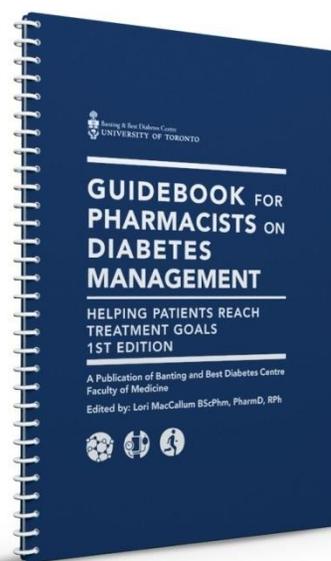


## BBDC Launches Guidebook for Pharmacists on Diabetes Management

In September, the BBDC launched its *Guidebook for Pharmacists on Diabetes Management* through the Knowledge Translation and Optimizing Care Models Program. The launch signifies a demonstration of ongoing thought leadership and commitment to the diabetes community in supporting optimal medication management.

People with diabetes see community pharmacists more than any other health care provider. As such, pharmacists across Canada are in a unique position to ensure that their scientific knowledge, and ability to translate that knowledge into action, helps to improve the lives of those living with diabetes. The goal of the Guidebook is to ensure all pharmacists have access to a comprehensive resource that's focused on treatment goals for people living with diabetes and how to help individuals achieve each goal.



The Guidebook provides pharmacists with a comprehensive but easy to use resource for supporting optimal patient education and decisions regarding diabetes. Its contents focus on three areas of primary importance for effective diabetes management and care:

- 1) glycemic management
- 2) cardiovascular protection
- 3) lifestyle modification

The Guidebook incorporates recommendations from Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines in diabetes, hypertension and lipids. It also includes information pharmacists need to know including clinical pearls, medication charts, helpful tips for educating patients using motivational interviewing techniques and managing common side effects. Content has been written by pharmacists, dietitians and psychologists with input from endocrinologists, cardiologists, internists, exercise physiologists and family doctors.

To date, over 5000 pharmacists across Canada have received the Guidebook. Print and e-book versions of the Guidebook are available for purchase on the Diabetes Pharmacists Network website at [diabetespharmacistsnetwork.ca](http://diabetespharmacistsnetwork.ca).

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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Diabetes Update 2015  
Friday, March 6, 2015

26<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Day  
Friday, May 8, 2015

2<sup>nd</sup> BBDC-Joslin-UCPH Conference:  
Islet Cell Plasticity in Diabetes Therapy  
October 8-9, 2015  
Copenhagen, Denmark

*BBDC News is distributed by e-mail in the fall, winter and spring of each year. Those who wish to advertise diabetes-related events or programs in BBDC NEWS should contact us at [diabetes.bbdc@utoronto.ca](mailto:diabetes.bbdc@utoronto.ca).*

## New Diabetes Pharmacists Network



The BBDC recently launched a Diabetes Pharmacists Network as a way to bring together pharmacists from across Canada interested in the care of patients with diabetes. Membership is free and open to all licensed pharmacists in Canada who are interested in the care of patients with diabetes or at risk of diabetes. Pharmacy students currently enrolled in a pharmacy program in Canada are also invited to join.

Since the Network launch this past September, over 300 pharmacists from across Canada have become members of the network. Membership has its privileges:

- Get exclusive invites to BBDC Diabetes Pharmacists Network events
- Receive the BBDC Pharmacy Newsletter
- Coming soon – online interactive educational programs for members only

Become a member today at [diabetespharmacistsnetwork.ca](http://diabetespharmacistsnetwork.ca).

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## BBDC Receives \$1 Million Investment from AstraZeneca Canada

Funds will support research and knowledge translation programs to improve care for patients with diabetes

On December 10, the BBDC announced a \$1 million investment by AstraZeneca Canada in two projects that aim to improve diabetes patient care. A portion of the investment – \$750,000 – will establish the AstraZeneca Impact Challenge Grants, providing grants for research into the relationship between heart disease and diabetes at BBDC and the Heart and Stroke/Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research. A further \$250,000 will support the Knowledge Translation and Optimizing Care Models Program, which provides pharmacists with education and tools to more effectively support their diabetes patients.

