

CIHR: Institute of Cancer Research

Newsletter

Highlighted in this newsletter:

- New ICR Assistant Director
- Introduction of new IAB members
- Community News
- Funding opportunities



WINTER 2015

Message from Dr. Stephen Robbins Scientific Director



It is time for the Institute of Cancer Research to look back on what was accomplished in 2014 while we plan for an exciting and productive future. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few achievements during the past year. ICR partnered with the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) to help fund grants in cancer prevention, with the NCI in the United States to add two Canadian research teams to its Quantitative Imaging Network (QIN), with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF) to fund a Pan-Canadian research team in the area of Breast Cancer in Young Women. Together with 7 CIHR Institutes we helped fund 9 teams in the area of Chronic Inflammation in Diseases. Along with Genome Canada we partnered with Stand Up 2 Cancer (SU2C) Canada to fund a Pan-Canadian team in the area of cancer stem cells. We co-hosted a New Investigator meeting in Quebec with 2 other institutes, which provided information and resources for the next generation of cancer researcher, it is clear that cancer research is in good hands. The next career development program will take place in 2015 in Montreal in conjunction with the CCRC meeting where ICR will continue to invest in new investigators as well as highlighting citizen and patient engagement as part of the program. We started to consult with researchers across the country to help develop our new Strategic Plan that will align with the Roadmap of CIHR. We will continue to work with our many stakeholders to refine our Strategic Plan with a target of releasing a final document and accompanying implementation strategy to the cancer research community in November.

Over the past year it has been inspiring to visit with many cancer researchers across the country and to learn of the great successes supported by CIHR, as well as hearing some of the challenges that our researchers are facing. Our staff continues to work hard to continue to support the cancer community and promoting an innovative vision of cancer research in Canada.

Dr. Stephen Robbins, Scientific Director, ICR



Canadian Institutes of Health Research
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Institute of Cancer Research
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Canada

Introducing ICR's New Assistant Director

Dr. Rachel Syme completed her Bachelor of Science degree (Honours) at Queen's University in Kingston and her Master of Science in Medical Genetics at the University of Calgary. She then received her PhD in Microbial Immunology at the University of Calgary. She carried out post-doctoral work at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre, in Calgary, focusing on cellular based cancer vaccines. Dr. Syme spent a number of years as manager of the Clinical Trials Unit at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre prior to moving to a provincial position as Operations Leader of the Alberta Clinical Cancer Research Unit and then as Executive Director of Research Administration with Alberta Health Services. She currently holds an adjunct assistant professor position with the Department of Oncology at the University of Calgary. She also remains a coordinator and lecturer with the University's Master of Biomedical Technology Program. Her current research interests include research recruitment and clinical trials impact and administration. She serves on N2s board of Directors, as well as a member of the Mount Royal University's Research Ethics Board, and is completing her Project Management certification.



Photo Highlights from 2014

SU2C Launch July 2014



ICR Strategic Planning Workshop
September 2014
(photos courtesy of Geoffrey Fong)



Café SPOR October 2014



Institute of Cancer's Community News

World Cancer Day February 4th – On February 4 every year, World Cancer Day unites cancer stakeholders from around the world to raise awareness of cancer globally. It is coordinated by the [Union for International Cancer Control \(UICC\)](#) and is supported internationally by the world's major cancer societies, ministries of health, research institutes, treatment centres and patient groups

QIN Announcement - A new generation of imaging technologies is poised to play a key role in both discovery research and pre-clinical and clinical investigations. An international network, to share and reach consensus on best practices and leverage resources wherever possible, will facilitate the development, translation and dissemination of these emerging imaging technologies. The U.S. National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), has established the [Quantitative Imaging Network \(QIN\)](#) that is currently composed of 21 research teams (nodes) across the US. In October 2013, the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) launched the “Quantitative Imaging for Responses to Cancer Therapies” funding opportunity, in partnership with the NCI/NIH and Genome British Columbia (BC), to establish two Canadian teams as an integral part of the QIN. The recently announced Canadian teams are led by Drs. Jaffray, Bernard and Lee.

Early Career Award - This award in the amount of \$25,000 is given annually to a new investigator (under five years as an independent researcher) in the field of cancer with the highest ranking (by percent (%) rank) in the Spring or Fall Open Operating Grant competition. ICR congratulates this year's winner, Dr. Sachin Katyal from the Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology.

