Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada Grant Recipients
September 2003 Competition

NEW

C. Kearon - $117,755/3yrs
Selective D-dimer testing for diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis.

RENEWAL

R. Austin - $79,622/3yrs
Inhibition of tissue factor procoagulant activity by GRP78 and its role in atherothrombotic disease.

A. Chan - $69,868/3yrs.
Investigation into the interactions of covalent antithrombin-heparin (ATH) complex with surface-bound coagulant factors.

T.E. Warkentin - $88,794/3yrs
vWF multimers, cardiovascular disease and bleeding angiodysplasia.

J.I. Weitz - $104,330/4yrs
Improving the effectiveness of thrombolytic therapy.

E. Young - $74,080/2yrs
The anti-inflammatory role of a low molecular weight heparin lacking anticoagulant activity.

Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) / Research Hospital Fund

We were disappointed by the recently announced results for the 2003/04 CFI competitions. None of the projects which had been identified as having a Hospital connection / impact were approved. This means that we were not eligible for Research Hospital Fund allocation as you can only access the latter fund through a successful CFI application. The next round of applications are to be prepared in the late 2005 time period. We will be taking a much more focused approach to our priorities i.e. the Heart and Stroke Research Institute at that time.

Continued on page 2
A great loss was felt in learning the news that a dear friend and colleague, Dr. David R. (Dan) Offord passed away on April 10, 2004.

Dr. Offord became a member of the Order of Canada in 2001 for his work to help better the lives of children around the world. He was an internationally recognized child psychiatrist and founder of the Offord Centre for Child Studies located at Chedoke (formerly known as the Canadian Centre of Studies of Children at Risk). The Centre is dedicated to reducing the burden of suffering and disadvantage associated with children’s behavioural and emotional problems. Under Dr. Offord’s visionary leadership, the Centre produced research that has identified the causes and implications of major childhood and societal problems such as abuse, autism, depression and poverty.

In addition to being an accomplished researcher and mentor, Dr. Offord also served for 47 years as the director of Christie Lake Camp, where 400 economically disadvantaged children and youth enjoy a camp experience each summer.

Dr. Offord was the recipient of the Golden Jubilee Medal and was recently recognized by the Ontario Legislative Assembly. He chaired many national and international committees including the Ontario Mental Health Foundation, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Premier’s Council on Health, Well-being and Social Justice.

All HHS staff, patients and families will deeply miss Dan. Those who worked with Dr. Offord for many years will feel especially saddened by his passing.

A memorial service will be held on June 10th at 2:00pm at the Royal Botanical Gardens. For more information, please contact Phyllis Way at extension 74348.
Research Profile:

Gurmit Singh, PhD
Director of Research, Juravinski Cancer Centre
Professor of Pathology & Molecular Medicine, McMaster University

Dr. Singh was born in Uganda where he completed his "A" levels (high school) and immigrated to Canada in 1972. He completed his B.Sc in Biochemistry and Ph.D in Pharmacology at Dalhousie University. Dr. Singh did his Post-doctoral training at the University of Florida, where he was awarded the International Life Sciences Institute post-doctoral fellowship. He was recruited to McMaster University in 1984 to initiate the Terry Fox Research Laboratories with Dr. F. William Orr. He was also awarded the first Career Scientist Award at the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre. Dr. Singh currently holds the Senior Scientist Award from Cancer Care Ontario. He is currently the Director of Research at the Juravinski Cancer Centre (formerly Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre) and Professor of Pathology and Molecular Medicine at McMaster University.

Dr. Singh’s early scientific work was focused on the role of viral infection on drug metabolism. He was the first scientist to use human cloned interferon in animal experiments. During his post-doctoral training, Dr. Singh examined the role of chemotherapeutic agents on mitochondria and mitochondrial DNA. He continues to work in this novel arena of cancer research.

Dr. Singh’s research is currently focused on various aspects of tumour metastasis to bone, especially in breast and prostate cancer. His group has identified mechanisms associated with bone metastasis in breast and prostate cancer. These results enabled his group to design a strategy to prevent and/or provide effective therapy for bone metastasis using osteotropic properties of tetracycline. This preclinical work has led to clinical trials in both breast and prostate cancer patients. He is also actively involved in elucidating the resistance mechanisms of Photodynamic Therapy. The group has been funded as part of a program grant form the National Institutes of Health (U.S) for the past fifteen years. Currently Dr. Singh is involved in developing biophotonic techniques to study treatment efficacy in vivo with Dr. Michael Patterson.

Dr. Singh is the author of over 120 scientific papers and has edited 3 books. He has been invited to national and international meetings as a speaker in the field of bone metastasis. He is on the editorial board of scientific Journals and on several peer-reviewed committees, such as Canadian Institute of Health Research, Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Initiative, National Institute of Health (U.S) and the U.S Army Breast Cancer Initiative and Office of Naval Research. Dr. Singh currently holds several grants from Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), Programme Project from NIH (U.S), Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance (CBCRA), Cancer Research Society (CRS) and Ontario Cancer Research Network (OCRN).

