

Inflammation, Microbiome & Alimentation Gastro-Intestinal & Neuropsychiatric Effects

Network Newsletter
April 2019
Issue #8

Springing Into Action


IMAGINE's latest news and highlights

Dear IMAGINE Network Stakeholders

I am delighted to report on some of the progress that our Network has made over the past few months. We are now over a quarter of the way to reaching our recruitment target (over 2,000 of the 8,000 subjects recruited across Canada) for the IMAGINE Network's main cohort study – which we have branded at the **M**ind **A**nd **G**ut **I**nteractions **C**ohort (MAGIC). Over the past few months we have been active in onboarding a number of new recruitment sites in Ottawa (Dr. Sanjay Murthy), Vancouver (Dr. Brian Bressler), and St. John's (Dr. Mark Borgoankar), all of which have now received ethics approval and are able to start recruiting. Other sites that are still in the application process include Mount Sinai Hospital and Sick Kids in Toronto and CUSM, CHUM, St-Justine Hospitals in Montreal. No doubt this doubling of research sites will help us reach our goals in a short time. We are also pursuing additional partnerships to increase our recruitment effort in the community, including the Partnership for Tomorrow Project (Canada's largest population cohort addressing key questions about what causes cancer and chronic disease) and Primary and Integrated Health Care Innovations Network (PIHCIN) and their associated platforms and practice-based research networks.



IMAGINE's newly-branded MAGIC logo

At the Canadian Digestive Disease Conference in Banff, Alberta this past March, IMAGINE was pleased to have partnered with the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology to sponsor a number of capacity building initiatives including the Gastroenterologists Residents-In-Training (GRIT) and the Research Topics Workshop in order to increase 

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 21-22
IMAGINE Annual Meeting
Toronto, ON.
Location TBD

FOLLOW US!



@IMAGINE_SPOR



@IMAGINESPOR

www.imaginespor.com

CONTACT US

IMAGINE Network
1200 Main St. W
HSC 3V33
Hamilton, ON
L8N 3Z5
vandenev@mcmaster.ca



IMAGINE
Inflammation, Microbiome & Alimentation
Gastro-Intestinal & Neuropsychiatric Effects



cont'd from page 1

networking opportunities and promote IMAGINE-related research to the next generation of GI clinicians and basic scientists.

Finally, I am excited to announce that we have launched the IMAGINE Incubator Research Grant. This funding opportunity will promote and facilitate innovative and rapid-results research projects that complement the IMAGINE Network mandate. Specifically, research must focus on the brain-gut axis; psychiatric comorbidity in IBS and/or IBD; dietary impact on IBS and/or IBD, and personalized treatment approaches for IBS and/or IBD. The winning projects from this competition will strengthen our research capacity, create new partnerships and collaborations and engage more patients to support our common goal of improve the lives of patients living with GI disorders.



Dr. Paul Moayyedi
Co-Principal Investigator
IMAGINE Network

Visit our website, www.imaginespor.com, and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) to receive regular updates on all of the Network's activities.

IMAGINE's 2019 External Advisory Panel Meeting



Attendees (left to right): Dr. Anthony Otley, Dr. Deborah Marshall, Dr. Michael Surette, Dr. Philip Sherman, Dr. Gert Van Assche, Dr. Glenda MacQueen, Dr. Nicholas Talley, Emily Morgan, Dr. Paul Moayyedi, Dr. Magnus Simrén, Aida Fernandes, Dr. Premsyl Bercik

On January 26, the IMAGINE External Advisory Panel (EAP) met in Toronto for their annual meeting.

The EAP is a team of internationally recognized experts who assess the scientific accomplishments of the IMAGINE Network, as well as the milestones that the Network has reached and reveal any potential international partnerships that may be suitable for us. Discussion revolved around the state of the Network now, the progress the Network has made so far, and where we go from here.

Our hope is that the EAP will help us facilitate linkages with international networks and consortia to expand the reach of the IMAGINE Network to a global impact.



IMAGINE's Co-Principal Investigators, Drs. Glenda MacQueen and Paul Moayyedi

CONRATULATIONS CDDW WINNERS!

Conratulations to IMAGINE researchers Dr. Karen Madsen from the University of Alberta who won Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) Research Excellence Award at the Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW) 2019 held in Banff Alberta on March 1-3 and Dr. Jean Eric Ghia from the University of Winnipeg who won the CAG Young Investigator Award.



Do you have a story suggestion, research update or news item that you would like to share with the IMAGINE Network in a future edition? Email Veronica Vandenevde at vandenev@mcmaster.ca with your ideas.

NEW FACES

IMAGINE is pleased to announce that we have two new Patient Research Partners to add to our team. Welcome Kate Mason and Adhiyat Najam!



Kate Mason is a Registered Nurse and yoga teacher currently living in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Kate was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease over ten years ago while in her first-year of university. This experience led her to eventually pursue a career in nursing and to volunteer with Crohn's and Colitis Canada, founding the inaugural Gutsy Walk in her home region of Muskoka, ON. Recently, her passion for advocacy and connecting with others in the IBD community led to the development of an online narrative and photojournalism project called the Crohn's and Colitis Collective. You can learn more about Kate's journey, and the journey of others living with Crohn's and Colitis at: www.crohnsandcolitiscollective.com.

Adhiyat Najam has been a Type 1 diabetic patient for 17 years. She was diagnosed with the stomach disorder, diabetic gastroparesis, a few years ago as a complication from her underlying diabetes. Since then, she has been inspired to become involved in research through various roles. Adhiyat has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Ottawa and is presently enrolled in the Clinical Research Postgraduate Certificate program at The Michener Institute of Education at UHN. Adhiyat also serves as a Patient Representative for Diabetes Action Canada and is currently involved in a project through the network to develop tools and resources to improve clinical trials through patient-oriented research.



Recruitment Update

8,000



We have currently recruited 2,067 subjects in the **Mind And Gut Interactions Cohort (MAGIC)** study, just over 25% of our goal of 8,000 participants!

KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAGIC STUDY? [CLICK HERE](#) FOR A FULL LIST OF OUR RECRUITMENT SITES AND CONTACT INFO!

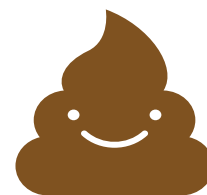
We Want Your Poop!

In the upcoming months we will be launching two new social media campaigns to encourage recruitment of the MAGIC study. Please "like" and share them when you see them posted to our social media accounts!

got poop?



(we want it!)



KEEP CALM AND DONATE POOP