more about these challenges, their status quo, and current efforts to improve access to medicines worldwide from the different stakeholders. The event will consist of talks by leading experts, peer presentations, an multidisciplinary panel, and opportunities to network. Participants will benefit greatly from the interdisciplinary learning sessions which will expose them to **areas from medical science and public health to international law and policy making**. Additional topics include drug research and development, intellectual property, and advocacy in regards to essential medicines. The conference is taking an unprecedented initiative to connect the many global health oriented organizations across the Lower Mainland.

Upcoming Pharmaceutical Science Seminars

Open to all

All Times: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

All Location: London Drugs Theatre, Pharmaceutical Sciences Bldg, 2405 Wesbrook Mall (at Agronomy Rd), Room 1201

Drinking 8 Cups of Water a Day is an Urban Myth

Speaker: Dr. Susan Barr, Food, Nutrition, and Health Program UBC

Date: September 11, 2013

Worm Drug Discovery

Speaker: Dr. Peter Roy, Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto

Date: September 25, 2013

The Challenges of Influenza Prevention and Control

Speaker: Dr. Danuta Skowronski, BC Centre for Disease Control

Date: November 20, 2013

NGDI News

Global Health NCE LOI Application Spearheaded by NGDI Team

In early May the NGDI hosted a large group of global health leaders from across Canada as stakeholders for the development of a pan-Canadian global health training program. The group authorized the development of a letter of intent for a **Networks of Centres of Excellence** in global health research as first step in development

funding. An LOI was submitted that would support 80 new global health trainees over 5 years, trainees that would be mentored by a multidisciplinary faculty from biomedical, clinical, population health, health systems, social scientists. Second round announcement are expected in October. If successful, the Network would be hosted by UBC with Dr. Wasan as the Scientific Director.

Dr. Kishor Wasan Presentations

Dr. Wasan recently spoke to the “Secret Science Café” regarding the NGDI and his work on Oral AmB. To [view](#) this short talk. He will also be presenting an oral poster at the upcoming Canadian Global Health Conference in late October titled, “*Strategies for the Treatment of Leishmaniasis*”.

NGDI Website Changes

In July the Membership pages have been revised. They now are split onto two pages: Members and Student Members.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Reminders

UBC: Office of Research Services [Calendar of Funding](#) Deadlines.

CIHR: Check the opportunities [website](#) for more:

October 1, 2013 deadline

Catalyst Grant: Secondary Analysis of Neuroimaging Databases

Clinician-Scientist Salary Award

Clinician-Scientist Training Award

Doctoral Research Award

Knowledge Synthesis Grant

October 15, 2013 deadline

Catalyst Grant: e-Health Innovations

Disseminations Events: Fall 2013 Competition

Planning Grant

November and later

Fellowships

New Investigator

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has launched an international [contest to redesign child health records](#). The Gates Foundation is seeking creative ideas to re-examine the current child health record and design new ways to track vaccine doses, increase ease of use, and promote behavior change to make the record a valued asset for health professionals and families alike. The foundation will recognize the top entries – selected by a finalist panel including Melinda Gates (co-chair, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), Dr Margaret Chan (WHO Director-General), Tony Lake (Executive Director, UNICEF), Robert Fabricant (VP, Frog Design) and Dr Walt Orenstein (Professor of Medicine, Emory). Award winners may have part or all of the top designs piloted and adopted in as many as 10 countries by 2018. Proposals Due: October 31, 2013 <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/recordsforlife>.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund – Investigators in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Disease

Faculty of Medicine Internal Deadline: **October 18, 2013**, Deadline: November 1, 2013;

Five-year awards provide \$500,000 to support accomplished investigators at the assistant professor level to study pathogenesis, with a focus on the interplay between human and microbial biology, shedding light on how human and microbial systems are affected by their encounters. The awards are intended to give recipients the freedom and flexibility to pursue new avenues of inquiry and higher-risk research projects that hold potential for

significantly advancing the biochemical, pharmacological, immunological, and molecular biological understanding of how microbes and the human body interact. For more [information](#).

Fulbright Scholar and Research Chairs Program

Deadline: November 15th, 2013 Value: \$12.5K-\$25K

Traditional Awards: Open to scholars and PostDocs (Canadian citizens only) in all fields (excluding medical training) to conduct research, teach, or undertake a combination of both activities for one semester or a full academic year at a university or research centre of their choice in the United States. Not available for Summer months only.

Visiting Research Chairs: For scholars and experienced professionals (Canadian citizens) to research/develop collaborations/guest lecture at select American universities and research centres, normally for one semester.

Please note that Fulbright awards may be held at the same time as other forms of compensation (i.e. sabbatical pay, salary, or research grant). Eligibility: <http://www.fulbright.ca/programs/eligibility.html>

FAQs: <http://www.fulbright.ca/faqs-2/>

Training Opportunity

The Project Management Masters Certification Program

October 29 - November 1, 2013 Vancouver, British Columbia

Register at the Institute of Project Management America website [here](#).

