Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Visiting Research Professorship, and the new Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Visiting Clinical Professorship

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP

The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) Visiting Research Professorship has been a very successful program supporting hundreds of lectures across the country since 1982. Awarded to a member of CAG who is an outstanding researcher, the Visiting Research Professor is asked to visit at least six sites (typically academic centres) across the country during the period from July 1 to June 30. The CAG supports the cost of air travel for the Visiting Research Professor, while the host sites are responsible for costs of local travel, accommodation, meals and any honorarium.

Nominations for this award can be made by any member of the CAG. The most convenient means to nominate a candidate is to use the nomination form found on the CAG website (www.cag-acg.org/cag-research-awards/visiting-professorship). A curriculum vitae must be concurrently forwarded to the CAG National Office, preferably in electronic format. The CAG Research Committee will review the nominations and make recommendations to the CAG Board, who will make the final decision on the recipient.

ANNOUNCING THE 2011/2012 CAG VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSOR

The 2011/2012 CAG Visiting Research Professor is Dr Derek McKay (University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta).

Dr McKay graduated with a BSc (First-class Honours) from the Queen's University of Belfast (Belfast, Northern Ireland) in 1987, and then earned a PhD there (1987 to 1990) before accepting a Medical Research Council-funded postdoctoral fellowship at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario). He was appointed Assistant Professor at McMaster University at the end of 1995, and subsequently moved to a full Professorship at the University of Calgary (2006), where he also holds a Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Intestinal Immunophysiology and is recipient of an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) Scientist Award.

Since 1996, Dr McKay has received continuous funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC) for his research program that focuses on the interaction of immune cells (and mediators) with the epithelium. Current projects involve an exploration of how metabolic stress and cytokines regulate epithelial permeability, and

how infection with helminth parasites can affect the outcome of intestinal inflammation.

He is an author on 94 research publications and 24 review articles, and has received research awards from the CAG (Young Investigator 2001; Research Excellence 2009), the American Gastroenterological Association (Masters Award 2007) and the American Society of Parasitology (2008). Dr McKay has served as the CAG Research Committee Chair, on the CIHR Experimental Panel, the CCFC Grants-in-Aid Review Panel and the AHFMR Fellowship Review Panel. He is the current VP Treasurer, CAG.

Dr McKay has given numerous invited presentations and has also spoken to trainees at McMaster University, the University of Calgary (where he is a Graduate Program Director) and at Canadian Digestive Diseases Week on thesis and grant writing.

If you are interested in having Dr McKay visit your centre during his term, please contact the CAG National Office at general@cag-acg.org.

THANKS TO THE 2010/2011 CAG VISITING RESEARCH PROFESSOR

The 2010/2011 CAG Visiting Research Professor was Dr Charles Bernstein (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba).

The CAG would like to express our sincere thanks to Dr Bernstein for being the 2010/2011 CAG Visiting Research Professor. Dr Bernstein was able to visit 15 centres, from coast to coast, during his term (St John's [Newfoundland and Labrador], Montreal and Sherbrooke [Quebec], Toronto, Ottawa, London, Hamilton and Kingston [Ontario], Vancouver and Kelowna [British Columbia], Edmonton and Calgary [Alberta], Halifax [Nova Scotia], Moncton [New Brunswick] and Regina [Saskatchewan]). Visits included lectures at gastroenterology rounds and within regional meetings. This is a remarkable commitment and has certainly fulfilled the intent of the award! Congratulations and thanks go to Dr Bernstein.

NEW! CAG VISITING CLINICAL PROFESSORSHIP

This fall, the CAG Education Affairs Committee will be announcing a CAG Visiting Clinical Professorship with implementation of the award for 2012. To provide additional benefit to the CAG members in the community, the Visiting Clinical Professor will focus his or her visits on regional meetings/events versus academic sites. Stay tuned for complete details of the award during the fall.

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