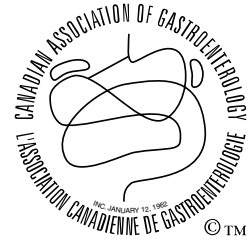


Meeting Report: Research Topics in Gastrointestinal Disease III



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Organizing Committee:

Ken Croitoru MD FRCPC, *McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario*

Gordon Greenberg MD, *University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario*

Derek McKay PhD, *Chair, CAG Research Committee; McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario*

Paul Sinclair, *Executive Director, CAG*

Current advances in therapeutics of gastrointestinal (GI) diseases are a direct result of the rapid developments in fundamental research of cellular and molecular biology and its specific application to defining the normal physiology of the

GI tract and the pathogenetic mechanisms underlying disease processes. The Canadian GI research community has contributed greatly to these efforts and continues to be a world leader in all disciplines relevant to GI disease. Much of this



PARTICIPANTS: Dr Mantej Bharhani, Hamilton; Dr Claudine Bonder, Calgary; Mr Anders Bondo-Dydenborg, Sherbrooke; Dr Gaele Boudry, Hamilton; Ms Martha Briggs, Kingston; Ms Svetlana Carrigan, Halifax; Mr Peter Ceponis, Toronto; Ms Nita Chauhan, Hamilton; Dr Chang-Wen Chen, Calgary; Dr Victoria Conlin, Vancouver; Ms Elena Dubcenco, Toronto; Ms Amanda Fitzpatrick, Hamilton; Ms Melanie Gareau, Hamilton; Ms Christina Green, Hamilton; Ms Meaghan Hunter, Hamilton; Dr Humberto Jijon, Edmonton; Mr Rob Joseph, Halifax; Dr Haihuang Liu, Kingston; Ms Bing Ma, Edmonton; Mrs Catherine McKay, Hamilton; Dr David Mitchell, Toronto; Dr David Moskovitz, Toronto; Ms Andrea Mucci, Oakville; Ms Cathy Nguyen, Calgary; Mr Dan Patton, Kingston; Dr Wei Qi, Calgary; Mr Jason Riff, Toronto; Mr Jacob Rullo, Hamilton; Dr Manuel Silva, Montreal; Dr Catherine Streutker, Toronto; Dr Isabella Tai, Vancouver; Dr Jeremy Theal, Toronto; Mr Jaques van der Merwe, Calgary; Mr John Walker, Edmonton; Dr Hongying Wang, Calgary; Ms Elizabeth White, Hamilton; Dr Sen Rong Yan, Halifax; Dr Linda Yu, Calgary; Dr Stella Zamuner, Calgary; Dr Pengfei Zhou, Hamilton. **FACULTY:** Dr Ken Croitoru, Hamilton; Dr Gordon Greenberg, Toronto; Dr Nicola Jones, Toronto; Dr Wallace MacNaughton, Calgary; Dr Derek McKay, Hamilton; Dr Philip Sherman, Toronto; Dr Mark Silverberg, Toronto; Dr Nathalie Vergnolle, Calgary

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success has been achieved and driven by identifying and fostering an excellent cohort of graduate and postgraduate research trainees involved in GI research at institutes across Canada. Many of these trainees are funded by the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG), in collaboration with the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), a number of industry partners, and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (1).

In an effort to celebrate the efforts of our trainees and to recognize the excellence of their hard work, the CAG, in conjunction with AstraZeneca Canada Inc and the CIHR, held the Third Symposium on Research Topics in Gastrointestinal Disease at Taboo Resorts, Gravenhurst, Ontario, on November 24 to 26, 2003. The goal of this meeting was to provide research trainees with the opportunity to formally present their original work to their peers and to a selection of faculty from across Canada. In addition, trainees were encouraged and expected to participate in the discussions of these papers in an open forum setting. The results of this year's program were a series of excellent presentations describing cutting edge research: 40 podium presentations ran the gamut of basic and clinical GI-related research, from inflammatory bowel disease to *Helicobacter pylori*, GI motility to epithelial ion transport, and mechanisms of cancer to GI infection.

The meeting also provided a venue at which trainees could meet their peers from across Canada and learn and consider collaborative opportunities – important contacts for their future career and the future of Canadian GI research. As noted

by Dr Philip Sherman (President of the CAG) during his presentation on an academic career in GI research to the attendees, "The contacts made by these junior researchers at this meeting will last throughout their future careers." Participants evaluated the meeting overall as excellent, with numerous comments similar to these: "Great way to network and get to know other trainees working in similar areas" and "Great meeting, especially to support students/trainees...open discussion and learned a lot".

As a result of the enormous success of the symposium, it is the intent of the organizing committee, the CAG, and AstraZeneca Canada Inc to hold this meeting on an annual basis. Plans are already underway for the fall of 2004. Canadian investigators with basic and clinical GI research programs can lend support to this important endeavor by encouraging the participation of their trainees and graduate students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The organizers would particularly like to thank AstraZeneca Canada Inc for their generous support of this meeting, the third of its kind in a series that will continue to advance gastroenterology in Canada.

REFERENCES

1. McKay D, Daniels S. Canadian Association of Gastroenterology – Canadian Institutes of Health Research – pharmaceutical partner postdoctoral operating fellowship programme: An outstanding success that continues to excel! *Can J Gastroenterol* 2003;17:437-9.
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