The PMC is designed for those seeking professional project management certification. It serves as both a thorough professional education and recognized certification. Our certificate program teaches technical and business professionals how to master the critical skills of project management techniques as part of their technical career development. The skills developed in the Project Management Masters Certification program apply to large and small projects, product design and development efforts, construction projects, IT projects, software development, and any project with critical performance, time, and budget targets. Our approach to project management education offers proven, results-focused learning. Courses are developed and facilitated by professional subject experts with extensive industrial experience. Course emphasis is on providing practical skills and tools supported by relevant case examples. Tuition for the four-day Project Management Certification program is \$995.00 USD.

Call for Papers

The Journal Health Policy and Planning



And the organizers of the **Third Global Symposium on Health Systems Research** (see below) are pleased to issue a call for papers for a special supplement on the theme of *“The science and practice of people-centred health systems”*. The theme for the call is also the theme of the Symposium. **Full text of the call.** People-centred health systems are founded on pro-people philosophies of social justice and equity, recognize the role of social exclusion and inequities as determinants of poor health, and can also actively work to address them. They consider the health needs and preferences of individuals, families and communities, and create the channels through which these can be articulated and realized. They also recognize and actively progress people’s rights to participate in and determine how health systems are organized, resources are allocated, and services are delivered.

Full manuscripts on the theme of “the science and practice of people centred health systems” should be submitted to Health Policy and Planning by **18 November 2013** through the submission link on the journal website (<http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/>). Original research articles as well as review papers are invited. **Submissions that have a first-author who is a resident in a low and middle-income country are**

particularly encouraged. Accepted papers will be published as a special journal supplement prior to the Symposium, which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, 30 September – 3 October, 2014.

The [full text of the call](#) contains suggested topics, details of the selection process and author information.

For further queries, contact Kabir Sheikh (kabir.sheikh@phfi.org) or Michael Kent Ranson (ransonm@who.int).

Upcoming Conferences

2013 Gairdner Symposium

Date: Monday, October 21, 2013 4– 6pm

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

Don't miss this opportunity to listen to two dynamic and high profiled researchers at the 2013 Gairdner Vancouver Symposium.

This **free public lecture** will feature:

[Dr. Nasmyth](#) [2007 Canada Gairdner International Award Recipient]

Presentation title: TBA

and

[Sir Winter](#) [2013 Canada Gairdner International Award Recipient]

Presentation title: The antibody revolution: new pharmaceuticals for a new age

More information about the symposium can be found at <http://www.cmmt.ubc.ca/events/2013/10/2013-gairdner-foundation-symposium>

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

Global Health in 2013: Are We Having Impact?

20th Canadian Conference on Global Health

Date: October 27-29, 2013

Location: The Westin Hotel, Ottawa

Sponsor: Canadian Society for International Health

Registration is open, for more [information](#).

Third Global Forum on Human Resources for Health



Third Global Forum on
Human Resources for Health
10 - 13 November 2013
Recife, Brazil

Date: November 10-13, 2013

Location: Recife, Brazil

For more [information](#).

DNDi - Best Science for the Most Neglected: Where do we Stand 10 Years On?

Date: December 5, 2013

Location: Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

For more [information](#).

Prince Mahidol Awards Conference 2014

Transformative Learning for Health Equity

Date: January 27-31, 2014

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

For more [information](#).

16th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

Date: April 2-5, 2014

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Abstracts accepted until December 2, 2013

For more [information](#).

Global Health & Innovation Conference

Date: April 12-13, 2014

Location: Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, USA

Abstracts accepted until September 30, 2013.

Registration is open, for more [information](#).

The Fifth Edition of the Geneva Health Forum

Date: April 15 – 17, 2014

Location: International Conference Centre of Geneva, Switzerland.

Abstracts accepted until September 30, 2013.

For more [information](#).

Reports of Interest

World Health Report on Universal Health Coverage 2013

Three key messages from *The world health report*



- Universal health coverage, with full access to high-quality services for health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, palliation and financial risk protection, cannot be achieved without evidence from research. Research has the power to address a wide range of questions about how we can reach universal coverage, providing answers to improve human health, well-being and development.
- All nations should be producers of research as well as consumers. The creativity and skills of researchers should be used to strengthen investigations not only in academic centres but also in public health programmes, close to the supply of and demand for health services.
- Research for universal health coverage requires national and international backing. To make the best use of limited resources, systems are needed to develop national research

agendas, to raise funds, to strengthen research capacity, and to make appropriate and effective use of research findings. To download the [report](#).

DNDi Annual Report 2012



DNDi marks its 10-year anniversary this year. With the publication of the [2012 Annual Report](#), we have taken the opportunity to share some perspectives on the past decade of neglected disease research and development, including changes in the landscape, the lessons we have learned, and the need to continue our efforts as we move beyond the initial incremental improvements delivered thus far and face the challenges of getting new chemical entities to the end of the pipeline.

Over the last year, we have consolidated DNDi's scientific portfolio, strengthened and expanded our partnerships, and have benefitted from the renewed and sustained commitment of our donors to achieve our objectives.

At the core of our work, the unchanging reason for what we do, are the patients and their specific and urgent needs. It is with this in mind that we decided to mark our anniversary with a special website under the theme [Connect to Fight Neglect](#), which aims to bring to the fore all of the voices in our field, from patients to policy makers.

Most importantly, I thank you for your support and partnership in 2012 and over the past 10 years in helping us to bring new treatments to neglected patients, and look forward to our continued collaboration.