



DEVOTION

Developmental Origins of Chronic Diseases in Children Network

Together We can Dramatically Reduce the Burden & Costs Associated with Chronic Disease in Manitoba Children



Newsletters
2017 Issue 3

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Message from the Executive Director

"Summertime is always the best of what might be" Charles Bowden

The DEVOTION Network is very excited to be part of this year's **Child Health Research Days**, October 3rd to 5th. DEVOTION sponsored speakers on Thursday, October 5th include Dr. Johnnye Lewis, Dr. Marni Brownell, Dr. Vern Dolinsky and Dr. Allison Dart. The first DEVOTION Annual Meeting will take place during the afternoon of October 5 and will be an opportunity to hear highlights of recent DEVOTION research as well as have a brief introduction to our new strategic plan. All are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and we look forward to seeing you there. Please **RSVP here**.

A strategic plan for the Network is being finalized after a very successful planning meeting in June. Members of the Steering Committee as well as stakeholders and Indigenous partners attended the planning meeting to share their thoughts and craft a long term vision, mission and guiding principles that will lead the work of the Network into the future and guide the development of our legacy projects. The official presentation of this strategic direction will take place at the **Annual Meeting**.

The DEVOTION catalyst grant competition is closing soon. Please note that the deadline for submission has been extended to **4:00 pm CDT August 30, 2017**. Application forms are available **here**. Responses will be sent to applicants by **September 29, 2017**.

Upcoming events

DEVOTION Research Rounds (Sept 21), 12 noon, Room 500, John Buhler Research Centre, Winnipeg MB

Child Health Research Days 2017 (Oct 3 to 5), multiple locations, Winnipeg MB

DEVOTION's Annual Meeting (Oct 5), Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg MB

Diabetes Canada/CSEM Professional Conference (Nov 1 to 4), Shaw Convention Centre, Edmonton AB

DREAM Annual Symposium (Nov 15 to 16), 745 Bannatyne Ave, Winnipeg MB

Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing (Nov 22 to 23), 745 Bannatyne Ave, Winnipeg MB

The 5th Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting

Some of the confirmed speakers include **William Fraser, MD, MSc, FRCSC** (Universite de Sherbrooke), **Lucky Jain, MD, MBA** (Emory University), **Alan Jobe, M.D., PhD** (University of Cincinnati), **Rebecca Jones, PhD** (University of Manchester), **John Newnham, MD, FRCOG, FRANZCOG, DDU, CMFM** (University of Western Australia), **Brenda Poindexter, MD, MS** (University of Cincinnati), **Torah Kachur, PhD** (CBC personality), and many others. To stay current, please visit www.cnprm.org regularly. For sponsorship and in-kind support, please contact **Dr. Vern Dolinsky**. **Abstract submissions** can be made starting in September with a submission deadline of **October 27, 2017**. We are also on **Twitter, Facebook** and **Instagram**.



Dr. Vern Dolinsky's research is focused on investigating the mechanisms involved in the development of gestational diabetes and how gestational diabetes contributes to the development of obesity, diabetes and related cardiovascular disease in youth. The ultimate goal is to guide the development of novel therapies for obesity, diabetes and heart disease. His work on gestational diabetes has recently earned him the **Allen Rouse Basic Science Career Development Research Award** from the **Manitoba Medical Service Foundation (MMSF)**. This Research Professorship award is valued at \$170,000. A \$20,000 grant-in-aid during the first year of the appointment has also been awarded. Dr. Dolinsky is also one of the Co-Chairs of the **5th Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting**, which is the largest annual meeting for perinatal research in Canada.

Earlier this year Dr. Dolinsky received \$287,702 from the **Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC)** for his project entitled "**Regulation of cardiac mitochondrial homeostasis in heart failure by SIRT3**". Current heart failure therapies are focused on treating the symptoms of heart failure and not the underlying causes of the disease. His work will address some of the fundamental questions about the pathological processes involved in heart failure and whether targeting SIRT3 to increase cardiac energy production and reduce reactive oxygen species levels is a viable treatment of heart failure.

In addition, his trainees' recent achievements can be found in the **Trainees' Successes** section in this issue.

Public and patient engagement (PPE)

At its core, public and patient engagement (PPE) is meant to develop and support meaningful relationships with people who are directly impacted by a health issue and will thereby be impacted by health research. I recently sat down with **Rishma Chooniedass**, a clinical research coordinator who has most recently been a part of the **Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD)** study to learn about how they have built meaningful relationships within their research. With a retention rate of over 90%, they have illustrated the benefits of building relationships with participants, setting the stage for meaningful patient engagement for future research.

Below are a few pointers (the full blog can be accessed [here](#)):

- * Take the time to hear someone's story. Some families were anxious because they were having their first child, while others were having their eighth child. Each person had a story and as they made time for this study, the researchers made time to hear their story.
- * Keep in touch. Whether it was losing a first tooth or the attending their first day of pre-school, the researchers kept in touch with the families and shared in their journey. Birthday cards were exchanged for stories and updated photos from families.
- * Make their experience enjoyable. Fun events, such as Halloween parties, encouraged kids to dress up and play games with the staff. These experiences made clinic visits much easier for the families and researchers.

- *Content provided by Leanne Dunne, DEVOTION's Knowledge Exchange Coordinator*

Researchers' Successes (please click [here](#) for a complete list)

Congratulations to **Naghmeh Khoshgoo**, **Drs. Richard Keijzer** and **Andrew Halayko** along with other authors on their recent publication in Scientific Reports, which demonstrates for the first time that miR-200b plays a role in peripheral lung development by maintaining an epithelial cell phenotype. The full publications can be accessed [here](#).



