Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Research Committee Report 2010

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A primary goal of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and its Foundation, the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF), in collaboration with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the CAG-CDHF partners, is to promote excellence in research. This research will lead to new discoveries that will translate into improved health for Canadians. Moreover, this partnership will sustain and increase this capacity through high-quality education of talented trainees. The CAG strategic plan is to sustain its strong support of biomedical research while increasing support for research in CIHR pillars 3 and 4 including outcomes research, quality assurance and knowledge translation. The present report, on behalf of the Research Committee (Table 1), outlines another very successful year for this partnership program.

Details relating to eligibility and application processes for all of the following awards are available on the CAG website (www.cag-acg.org/research.aspx). The review and assessment of every application complies with CIHR standards and guidelines, and any potential conflicts of interest are meticulously identified and avoided.

Operating grants and New Investigator Salary Award

Three operating grants and one new investigator salary award (Table 2) were awarded this year.

CAG-CIHR-partnered Postdoctoral Operating Fellowship Program

The fellowship program is the cornerstone of CAG research activities, and its sustained success makes it a model for other societies. A large number of applications were received again this year and, with support from CIHR, the CCFC and CAG's industrial partners (see acknowledgements), nine fellowships were funded (Table 3).

CDHF-CIHR PhD Studentship Program

Four PhD students (Table 4) were funded under this partnership program.

CAG Summer Studentships

It is critical that young investigators be supported at all levels of their training. Thus, in partnership with CCFC and CIHR, 12 students received awards (salary plus a small operating budget [\$6,000/award]) to

TABLE 1
Members of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Research Committee (2010)

Position	Name	Institution	Term
VP, Research Affairs	Stephen Vanner	Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)	2008 to 2011
Member	John Marshall	McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario)	2008 to 2011
Member	Paul Beck	University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta)	2008 to 2011
Member	Alan Lomax	Queen's University	2008 to 2011
Member	Dana Philpott	University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)	2008 to 2011
Member	Isabella Tai	University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia)	2008 to 2011
Member	Nicola Jones	University of Toronto	2009 to 2012
Member	Wallace MacNaughton	University of Calgary	2009 to 2012
Member (trainee)	Melanie Gareau	University of Toronto	2008

TABLE 2
Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG)-Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) partner-funded Grants (2010)

Candidate	Award	Years	Institution
Geoffrey Nguyen	CAG/CIHR/CCFC New Investigator Salary Award	3	University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)
Dana Philpott	CAG/CIHR/Abbott Operating Grant	2	University of Toronto
Charles Bernstein	CAG/CIHR/Olympus Operating Grant	2	University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
Carole Creuzenet	CAG/CIHR/AstraZeneca Operating Grant	2	University of Western Ontario (London, Ontario)

CCFC Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada

The CAG is proud to acknowledge its Benefactor Corporate Sponsors:

Abbott Canada

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TABLE 3
Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG)-Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) partner-funded Postdoctoral Fellowships (2010)

Candidate	Award	Institution	Years	Supervisor
Christina Hirota	CAG/CIHR/CCFC Fellowship	University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta)	2	Wallace MacNaughton
Sarah Mullaly	CAG/CIHR/CCFC Fellowship	University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia)	2	Colby Zaph
Mattitahu Waterman	CAG/CIHR/CCFC Fellowship	University Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)	2	Mark Silverberg
Daniela Ardelean	CAG/CIHR/Abbott Fellowship	The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Ontario)	2	Michelle Letarte and Robert Kerbel
Weiwie Wang	CAG/CIHR/Abbott Fellowship	University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta)	2	Andrew Mason
Emmanuel Denou	CAG/CIHR/AstraZeneca Fellowship	McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario)	2	Stephen Collins
Sanjay Murthy	CAG/CIHR/Axcan Fellowship	University of Toronto	2	Hillary Steinhart and Geoffrey Nguyen
Amy Morse	CAG/CIHR/Pentax Therapeutic Endoscopy Fellowship	University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta)	2	Clarence Wong and Devidas Menon
Eric Albert	CAG/CIHR/Ferring Fellowship*	University of Alberta	2	Karen Madsen

*Fellow terminated the award after four months. CCFC Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada

work in the laboratories of recent or established investigators whose interests cover many facets of gut function (Table 5). Two students received CAG awards in name only because their project ranked in the fundable range; however, only one award per laboratory was possible.