“The impact of diabetes and the unmet need for patients is great – and only growing,” said Dr. Gary Lewis, Director and Chair, BBDC. “We are pleased to partner with AstraZeneca Canada to help us accelerate some of our most important areas of activity in research and healthcare professional knowledge translation.”

### Partnering to Address Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes

The new AstraZeneca Impact Challenge grants will provide three, \$250,000 research grants to address a significant health issue – the prevalence of cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes. It will build on the partnership established in 2013 between the BBDC, Heart and Stroke/Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto; a partnership that will be matching the \$750,000 for a total of \$1.5 million in available research grant funds in 2015.

“It is very clear that diabetes, and the issue of heart disease in those living with diabetes, is a major public health concern.” said Elaine Campbell, President, AstraZeneca Canada Inc. “That’s why we’re partnering across Canada with leading research organizations like the Banting and Best Diabetes Centre and the Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research to address the medical and societal impact of diabetes in our communities.”

To inspire the next generation of scientific leaders, preference for the grants will be given to faculty within the first 5 to 10 years of their first academic appointment. The grants will provide the recipients with vital seed funding for research through proof of principle stage towards more comprehensive study.

### Helping Pharmacists Help Patients

AstraZeneca Canada is also investing \$250,000 in the BBDC’s Knowledge Translation and Optimizing Care Models Program. The program’s primary focus is to identify the care gaps that could best be addressed by pharmacists and find ways to help them improve outcomes for people with diabetes. The funds will support the BBDC Pharmacists Network website ([www.diabetespharmacistsnetwork.ca](http://www.diabetespharmacistsnetwork.ca)), the development of tools for the transfer of scientific knowledge and best practices, and a national network for pharmacists specializing in diabetes to foster mentorship, idea-sharing, advocacy and collaboration.

“People with diabetes see pharmacists more than any other health care provider, and they help people make decisions about their diabetes management every day,” said Dr. Lori MacCallum, BScPhm, PharmD, Program Director, Knowledge Translation and Optimizing Care Models, Banting & Best Diabetes Centre. “It’s critical that this important group understands the latest scientific information and best practices, and that they can learn from each other.”

## BBDC Core Laboratory Adds Ten New ELISA Assays

We are pleased to announce that the BBDC Core Laboratory has recently added the following ten new ELISA Assays to its list of services:

- Adiponectin: Human, Rapid
- Adiponectin: Mouse
- Cystatin C: Human, Rapid
- Fatty-acid binding protein 4(A-FABP), Human
- FGF-19, Human
- FGF-21, Human, Mouse
- Lipocalin-2 (NGAL: Human, Mouse)
- Lipocalin-13, Human
- Major urinary protein 1, Mouse
- Retinol Binding Protein 4 (RBP4), human

These and other high quality laboratory services are available to diabetes researchers at the University of Toronto involved in clinical and/or basic research as well as the wider scientific community including external academic and/or industry initiated research. Please see the [Core Laboratory](#) section of the BBDC’s website for the complete list of all assays and services currently available.

## Upcoming BBDC Events

### BBDC Seminar Series 2014/2015

The BBDC will be hosting the following diabetes-related seminars which are held in conjunction with City-wide Endocrine Rounds. The seminars are held on selected Friday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Mount Sinai Hospital, Lebovic Building, 60 Murray Street, 3rd floor conference room. Faculty wishing to meet with any of the visiting speakers should contact Chris Sargent at [chris.sargent@utoronto.ca](mailto:chris.sargent@utoronto.ca).