Congratulations to **Dr. Heather Dean** for being recognized by the **Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS)** for her accomplishments. Dr. Dean is the recipient of the 2017 Alan Ross Award, the most prestigious award given by the CPS in recognition of excellence in the field of pediatric research, education, healthcare and advocacy.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jim Davie**, whose **2006 paper in Molecular Biology** is among the top cited papers published that year, becoming a "Classic". Classic papers are highly-cited papers in their area of research that have stood the test of time. For each area, Google Scholar lists the **ten most-cited articles** that were published ten years earlier.



Congratulations to **Dr. Bob Schroth** and team on their **recent paper** on the microbiome associated with severe caries in First Nations children, published in the Journal of Dental Research (JDR). JDR is the second highest indexed oral health journal.

Congratulations to **Dr. Garry Shen's \$424,575 CIHR grant** for his project entitled "**Promotion of breastfeeding for preventing type 2 diabetes and obesity in First Nations mothers and children in communities**". Other DEVOTION members involved in this project include Rhonda Campbell, Jonathan McGavock, Margaret Morris, Nathan Nickel, Wanda Phillips-Beck, Elizabeth Sellers and Brandy Wicklow.

Congratulations to **Dr. Maureen Heaman's \$200,000 CIHR team grant** for her project entitled "**A systems approach for enhancing perinatal care regionalization**" led by Dr. KS Joseph (PI), University of British Columbia and consisting of a large pan-Canadian research team. The team grant is for 5 years (03/2017-02/2022).



Congratulations to **Dr. Jonathan McGavock** for receiving over \$1M grants recently.

* \$997,682 from CIHR for the Indigenous Mentorship Network's (PI= Josee Lavoie) **the Prairie Indigenous Knowledge Exchange Network (PIKE-Net)**

* \$220,000 from HSFC and \$100,000 from CIHR as operating grant and bridge grant for his project entitled "**If you build it, will they come?...and**

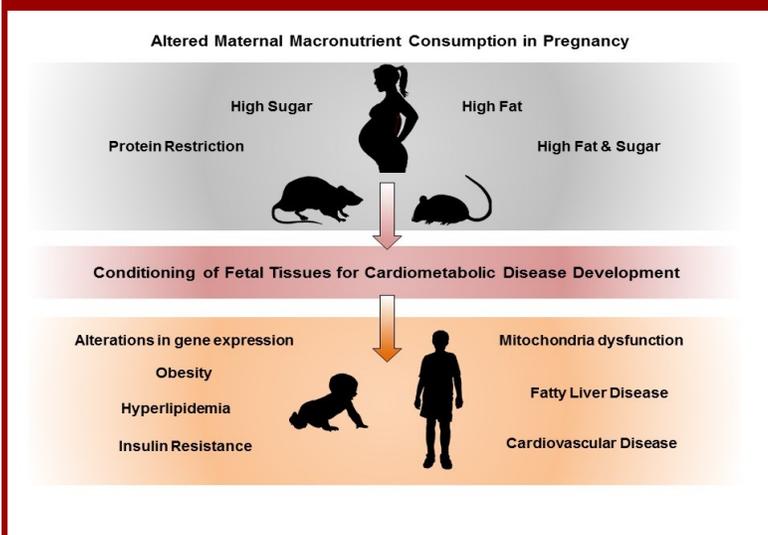
live longer? Urban trail expansion and cardiovascular health outcomes in Winnipeg"

* \$24,999 from CIHR SPOR Collaboration Grant (PI = Marie Claude Tremblay) for the project entitled "**Plateforme stratégique pour faciliter l'engagement dans la recherche de patients autochtones vivant avec le diabète**" (translation: "**Strategic platform to facilitate engagement in research by francophone Indigenous peoples living with diabetes**")

Trainees' successes

Publications

A new review in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, authored by DEVOTION trainees **Stephanie Kereliuk** and **Gabriel Brawerman** about how maternal macronutrient consumption affects the developmental origins of metabolic disease in the offspring. The abstracts can be accessed [here](#), and the full text is available [here](#). Below is a graphic representation of the study.



Awards and grants

CIHR Doctoral Research Award

Laetitia Guillemette (supervised by Drs. Jonathan McGavock and Todd Duhamel)

Graduate Student Fellowship from the Prairie Indigenous

Knowledge Exchange Network (PIKE-Net)

Taylor Morriseau, MSc studentship (Dolinsky Lab)

Research Manitoba Studentships

Gabriel Brawerman, MSc studentship (Dolinsky Lab)

Stephanie Kereliuk, PhD studentship (Dolinsky Lab)

Shirin Moossavi, PhD Studentship (Azad Lab)

Research Manitoba Fellowship

Dr. Prasoon Agarwal (Dolinsky Lab)

North End Wellbeing Measure (NEWM)

The Winnipeg Boldness Project is committed to developing a survey that will measure what is important to community residents of Point Douglas. This commitment was made in response to direction provided through community conversations that indicated the need for a tool that could measure wholistic success and wellbeing in addition to school readiness. **The First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM)** has developed wellbeing measurement tools for on-reserve communities, which has the potential to be adapted for use in urban contexts. Based on these existing measurement tools, the NEWM has been adapted based on feedback and input of families living in the Point Douglas neighbourhood. The NEWM Research Team is comprised of First Nations youth whom have ties to the neighbourhood. They have a vested interest in the betterment of the community and are pleased to bring forth, through the survey tool, the strengths of the neighbourhood. The target participants in the NEWM include: caregivers of at least one child under the age of 18 in their care and residing in the North End of Winnipeg. As an incentive, monthly draws of \$250, \$100, \$50 gift cards will be held. Please contact **Marsha Simmons** (E: msimmons@fnhssm.com, T: 204-510-2466) for more information.

- *Content provided by Leona Star, DEVOTION's Indigenous Program Director*

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