CCRA Meeting - The CCRA is pleased to announce that the next [Canadian Cancer Research Conference](#) will be held from November 8-10, 2015 in Montréal. Please reserve these important dates in your calendar. The Canadian Cancer Research Conference brings together the Canadian cancer research community spanning the research spectrum, from discovery research to policy research, and clinical research to end-of-life care. It also provides a venue for networking and cross-fertilization between research disciplines. The 2015 conference will build upon the successes of the most recent meeting in 2013.

GE3LS Conference - The **Canadian GE3LS and Health Services & Policy Research Conference: Integrated Approaches to Opportunities and Challenges in the Genomics Era** will address the integration of new genomic technologies into the healthcare system, at the level of practice and policy, including implications for patients and families, clinicians, health care systems, and society. It will highlight approaches that build on lessons from the past and prepare us to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the future. Held in parallel with the Canadian Human and Statistical Genetics Meeting, the conference will be an exciting interactive forum that brings together national and international experts from the broad GE3LS and health services & policy research communities to showcase research, foster collaborations, and facilitate networking, mentoring & career building. The conference will also integrate the perspectives of patients and their families within scientific sessions. The meeting will be held in Vancouver in April. For more information visit: <http://genetics15.mcgill-cihr-ig.ca>



Welcome new ICR Advisory Board members

Dr. John C. Bell



Dr. John Bell received his Ph.D in Virology and Immunology from McMaster University in 1982. In the following three years, he trained as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa and then at the Medical Research Council in London, England. Dr. Bell began his independent research career at McGill University in 1986 in the Department of Biochemistry. He moved his research group to the University of Ottawa, Department of Medicine, in 1989 and became a Senior Scientist at the Center for Cancer Therapeutics at The Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. He heads the Canadian Oncolytic Virus Consortium, a Terry Fox funded group from across Canada that is developing virus based cancer therapeutics. He is the Director of the Biotherapeutics Program for the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. His research program is directed towards the development of novel biotherapeutic approaches to treating cancer. In particular his lab is focused on the development of replicating viruses for the treatment of cancer and strategies to enhance their therapeutic activity. He has received the Robert L. Noble Prize in Cancer Research from the Canadian Cancer Society, the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Christine Friedenreich



Dr. Friedenreich is the Scientific Leader for the Department of Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research of CancerControl Alberta, Alberta Health Services and the Division Head for the Division of Preventive Oncology, Department of Oncology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Friedenreich completed her doctorate in Epidemiology at the University of Toronto in 1990 and postdoctoral work at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France and at the University of Calgary between 1990 and 1994. She holds a Health Senior Scholar career award from Alberta Innovates-Health Solutions and in 2012 was named the Alberta Cancer Foundation's Weekend to End Women's Cancers Breast Cancer Chair at the University of Calgary. In 2004-5, Dr. Friedenreich was the Visiting Scientist at the IARC. In 2013, Dr. Friedenreich was a co-recipient of the Canadian Cancer Society's O. Harold Warwick Prize. Dr. Friedenreich's research is focused on understanding the role of physical activity in reducing the risk of developing cancer and in improving quality of life and survival after cancer diagnosis. She has conducted over 35 research observational and randomized controlled exercise intervention trials of physical activity in cancer control. A particular focus for her research is investigating the underlying biologic mechanisms involved in the association between physical activity and cancer risk and survival.

Dr. Peter Siegel



Dr. Peter Siegel received his Ph.D. degree from McMaster University and pursued his post-doctoral training at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at McGill University and a full member of the Goodman Cancer Research Centre, where he serves as Associate Director. Since beginning his independent academic career at McGill, Dr. Siegel has held career awards from the CCS (Harold Johns Award), FRQS (Junior II research scholar) and is currently a McGill University William Dawson Scholar. Dr. Siegel's research focuses on the fundamental mechanisms that control organ-selective breast cancer metastasis and employs pre-clinical animal models and clinical material to identify molecular mediators and cellular process that promote breast cancer metastasis to distinct sites such as the bone, lung and liver. His research has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance, the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, the Terry Fox Foundation, and the Cancer Research Society.



Funding Opportunities

Operating Grants

[Operating Grant : Industry-Partnered Collaborative Research](#)

Registration Deadline: February 2, 2015

[Operating Grant : Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research](#)

Letter of Intent: March 6, 2015

Other Awards and Grants

[Planning and Dissemination Grants – Institute Community Support](#)

Application Deadline: February 17, 2015

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