Date	Speaker
Friday, January 30, 2015	The Gut Microbial Endocrine Organ: A New Therapeutic Target for Cardiometabolic Diseases <b>Stanley Hazen, MD, PhD</b> Chair, Department of Cellular & Molecular Medicine Vice Chair, Traditional Research, Lerner Research Institute Section Head, Preventive Cardiology & Rehabilitation Director, Center for Cardiovascular Diagnostics & Prevention, Cleveland Clinic
Friday, April 10, 2015	The NAD World Revisited: The Importance of the Intertissue Communication Mediated by NAMPT/NAD/SIRT1 in Mammalian Aging/Longevity Control <b>Shin-Ichiro Imai, MD, PhD</b> Professor, Department of Developmental Biology Department of Medicine (Joint) Washington University School of Medicine

### Diabetes Update 2015

Friday, March 6, 2015

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

[Register Online Now](#)

Diabetes Update is a biennial continuing education event hosted by the Banting & Best Diabetes Centre, University of Toronto. This full-day event attracts over 500 diabetes health care providers in primary and specialty care such as physicians, dietitians, nurses, pharmacists, diabetes educators, medical residents, students and other health care professionals from across Ontario. The program will include plenary lectures followed by smaller, interactive concurrent sessions. Over 50% of the meeting time will be devoted to active learning utilizing small group case studies and interactive touch pads. This year’s course will address ways providers can incorporate the most recent scientific evidence into practice. Topics include:

- Bridging gaps in foot and wound care

- The top 5 papers of the year: Should they change our practices?
- Overcoming the challenge of food insecurity
- How can we improve detection of type 2 diabetes in women with past gestational diabetes?
- Are medications used to treat diabetes safe? A critical perspective
- Can we apply the evidence and still provide patient-centered diabetes care?
- Pragmatic advice to help patients engage in physical activity
- How pharmacists can impact chronic disease management: the MedsCheck for Diabetes
- Approaches to diabetes management in the elderly patient with multiple co-morbidities

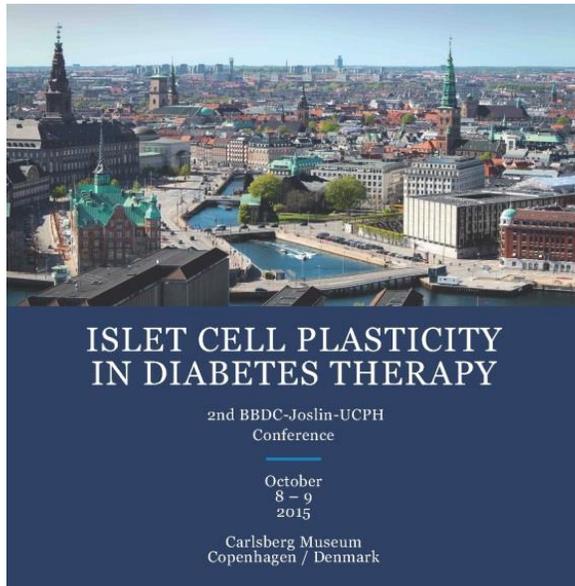
Visit the course website to view the preliminary program and event details [www.cpd.utoronto.ca/diabetesupdate](http://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/diabetesupdate).

## BBDC Annual Scientific Day 2015

Friday, May 8, 2015

The Old Mill Inn, Toronto

Mark your calendar! The BBDC's 26th Annual Scientific Day will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015. This event is open to BBDC members, their trainees, and U of T endocrine residents. We are delighted to announce that this year's Charles Hollenberg Memorial Lectureship will be delivered by **Dr. Domenico Accili**, Professor of Medicine from Columbia University. The program will also include **Drs. Kim Connelly, Margaret Hahn, Roger McIntyre, Xavier Revelo** and **Michael Wheeler**. BBDC graduate studentship and post-doctoral fellowship recipients as well as selected Annual Trainee Awards competition abstract submitters will present posters of their work. We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Jeffrey Pessin, Associate Editor of the Journal of Biological Chemistry and Senior Associate Editor of Diabetes** will co-judge ten posters for the Annual Trainee Awards competition. The prize winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded to the recipients at the end of the Scientific Day. The complete program and registration information will be available in late February. Please check our website for updates at [www.bbdc.org/bbdc-events/annual-scientific-day](http://www.bbdc.org/bbdc-events/annual-scientific-day).