CAG-Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada Partnership

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC) continues to be a key partner in the CAG research program, and inflammatory bowel disease research a major focus of the research being conducted. The summaries (Tables 2, 3 and 5) show that the CCFC supported three Fellowships, the New Investigator Salary Award and eight summer studentships.

CAG Resident Research Program

Three awards were made available with the generous partnership from Nycomed Canada, Shire Canada and Warner Chilcott (Table 6).

Congratulations to all the successful awardees. We look forward to your contributions and your continued participation in Canadian gastroenterology (GI) research and CAG/CDHF activities. Again, many thanks to the CIHR, the CCFC and the CAG partners – the 12 summer studentships, three resident research awards, nine fellowships, one salary award and three grants add to a cumulative research dollar commitment in 2010 of \$1,387,000.

CANADIAN DIGESTIVE DISEASES WEEK (CDDW) 2010 AND 6TH ANNUAL CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIVER (CASL) WINTER MEETING

In addition to reviewing research applications, the other main role of the Research Committee is review of abstracts submitted to CDDW, which showcases the best of Canadian GI research. A total of 275 abstracts were accepted to the core CDDW/CASL Winter Meeting Scientific Program; 42 as CAG or CASL oral presentations and the remainder in one of two poster sessions.

The following are the 2010 recipients of CAG awards:

- Dr Herbert Gaisano (University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario) – Research Excellence Award.
- Dr Mark Silverberg (University of Toronto) – Young Investigator Award.
- Dr Charles Bernstein (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba) – Visiting Professor.
- Dr Norman Marcon (University of Toronto) – Education Excellence Award.

TABLE 4
Canadian Digestive Health Foundation-Canadian Institutes of Health Research Studentship Program (2010)

Candidate	Institution
Daniel Mulder	Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)
Connie Kim	University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)
Jaclyn Strauss	Guelph University (Guelph, Ontario)
Ajitha Thanabalasuriar	McGill University (Montreal, Quebec)

- Dr Kelly Burak (University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta) – Young Educator Award.
- Dr Eamonn Quigley (University College Cork, Cork, Ireland) – The RD McKenna Memorial Lecturer.

The 2010 student research prizes were awarded, based on the quality of submitted CDDW abstracts, as follows:

CAG sponsored:

A Darsigny, University of Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Quebec
A Park, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

CCFC sponsored:

J Allaire, University of Sherbrooke
T Murdoch, University of Toronto

Once again, it has been an excellent year for Canadian GI research, and everyone involved deserves congratulations. Should CAG members have questions relating to the work of the Research Committee or proposals on how to expand or promote our activities please contact the Committee Chair, Dr André Buret.

With Thanks,
Stephen Vanner MD FRCP
Past Chair, CAG Research Committee

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TABLE 5
Canadian Association of Gastroenterology-Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada-funded Summer Studentships (2010)

Candidate	Supervisor	Sponsor	Institution
Leigh Beamish	Eytan Wine	Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada	University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta)
Alexandra Cole	Laura Sly	Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada	University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia)
Polly Yuet Wa Lam	Aliexo Muise	Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada	The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Ontario)
Samantha Makarenko	Deanna Gibson	Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada	University of British Columbia
Amanda Pichini	Mark Silverberg	Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada	University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)
Jovian Wat	Alan Lomax	Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada	Queen's University (Kingston, Ontario)
Anna Krylova	Aleixo Muise	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (in name only)	The Hospital for Sick Children
Mireille Potentier	Paul Beck	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (in name only)	University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta)
Jennifer Lau	Bruce Vallance	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology	University of British Columbia
Patrick Schenck	Paul Beck	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology	University of Calgary
Emma Torbicki	Nicola Jones	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology	The Hospital for Sick Children
Nok Ken Wan	Patricia Brubaker	Canadian Association of Gastroenterology	University of Toronto

TABLE 6
Resident Research Awards (2010)

Candidate	Supervisor	Sponsor	Institution
Vishal Avinashi	Aleixo Muise	Warner Chilcott	The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Ontario)
Mamatha Bhat	Alan Barkun	Nycomed Canada	McGill University (Montreal, Quebec)
Travis Murdoch	Mark Silverberg	Shire Canada	University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)