Congratulations to Dr. Gurmit Singh...

The Canadian Breast Cancer Research Alliance (CBCRA) has awarded Dr. Gurmit Singh a renewal grant award in the amount of $431,559/3yrs investigating Therapeutic role of Doxycycline in breast cancer. Dr. Singh received the initial grant in 2001 for $425,000/4yrs.
Research Profile:

Sonia Anand, MD, FRCPC, PhD
Associate Professor, Medicine, McMaster University

Dr. Sonia Anand obtained her undergraduate degree in Life Sciences from Queen’s University in 1989, a Doctor of Medicine from McMaster in 1992, Internal Medicine Training at McMaster, and a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1996. She further received her Masters in Clinical Epidemiology at McMaster in 1996 and Doctoral degree in Health Research Methodology at McMaster in 2002. She completed a Heart and Stroke of Canada Research Fellowship in 1998 and in 2001 completed a clinical fellowship in Vascular Medicine at Harvard University’s Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

In 1999, Dr. Anand joined the Department of Medicine at McMaster University as an Assistant Professor of Medicine, and in 2002 became an Associate Professor of Medicine, as well as an Associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology. Currently Dr. Anand also holds the position of Associate Director at HHS’ Population Health Research Institute affiliated with McMaster University.

In 1996, Dr. Anand received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Clinician Scientist Award which she still holds. In 1999 she received the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Young Investigator Award, and in 2001 she was the recipient of the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine Young Investigator Award. In 2002 Dr. Anand received the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Clinician Scientist Phase-2 Award, and became the first recipient of the May Cohen Eli Lily Chair in Women’s health research.

Dr. Anand’s research includes studies to determine the causes of vascular disease (classical epidemiology) among populations of varying ancestral origin including Aboriginal people, as well as studies to determine the effectiveness of antithrombotic therapies used in the secondary prevention of vascular events (Clinical trials). Current projects include a CIHR funded clinical trial to determine the effectiveness of lifestyle intervention among Aboriginal people (SHARE-ACTION), a Heart and Stroke Foundation funded prospective cohort study among the people of the Six Nations (SHARE-AP Follow-up), and a CIHR/HSFO clinical trial (WAVE trial) evaluating the effectiveness of oral anticoagulants and antiplatelet therapy among patients with peripheral arterial disease. This trial has completed recruitment of 2,100 from 7 countries (Canada, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, China, Netherlands, and Australia), and follow-up will continue until 2006.

Dr. Anand’s research work is widely published amongst academic and peer-evaluated journals and she teaches clinical epidemiology courses in methodology and cardiovascular disease at McMaster University.
Kudos to RN Novice Researcher….

HHS nurse invited to speak at world’s largest GI conference resulting from a self-initiated research study. Cindy James is a Research Nurse in the Digestive Diseases’ Clinical Investigation Lab. In 2002, she found herself in a unique position to pursue her own research. While attending a conference for the Canadian Society of Gastrointestinal Nurses and Associates in Newfoundland, Cindy and many other nurses fell ill with food poisoning. Cindy decided there was no better time to investigate the relationship between food poisoning and Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

With lots of support from the Research Ethics Board, her colleagues and the conference organizers, Cindy was able to develop a questionnaire and contact 197 people who contracted food poisoning at the conference. She received responses from 70 per cent of the people she contacted and was able to monitor their progress and recovery at three, six and twelve months.

Recognizing she needed funding to pursue her research, Cindy applied to HHS’ Research Development Fund and received $10,000. After sending her preliminary results to the American College of Gastroenterology, she found herself on the receiving end of a prestigious award and an opportunity to present her research at the college’s annual conference.

In February, Cindy found herself as the first nurse presenting her results to the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology.

As one of the first people to research the relationship between viral food poisoning and IBS, Cindy discovered that 24 per cent of the people she followed went on to develop IBS within three months of the initial food poisoning. Although her research did not reveal an increased incidence of IBS at six and 12 months, Cindy believes the issue warrants further study and would like to find out how the subjects are doing at 18 months.

And she’s not the only person interested in finding out more about this relationship. In May, Cindy will present her research at the American Gastroenterology Association’s Digestive Disease Week Conference in New Orleans. Cindy has been invited to present at this conference, which is the largest international meeting of gastroenterologists in the world. “I’m a little nervous about presenting in front of so many people,” Cindy admits, “but it’s all just so exciting.”

Despite her success, Cindy is quick to credit those around her with helping her find her way as a researcher. Thanks to the support of her colleagues, mentors and the Office of Research Services at HHS, Cindy has been able to pursue her interests and make a positive impact on patient care.