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BBDC-Joslin-UCPH Conference: Islet Cell Plasticity in Diabetes Therapy

October 8-9, 2015

Copenhagen, Denmark

Save the date. The University of Copenhagen together with the Banting & Best Diabetes Centre and the Joslin Diabetes Center are pleased to announce that we will be holding a 2<sup>nd</sup> diabetes conference on October 8 and 9, 2015 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This event will bring together researchers of the BBDC, the Joslin Diabetes Center, the University of Copenhagen and other international research organizations to address the latest developments in the field in diabetes research. These three organizations have long been at the heart of global diabetes research, and this meeting seeks to build on that long tradition to bring together prominent researchers from across the globe and foster greater cross-institutional research in the field of diabetes. More information about the event will be provided in the coming months. Please visit [www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk](http://www.danishdiabetesacademy.dk) for updates.

## Other Upcoming Events

### 33rd International Symposium on Diabetes and Nutrition

June 9-12, 2015

Toronto, ON

The 33rd International Symposium on Diabetes and Nutrition, will be hosted in Toronto from June 9 to 12, 2015. The symposium represents the annual meeting of the Diabetes and Nutrition Study Group (DNSG) of the European Association for the study of Diabetes (EASD). It will bring together international scientists, physicians, and dietitians to showcase the latest advances from basic science to clinical trials in diabetes and nutrition through plenary lectures, panel



discussions, and oral and poster abstract presentations. The theme of this year's scientific program will be "Dietary patterns and food based approaches in diabetes". Registration is now open. Please visit [www.dnsg2015.ca](http://www.dnsg2015.ca) for the preliminary program and event details.

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## Funding Opportunities

### Annual Trainee Awards 2014/2015

The BBDC invites graduate, undergraduate and medical students, post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows and medical residents to submit an abstract of their diabetes-related work for this competition. The BBDC Training and Research Excellence Committee will screen all abstracts submitted to this competition. The best ten abstracts will be selected for poster judging at the BBDC Annual Scientific Day to be held on Friday, May 8, 2015. The ten posters will be **co-judged by Dr. Jeffrey Pessin, Associate Editor of the Journal of Biological Chemistry and Senior Associate Editor of Diabetes** and another judge (to be announced). The prize winners will be announced and prizes will be awarded at the end of the Scientific Day. To be eligible, the trainee must be first author and the content of the abstract must be clearly and directly relevant to diabetes. The trainee must be either: a registered University of Toronto graduate, undergraduate or medical student; a post-doctoral fellow having received a PhD within the last 5 years; or a medical resident or clinical fellow having received an MD within the last 9 years. The trainee's supervisor must hold a faculty appointment with the University of Toronto at the level of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor. The trainee's supervisor must be a registered member\* of the BBDC at the time of abstract submission. (Note: All 2014/2015 BBDC graduate studentship and Post-doctoral Fellowship recipients are expected to submit an abstract of their work for this competition.) **Applications must be received by 5 p.m., January 20, 2015.** For complete award details and application instructions, please [visit our web site](#).

### Charles Hollenberg Summer Studentship Program 2015

Fifteen summer studentships are available for undergraduate and medical students to carry out summer research in diabetes under the supervision of a member of the Banting & Best Diabetes Centre (BBDC). The goal of the program is to introduce undergraduate and medical students to the field of diabetes research and to encourage research in diabetes and its complications as a career. Students will be required to work full-time for a minimum of 12 weeks between May 1 and August 31, 2015. To be eligible, the proposed supervisor must hold a faculty appointment with the University of Toronto at the level of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor, and must be conducting diabetes research. The proposed supervisor must also be a registered member\* of the BBDC at the time of application submission. A list of supervisors who potentially have one or more positions available for a summer student is available on the BBDC's web site [here](#). Students may also directly contact other faculty not on this list with whom they are interested in working to discuss the possibility of a summer position. Research profiles of BBDC members can be found [here](#). **Applications must be received by 5 p.m., January 27, 2015.** For complete award details and application instructions, please [visit our web site](#).

