In February we hosted the second annual Alberta-BC Islet Workshop from Feb 11-15 at Silver Star Resort in the BC Okanagan. Over 60 attendees from UBC and the University of Alberta participated this year. The quality of the talks by our trainees was outstanding as was the skiing and bowling! We received tremendous support from our sponsors including: Servier Research Group, Novo Nordisk Canada, Bio-Rad, IDT Technologies, Life Technologies, Molecular Devices, Alpco and R&D Systems. Thanks to the organizing committee for their delivery of an excellent scientific meeting!

I am pleased to announce internal funding is available again this year for the 2013 Diabetes Catalyst Pilot Grant Competition. These internal grants of up to $50,000 are made possible through support from the Canucks for Kids Fund. The Catalyst funding is designed to stimulate new approaches to childhood diabetes research that are collaborative, novel, and promise to impact the lives of kids with diabetes. A Request for Proposals will be released in the fall.

Join me in cheering on our Sun Run Team this month as they show off their athletic abilities in Canada’s largest 10K road race on April 21st. Several runners from last year have returned and a few new members have joined the CFRI Diabetes & Immunity Labs team. Last year our Sun Run team placed a respectful 12 of 71 teams. Go Team Diabetes & Immunity!

On a brighter note, in January we launched a new UBC graduate level course in the Pathophysiology of Types 1 and 2 Diabetes. Offered on-site at the Child & Family Research Institute, Path 548 students were treated to twice weekly lectures by our expert diabetes investigators. Thank you to Jaki Chantler for steering this project through the UBC approval processes and making the class possible at CFRI.

2013 is well underway and I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new faces and reluctantly bid farewell to some familiar ones. With the new year came new beginnings for many of us. In particular the Verchere Lab experienced some major change as Galina Soukhatcheva, who joined us in 2000 as Laboratory Manager has moved to the BC Cancer Research Centre and long-time post doctoral fellows Drs Joel Montane and Merce Obach have returned to their home of Barcelona! Thank you to Galina, Joel and Merce for your many contributions over the years- you will be missed. With their departure we strengthen our local and international collaborative ties and provide opportunities to new rising stars to join us for their training.
KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS

On February 26, 2013, Dr Daniel Metzger and Dr Bruce Verchere received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for their outstanding research and dedication to improving the lives of Canadians living with diabetes. Both Dr. Metzger and Dr. Verchere were nominated by the Canadian Diabetes Association to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, which honours significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

Dr Dina Panagiotopoulou has been promoted to Associate Professor with the University of British Columbia’s Department of Pediatrics. Congratulations Dina!

Congratulations to Dr Dan Luciani who has received a Career Development Award from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) for his work on "Identifying and targeting novel cell death pathways in islet graft failure".

Dominika Nackiewicz, PhD candidate, in the Ehres Lab, was awarded a CIHR Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for her project on "Using regulatory macrophages (Mregs) to promote beta cell regeneration during islet inflammation".

Dr Francis Lynn was presented with the Hjalmar Johnson New Investigator Award at the 2012 Department of Surgery Chung Research Day.

Sam Chow, graduate student in Experimental Medicine in the Ehres Lab received the Best Student Presentation Award at the 2012 Department of Surgery Chung Research Day.

IN PRESS


Please send any future items of award announcements for inclusion in the newsletter to Meg Hughes, Diabetes Research Program Manager (mhughes@cfri.ca)

APRIL SOCIAL EVENT

Relax after a long work week with your co-workers and enjoy some social time.
Date: Friday, April 19th
Hosted by the Lavoie Lab

www.cfri.ca