



Inflammation, Microbiome & Alimentation Gastro-Intestinal & Neuropsychiatric Effects

Network Newsletter
January 2019
Issue #7

Going for the Goal

Words of encouragement as we enter year three

As we ring in the new year, we can't help but reflect on the success our Network has had to date. Last year, we reached some significant milestones. Our main study has recruited over 1,600 subjects (which is 20% of our target), and the fecal transplantation studies in ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease are well underway. Our Knowledge Translation Working Group was also active in 2018 in advancing one of our policy priority issues. More details about the stakeholder dialogue and citizen panels which resulted in the policy brief can be found in this issue.

In 2019, we are expecting to onboard a number of new sites to support our recruitment efforts and help us get closer to our goal. We would like to welcome Dr. Brian Bressler (Vancouver), Dr. Sanjay Murthy (Ottawa), and Dr. Mark Borgaonkar (St. John's). Furthermore, we hope to bring in additional sites through a collaboration with the CIDsCaNN pediatric IBD research network and IBD recruitment sites in Toronto and Montreal. Our patient research partners are embarking on a study to identify strategies to boost recruitment and retention for the main study. Several new patient partners have also registered to participate in the patient-oriented research training through our partnership with PaCER at University of Calgary. We wish them success in this program and look forward to further engage them in our Network's activities.



Aida Fernandes
Executive Director,
IMAGINE Network

Wishing all our network members and study participants continued success in 2019. Keep Calm and Donate your POOP!

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 26
IMAGINE External Advisory
Panel Annual Meeting
Toronto, ON.

March 2, 12:30pm (MST)
IMAGINE meeting at CDDW
Banff, AB.

FOLLOW US!



@IMAGINE_SPOR



@IMAGINESPOR

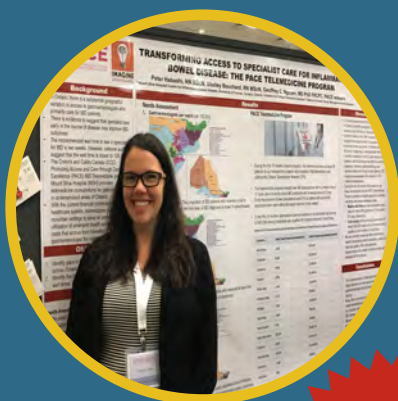
www.imaginespor.com

CONTACT US

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



OUT & ABOUT WITH IMAGINE



Katy Devitt from Crohn's and Colitis Canada presented a poster on the PACE telemedicine initiative for IBD patients who live in rural and remote areas at the 2018 CIHR SPOR Summit in Ottawa this past November.

Read more about PACE on page 3.

IMAGINE's Principal Investigator, Dr. Paul Moayyedi speaking about fecal microbial transplants at the World Gastroenterology Organization's international conference (December 5-8) in Bangkok, Thailand.



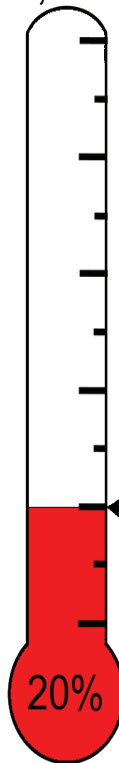
KT NEWS

IMAGINE's Knowledge Translation (KT) group recently convened two citizen panels (one in Saskatoon, one in Hamilton) and the stakeholder dialogue on reducing emergency department usage in people with inflammatory bowel disease in provincial health systems in Canada. Twenty-three participants were selected to provide diversity with respect to age, gender, socioeconomic status, geographic location and lived experienced, and 23 stakeholder dialogue participants, who included policymakers, stakeholders and front-line health professionals drawn from those who will be involved with or affected by decisions about the issue at hand. All panel and dialogue outputs (citizen brief, evidence brief, panel summary, dialogue summary) will be available shortly on [our website](#).



RECRUITMENT UPDATE

8,000



Recruitment for the main cohort study is currently at 1,602 subjects which is 20% of our goal!

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

In Memorium



Dr. Richard Fedorak

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge the passing of two important members of the IMAGINE Network: Dr. Richard Fedorak and Dr. John R. Walker. Dr. Fedorak was IMAGINE's metabolomics

research lead while Dr. Walker was part of our psychiatry working group developing the cognitive behavioural therapy for mental health in IBD patients substudy. We would like to thank both Dr. Fedorak and Dr. Walker



Dr. John R. Walker

for all that they have contributed to the IMAGINE Network and our research. Our sincere condolences go out to their respective families and loved ones.

IMAGINE Sponsors 10 PaCER Students and Mentors



IBD Alberta team "We've Got Guts"



IBD National team "The MOB"

In November 2018, a nationwide call was sent out for digestive health patients interested in enrolling in the PaCER (Patient and Community Engagement Research) program. The year-long program is delivered through Continuing Education at the University of Calgary and delivered using a blended distance learning model. The program began this month and patients will be required to complete 3 courses where they will receive formal training in patient engagement research which includes theory and foundations, practicum in research and an internship in designing and conducting a research project.

Ten participants were selected to join 1 of 2 PaCER cohorts (Alberta or National) sponsored by IMAGINE. Team "We've Got Guts" (Alberta): "Our Alberta group represents a broad range of experience with IBD/IBS, with the common goal of better understanding these diseases as they impact ourselves and our families, and with the desire to help others who have been or will be confronted with IBD/IBS in the future." "The MOB" (National): "Are interested in how individuals diagnosed with IBD cope with their illness on a day-to-day basis. More specifically, topics that we are interested include mental health, sexual health, and diet."

All patient engagement projects will explore research questions focused on digestive health and patient preferences and/or capacity building. Some potential project ideas include:

- Exploring decisions about stopping therapy or tapering
- Exploring experiences with alternative diet therapies
- Exploring patient willingness to take stool samples or try new therapies
- Improving recruitment and retention to IBD/IBS clinical studies
- Improving engagement of patients in the research process

For more information on the PaCER program, visit www.pacerinnovates.ca.

What is PACE?

The Promoting Access and Care through Centres of Excellence (PACE) network is a research project funded by Crohn's and Colitis Canada (an IMAGINE partner) and brings together leading inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) centres and specialists to advance best practices for medical professionals and improve the standard of care for IBD patients in Canada.

Through collaborative research efforts between various IBD centres, the network aims to address existing gaps in how people with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis access care and ultimately changes in the public healthcare system. Learn more about PACE and their current projects [here](#).



IMAGINE's New Chair

The IMAGINE Network is pleased to announce that Dr. Philip Sherman will serve as the Chair of the Network's Executive Oversight Committee. The Executive Oversight Committee's purpose is to ensure the success of the Network by guiding its overall governance and operation while diligently monitoring the Network's performance against scientific goals and financial responsibilities.

Dr. Sherman is Professor of Paediatrics, Microbiology, Nutritional Sciences, & Dentistry at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto where he has been on faculty since 1984. He is a Past-President of the North American Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition and Past-President of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology. He is the recipient of a Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Gastrointestinal Disease (2001-22). Dr. Sherman was also Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes (2009-2017).



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 Vandenende at vandenev@mcmaster.ca with your ideas.