### Post-Doctoral Fellowships 2015/2016

- **BBDC Post-doctoral Fellowships**
- **Hugh Sellers Post-doctoral Fellowship**
- **BBDC Fellowships In Diabetes Care (Funded By Eli Lilly & Boehringer Ingelheim)**
- **Janssen Post-doctoral Fellowship**

The Banting & Best Diabetes Centre will be awarding a number of post-doctoral fellowships to candidates at the post-PhD or post-MD degree stages. The one-year fellowships normally commencing on July 1, 2015 (and no later than September 1, 2015) are to be used for full-time research training in diabetes. To be eligible, the candidate's proposed supervisor must be conducting diabetes research and must hold a faculty appointment with the University of Toronto at the level of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor. The proposed supervisor must be employed by the University of Toronto or a University of Toronto-affiliated institution, and must be a registered member\* of the BBDC at the time of application submission. Candidates must have received a PhD after July 2011, or an MD after July 2006 and must be within their first four (4) years of postgraduate research training as of July 1, 2015. **Applications must be received by 5 p.m., February 24, 2015.** For complete award details and application instructions, please [visit our web site](#).

### Archie Sopman Diabetes Research and Education Awards 2015 (For University Health Network Employees)

This funding program is only open to University Health Network (UHN) staff physicians, dietitians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, and scientists whose major job description involves diabetes research, diabetes education, or diabetes clinical care. Funding is available for travel to one diabetes-specific meeting occurring in the year 2015, or to support a visiting

lecturer in diabetes or metabolic disorders visiting in the year 2015. To be eligible to apply, applicants must be employed by the UHN on a full-time or part-time basis. The principal applicant must also be a registered member\* of the BBDC at the time of application submission. **Applications must be received by 5 p.m., March 24, 2015.** For complete award details and application instructions, please [visit our web site](#).

## **AstraZeneca Impact Challenge Grant - Cardiovascular/Diabetes 2015**

The BBDC and Heart & Stroke/Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research in conjunction with the Vice-Dean of Research and International Relations, Faculty of Medicine are pleased to announce the Astra Zeneca Impact Challenge Grant in Cardiovascular/Diabetes research. One non-renewable award will be provided per year for the next three years. Each award provided will be up to \$250,000 (\$125,000 annually for 2 years, to be spent over a maximum of 3 years). Awards will begin July 1, 2015. Projects focusing on, but not limited to, the association between diabetes and atherosclerotic heart disease and/or the association between Diabetes and cardiovascular function will be given priority. Proposals must include both a basic science and a clinical research component. **Applications must be received by March 27, 2015.** For the complete award terms and application instructions please [see the Lewar Centre website](#). Questions regarding this program may be directed to the Heart & Stroke/Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence at [hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca](mailto:hsrl.centre@utoronto.ca).

## **\$1 Million Transformational Diabetes Team Research Grant 2015**

**Made possible through the generous support of an anonymous donor to the Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation**

The BBDC is pleased to announce that we will be awarding a single grant of **\$1 million** to support one initiative that encompasses a Transformational Diabetes Team Research proposal. The primary purpose of the grant is to bring the BBDC's leading researchers from multiple disciplines together to focus on solving or significantly advancing a specific diabetes issue, the results of which will be of a transformational nature. This unique funding program is primarily intended to support novel research of international caliber, as opposed to a continuation of existing research programs and activities. It is anticipated that the BBDC would invest in research initiatives that are in their early development stage, or are poised for revolutionary (not evolutionary) change and growth. In all cases, applicants need to supply a detailed and compelling plan outlining research activities, goals and impact.

A "research team" is defined as a grouping of **3 to 5 University of Toronto faculty members** focused on a global challenge or a particular scientific/scholarly area in Diabetes. A team should span academic and departmental boundaries **within the University of Toronto**. To be eligible, all applicants must hold a faculty appointment with the University of Toronto at the level of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor. All applicants must be employed full-time by the University of Toronto or a University of Toronto-affiliated institution (fully or community affiliated). The principal investigator must be a member of the Banting & Best Diabetes Centre at the time of submitting a Letter of Intent.