“Everything I’ve learned about research, I’ve learned on the job and I really enjoy what I do,” said Cindy.
by Roxanne Kantzavelos
Specialist, Public Relations & Communication

Hamilton Health Sciences New Investigator Fund received a $200,000 enhancement thanks to the hospital’s research annual fund-raiser gala held in February. More than 800 people attended the sold-out event featuring Morrocan-inspired food and dancing, and an incredible operatic performance by The Three Waiters.

Midnight at the Oasis was made possible thanks to platinum benefactors Baxter, GE Canada and Gowlings, and many other generous sponsors.

The New Investigator Fund is one way that HHS encourages and supports health professionals of all disciplines striving to seek new and innovative ways, through research endeavours, of caring for people.

Pictured from left are Shirley Elford, Gala Co-Chair, Shendal Yalchin and Cathy Wellwood, VP HHS Foundation presenting a cheque to the Gala’s honorary chair, Dr. Jeff Weitz, Director of the Henderson Research Centre.

HHS New Investigator Fund Update

Next Competition Call – deadline October 1, 2004

A total of 24 applications were received for the March 31st Competition. The internal NIF Scientific Peer-Review Board will meet on May 11th to judge and award grants to projects demonstrating scientific excellence. Successful applicants will be published in the Summer newsletter.

Hamilton Health Sciences has earmarked annual financial support to sustain the New Investigator Fund. Source of funding comes from proceeds raised at Hamilton Health Sciences’ major annual fund-raising gala and a portion of the 30% overhead levy on industry-funded research, as well as endowment income from HHS Foundation trust accounts.
**New TCPS On-Line Tutorial**
http://pre.ethics.gc.ca/english/tutorial/

**What is the TCPS?**
The Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS) describes principles, standards and procedures for governing research involving human subjects.

The TCPS applies to all research involving humans that is conducted within or by members of research institutions administering funds awarded by any of the three federal granting agencies (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council). Other organizations have also adopted the TCPS.

**What is the purpose of the Tutorial for the TCPS?**
The Tutorial for the TCPS helps to educate the research community about the TCPS. It also facilitates the use, interpretation and implementation of the TCPS.

**Who should do the Tutorial?**
- researchers
- Research Ethics Board (REB) members and administrators
- students/trainees who may undertake research involving humans
- actual or potential research participants
- members of the general public
- policy analysts

**What does the Tutorial cover?**
- Interactive
- Log-in and log-out capabilities
- Can be completed in approximately 2 hours
- Includes case studies
- Each section contains a self-evaluation tool
- Printable Certificate of Completion

**Federal and Provincial Privacy Legislation Update**
In the previous newsletter, the federal Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA) and the draft Ontario Health Information Protection Act (OHIPA) were briefly discussed. To provide researchers with further guidance on privacy, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), with the advice of its Privacy Advisory Committee, has developed draft Best Practice Guidelines for addressing privacy, confidentiality and security concerns in the design, conduct and evaluation of health research involving humans. A public consultation process to obtain feedback on the draft guidelines is planned for March to May 2004. At the launch of consultations, the draft guidelines will be released on CIHR’s website. Following the public consultation process, comments will be synthesized and a general report will be published on CIHR’s website. The target release date for the finalized guidelines is the summer or fall of 2004. Please stay tuned to CIHR's website:
http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/about/6426.shtml

**New Health Canada “Natural Health Products Regulations”**
The Natural Health Products Regulations came into force on January 1, 2004, and apply to all natural health products (NHPs) as of this date. The new regulations call for improved labelling, good manufacturing practices, product and site licensing, and provisions for a full range of health claims that will be supported by evidence. The products that fall within the new regulations include herbal remedies, homeopathic medicines, vitamins, minerals, traditional medicines, probiotics, amino acids and essential fatty acids (such as Omega-3).

The regulations also cover clinical trials of a NHP that involve the use of human subjects and that are intended to discover or verify its clinical, pharmacological or pharmacodynamic effects; to identify any adverse events that are related to its use; to study its absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion; or to ascertain its safety or efficacy. The regulations provide clinical trial sponsors and investigators with the requirements for conducting human clinical trials with NHPs, which are similar to existing clinical trial requirements with respect to drugs.

**For more information, visit Health Canada's website at:**
http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpfb-dgpsa/nhpd-dpsn/nhp_regs_e.html
List of Some Recent Publications from HHS Staff


Philip AGS, Saigal S. When should we clamp the umbilical cord? NeoReviews 2004; 5: 142-153.


Have you recently published your research results?

Please forward your reference to Daniela Bianco for inclusion in subsequent issues of this newsletter.

biancdn@hhsc.ca Henderson Hospital, Office of Research Services, 80 Wing level 1, Rm#4, ext 43828