

## SUMMER 2010 UPDATE

*Our quarterly communication to the members of the Diabetes Research Program at the Child & Family Research Institute*



*Wine & Cheese Social June 18th*

Summer is in full swing and I wanted to share some of the exciting updates in the Diabetes Research Program with our research community. I also wanted to extend a warm welcome to the new faces in the lab including our summer students and growing number of lab teams.

Our faculty recruitment is winding down as we are happy to announce **Dr Megan Levings** from the University of British Columbia/ Jack Bell Research Laboratory has accepted a position with the Diabetes Research Program. Dr Levings is the **Canada Research Chair in Transplantation and an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery** at UBC. Dr Levings lab moved onto the 4<sup>th</sup> floor at the beginning of July. We have one last research scientist position to fill and hope to have someone in place by the fall.

Thanks to the generous support of the **Canucks for Kids Fund**, we are happy to announce the recipients of our internal grant competition. The **Catalyst Awards** are pilot grants available to all CFRI researchers with an innovative grant

proposal aimed at diabetes research. Grants are valued at up to \$50,000. Dr Jan Ehses, Drs Jan Dutz & Deanne Gibson and Dr Brad Hoffman were awarded Catalyst grants in the 2010 competition. Congratulations!

Our Visiting Scientist Lecture Program continued on **June 24<sup>th</sup>** with **Dr Frans Schuit** from the **Katholieke Universiteit in Leuven, Belgium**. Dr Schuit delivered an engaging lecture on his research discoveries focusing on mouse pancreatic beta cell phenotyping. Also part of our Visiting Scientist Lecture Program, **Dr Cathy Chan** from the Alberta Diabetes Institute presented at CFRI on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Dr Chan presented her work on reducing Type 2 diabetes in Alberta using nutrition and behavior modification. Some interesting data from her research supports what your mother has always told you-eat your vegetables and in particular, your peas!

Our **Diabetes Research Program Trainee Seminars** have completed for the season and will restart in September. In the fall we are going to launch new format for trainee seminars as we combine the Immunology & Diabetes trainee seminars. Details will be announced in the fall and all trainees will be invited to deliver a seminar.

“Club 54”, an amalgamation of the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> floors in the Translational Research Building have organized a monthly series of social events. The inaugural Club 54 event was a wine & cheese held in June and sponsored by Stemcell Technologies. Please join us for the next Club 54 social event on August 6<sup>th</sup> for a BBQ sponsored by BD. I hope that all of you can join in the fun.

Have a great summer everyone!

~Bruce

## New Equipment Coming Soon to CFRI Animal Facility



### RadSource RS2000 Biological Irradiator

The CFRI Animal Facility will be adding a new piece of core equipment thanks to the generous support of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the BC Knowledge Development Fund and the CFRI Childhood Cancer Research Program. The **RadSource RS2000 biological irradiator** will be installed and become operational in September 2010. The instrument is a non isotope biological x-ray irradiator which can be used on cells and lab animals to instigate cellular changes.

Training on the new equipment is being organized in September. Contact Meg Hughes [mhughes@cfri.ca](mailto:mhughes@cfri.ca) to register for a training session.

About the irradiator, the CFRI Diabetes and Immunology Programs are working closely together towards finding a cure for autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes. The biological irradiator will enable research into understanding how the immune system gets activated to destroy the insulin-producing beta cells of the pancreas, and how this might be prevented to cure this devastating disease. This approach has already shown great promise in humans with type 1 diabetes, but further study in mouse models of the disease is necessary before it could be used clinically.

## New Diabetes List Serve Launched

We have launched a floor-wide Diabetes list serve. This e-mail tool allows everyone across our research program the opportunity to share information.

To subscribe to the diabetes list, send an e-mail to: [sympa@list.cfri.ca](mailto:sympa@list.cfri.ca) with the body of the message: Sub Diabetes

## New Diabetes WIKI Page: Under Construction

CFRI has launched a new Wiki site for its research programs and administrative support services. The Diabetes Research Program has an area of the Wiki site where we can host information that is relevant to the research teams. If you would like to be involved with developing the content for the Diabetes wiki pages contact Meg Hughes at [diabetes@cfri.ca](mailto:diabetes@cfri.ca) to join the "Wiki Committee". The committee will brainstorm on what content is needed across the Diabetes Research Program and will work together to build content for the site.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

### August 6<sup>th</sup> Summer BBQ Club 54 Event

4:30 pm CFRI Patio (or Atrium if raining) sponsored by BD

### September 24<sup>th</sup> JDRF Ride for Diabetes Research

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation annual fundraising campaign. Cyclists & Volunteers are welcome. [www.jdrf.ca](http://www.jdrf.ca)

The JDRF fall Walk for Diabetes events raised \$875,000.

Thanks to everyone who participated!

## CORE FACILITY CONTACT LIST

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