This program involves a two-stage application process:

1. **Letter of Intent:** Interested teams must first submit a letter of intent and brief estimated budget to the BBDC using the Letter of Intent Form available on the BBDC website. Letters of Intent must be received by the BBDC by **5 p.m., Monday, March 30, 2015**. The results will be announced by July 1, 2015. Applicants of up to five Letters of Intent will be invited to submit a full application.
2. **Full application (by invitation only):** Teams invited to submit a full application will be provided with a full application form by the BBDC. Invited full applications must be received by the BBDC **by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2015**.

For complete award details and letter of intent submission instructions, please [visit our website](#).

## **Trainee Travel Awards Period 2 For Travel Occurring Between January 1 and June 30, 2015**

Awards of up to \$1,000 CAD are available to trainees who will be traveling to a national or international meeting between January 1 and June 30, 2015 to present a first-author abstract. The content of the abstract must be directly relevant to diabetes. At the time of abstract submission to the meeting, the applicant must be either: A) a registered University of Toronto graduate, undergraduate or medical student; B) a post-doctoral fellow having received a PhD within the last 5 years; or C) a medical resident or clinical fellow having received an MD within the last 9 years. The trainee's supervisor must hold a faculty appointment with the University of Toronto at the level of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor, and must also be a registered member\* of the BBDC at the time of application submission. **Applications must be received by 5 p.m., April 21, 2015.** For complete award details and application instructions, please [visit our web site](#).

## Upcoming Funding Programs

The following funding program will be announced in March 2015. Please visit the [Funding Opportunities](#) section of the BBDC's web site for updates:

- Graduate Studentships 2015/2016

*\*Those who are new to the field of diabetes research, education or care and are not members of the BBDC can request free membership prior to submitting an application. For more information about BBDC Membership, please view the Membership section of our web site at [www.bbd.org/membership/membership-overview](http://www.bbd.org/membership/membership-overview).*

## Funding Decisions\*\*

### Sun Life Financial Equipment Grants for Diabetes Research 2014/2015

Recipient(s)	1) Title of Research and 2) Equipment Requested	Amount
Dr. Jayne Danska (Principal Applicant) Dr. Philippe Poussier Dr. Michael Wheeler	1) Molecular mechanisms of anti-islet immune responses and islet cell dysfunction mediated by human intestinal microbes 2) Whitley DG250 anaerobic growth chamber	\$30,000
Dr. Herbert Gaisano (Principal Applicant) Dr. Michael Wheeler Dr. Patricia Brubaker Dr. Minna Woo	1) Super high resolution STORM/PALM microscopy to examine signaling in pancreatic islet cells and intestinal L-cells 2) STORM (Stochastic optical reconstruction microscopy) module	\$30,000

### Sun Life Financial Impact Challenge Grant - Diabetes in Developing Countries 2015

Recipient(s)	Title of Project	Amount
Dr. Julia Lowe (Principal Applicant) Dr. Brian Ostrow Dr. Nashwah Taha Dr. R. Gary Sibbald Dr. Reeta Gobin Dr. Ahmed Reja	Guyana and Ethiopia Diabetes Project	\$90,000

### Sun Life Financial Impact Challenge Grant - Education and Knowledge Translation: Emphasis on the Community Pharmacist 2015

Recipient(s)	Title of Project	Amount
Dr. Lori MacCallum (Principal Applicant) Dr. Rene Wong	Bridging Gaps in Knowledge and Capacity Building	\$200,000

### Trainee Travel Awards 2014/2015 (Period 1) For Travel Occurring Between July 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014

Recipient	Supervisor(s)	Abstract Title
Kenny Chan	Dr. Amira Klip	Palmitoleate reverses palmitate-induced pro-inflammatory macrophage polarization
Sarah Farr	Dr. Khosrow Adeli	Glucagon-like peptide-1 reduces intestinal chylomicron production by peripheral and central pathways
S. Mohsen Hosseini	Dr. Andrew Paterson	Polymorphism upstream of cryopyrin gene (NLRP3) is associated with severe retinopathy in type 1 diabetes
Yuliya Lytvyn	Dr. David Cherney	The Effect of Hyperglycemia on Plasma Uric Acid Levels in Patients with Uncomplicated Type 1 Diabetes

Lilia Magomedova	Dr. Carolyn L. Cummins	Arginine and glutamate rich 1 is a glucocorticoid receptor coactivator critical for adipogenesis
Dinushan Nesan	Dr. Dominic Ng	Cellular lipids modulate satellite cell to brown fat conversion in LCAT deficient mice
Nicolas Pillon	Dr. Amira Klip	Palmitate challenged muscle cells attract monocytes through TLR4-dependent release of ATP
Brittany Rasmussen	Dr. Tony Lam	Duodenal linoleic acid sensing lowers glucose production in rats and mic via a CCK-independent neuronal network
Jennifer Taher	Dr. Khosrow Adeli	Intestinally-derived GLP modulates hepatic lipoprotein metabolism via a potential brain-gut-liver axis

*\*\*An essential condition of all BBDC programs is the acknowledgement of BBDC support, where appropriate, in all publications and presentations relevant to the BBDC-supported research program. Failure to appropriately acknowledge the BBDC in relevant publications and presentations will be considered grounds for suspending future eligibility for BBDC funding programs.*

## BBDC Member Profile



### Andrew Advani, BSc, MBChB(Hons), FRCP(UK), PhD

Dr. Andrew Advani is a Clinician Scientist and Endocrinologist with a research interest in diabetes complications. His lab is based at the Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Science and Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital. Dr. Advani cites the BBDC and its support of diabetes research, education and clinical care as a major factor in his decision to relocate to Toronto from the UK.

Dr. Advani gained his medical degree with Honours from the University of Edinburgh in 1996, having stopped off to pick up a first-class degree in medical sciences en route. He undertook his general medical training in the hospitals of the South East of Scotland, obtaining his MRCP(UK) in 1999. In 2000, he moved back to his hometown of Newcastle to complete his PhD studies under the supervision of Dr. Sally Marshall, supported by a fellowship from the British Hypertension Society. After being awarded his PhD in 2003, he began his postgraduate training in endocrinology, which was punctuated by post-doctoral fellowships with Dr. Richard Gilbert first in Melbourne, Australia in 2005 and then in Toronto (2006-2008). His nomadic post-doc existence was aided by awards from the

Royal College of Physicians (UK), Diabetes Research and Wellness Foundation, Pathological Society of Great Britain and Northern Counties Kidney Research Fund. In 2008, Dr. Advani was appointed as a Clinician Scientist/Assistant Professor and Staff Endocrinologist at St. Michael's Hospital and University of Toronto. Andrew was the 2009 recipient of the Canadian Diabetes Association (CDA) Clinician Scientist Award and the 2012 recipient of the BBDC Reuben and Helene Dennis Scholar Award.

The Advani lab raison d'être is the development of novel therapies for diabetic complications, specifically kidney disease and related heart disease. His research is currently supported by grants from CIHR, CDA, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and MaRS Innovation. In the search for new treatments, his research program is divided into two primary interlinking strands: epigenetic mechanisms and the effects of injury to a specialized kidney cell, called the podocyte. In particular, Dr. Advani is interested in how podocytes communicate with endothelial cells across the glomerular filtration barrier in the kidney and how this communication may be affected by epigenetic processes. In related work, Dr. Advani studies the relationship between kidney disease and heart disease in diabetes and the glucose-independent effects of existing diabetes medications on the kidney and the heart. Studies in the Advani lab involve a range of pre-clinical experimental and conditional knockout models and currently span from the development of novel bioinformatics strategies for target identification to the synthesis of new small molecules that preserve renal function. From a clinical perspective, Andrew has a busy diabetes practice and has a particular interest in the care of young adults with Type 1 diabetes.

In his spare time, he enjoys running, biking and swimming and describes himself as being reasonable at the first, below average at the second and woeful at the third. Over the years, Andrew's post-doctoral mobility, and weekly hours spent running in circles on the road and in the lab, have given his wife, Suzanne, and his two children Matthew (13) and Katie (11) the gift of tolerance and for that he will be eternally grateful.

**Director: Gary F. Lewis, MD, FRCPC**  
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