



Wednesday July 30th, 2014

Message from the Scientific Director

Dear Colleagues and Collaborators,

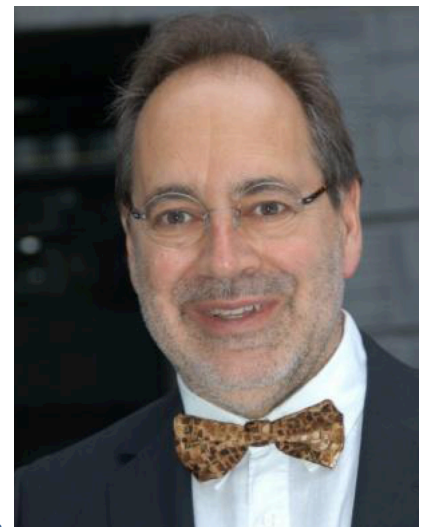
I am pleased to be writing this first Scientific Director message in our new monthly ***Institute of Aging e-bulletin***. This new e-bulletin will replace our previous quarterly newsletters and will provide you with timely and concise information concerning funding opportunities as well as other timely information, in a user-friendly format. We have responded to your feedback related to useful communication from the Institute and we hope that you find this e-bulletin useful and of interest.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize two exceptional members of the Institute Advisory Board who will be leaving us in September 2014 at the end of their respective mandates. Dr Sultan Darvish and Dr Michael Wolfson have been instrumental through the years in helping to move our two large strategic initiatives forward. The CIHR Dementia Research Strategy (the International Collaborative Research Strategy on Alzheimer's Disease - ICRSAD) and the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) have both profited immensely from the contributions of both Dr Darvish and Dr Wolfson and I wish to thank them personally for their contributions to these and other Institute of Aging initiatives.

As you will see as you peruse this new e-bulletin, this is also an important and exciting time for the CLSA. We are pleased to provide you with information on the recently launched CLSA data access policy and process. Please see the second page of this e-bulletin for more information on this research platform.

I hope that you will enjoy this new format of IA communication and I invite you to please let us know your thoughts on this new format. Please send any comments to Ms Sarah Cuthill, Administrative Coordinator, at the Institute of Aging at iv-ia@criugm.qc.ca

I look forward to communicating with all of you again in August.



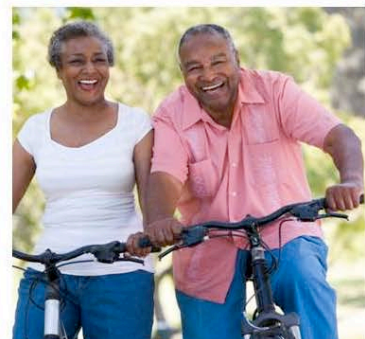
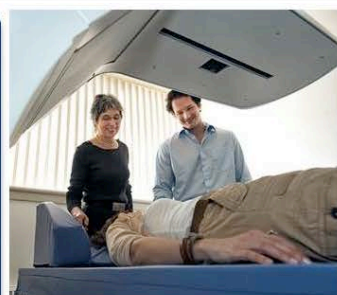
Yves Joanette,
Scientific Director

Current funding opportunities:

- The [Planning Grants - Aging](#) opportunity will provide funding for applications that address research priority areas that are consistent with the mandate of the Institute, that will stimulate planning activities and/or partnership development, and exchange. The maximum amount awarded per grant is \$25 000 for eligible non-recurring meetings and events, for up to one year. The application deadline is **August 18th, 2014**.
- The [Catalyst Grant – Ethics](#) opportunity is to build capacity in ethics as it applies to health by offering one or two-year pilot project grants. The maximum CIHR amount per grant is \$50 000 per year for up to 2 years. The application deadline is **September 15th, 2014**.
- The [Operating Grant - Industry-Partnered Collaborative Research](#) program provides funding for collaborative research projects involving the academic community and Canadian industry partners sharing an interest in health R&D. The maximum CIHR amount awarded for a single grant is \$250,000 per year for up to 5 years. The registration deadline is **August 15th, 2014**.
- The [Proof of Principle – Phase I](#) program provides funding for proof of principle research projects of up to 12 months duration designed to advance discoveries/interventions towards commercializable technologies, with a view to attract new investment, create new science based businesses, organizations and initiatives, and ultimately improve health outcomes for Canadians. The maximum amount per grant is \$160 000 for up to one year. The application deadline is **September 2nd, 2014**.
- The [Proof of Principle - Phase II](#) program provides funding for proof of principle research projects up to 12 months in duration at the co-investment stage undertaking follow-on proof of principle activities in partnership with a non-academic investor. This funding opportunity is aimed at providing a platform to better enable the academic institution/researcher to move the discovery/invention further down the innovation pipeline. The maximum CIHR amount per grant is \$300,000 for up to one year. The application deadline is **September 2nd, 2014**.

First data released from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging

The first major data release from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) is underway. The CLSA is the most comprehensive study of aging ever undertaken in Canada. The study will follow 50,000 individuals aged 45 to 85 for 20 years, collecting information about their physical, emotional and social health through telephone interviews, in-home interviews and physical assessments. To date, more than 40,000 participants have been recruited.



**50,000
goal**

**40,000
participants
to date!**

We're in the final stretch!

The CLSA data will enable researchers to pursue projects investigating the diseases, psychological and social attributes as well as the biological changes that frequently accompany aging. The longitudinal data will also provide opportunities to explore the impact of non-medical factors, such as economic changes, on individuals from mid-life to older age. The baseline questionnaire data collected from the 20,000 participants who completed [telephone interviews](#) are now available. Using the [DataPreview Portal](#), researchers can search variables, review the data dictionary and learn more about the application process. Applications for access to data are reviewed by the CLSA Data and Sample Access Committee (DSAC). A list of projects that have been approved can be found [here](#). Access fees will be determined using a cost-recovery model that incorporates the costs of administration, data processing, data retrieval and delivery.

The questionnaire and physical assessment data from the 30,000 in-home interviews and data collection site visits will be available following the completion of recruitment in 2015. The process for biospecimen access is being finalized in anticipation of the first release in 2016.

Researchers interested in accessing the CLSA data should review the Data and Sample Access Principles, study protocol and pertinent questionnaires before completing the [Data and Biospecimen Request Application](#).

For questions about data access, please contact the Statistical Analysis Centre at dsac@clsa-elcv.ca. For more information about the CLSA, visit www.clsa-elcv.ca.

Brightest Minds: Dr. Christina Wolfson



Dr. Christina Wolfson

When the vision for the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) was presented to the research community in 2001, it was in response to a critical need for high-quality data on the aging population. Since then, a team of more than 160 researchers and collaborators worked together to develop and launch the CLSA. In June 2014, the first data from the study became available for researchers.

One researcher who has provided leadership throughout all the stages of study implementation is Dr. Christina Wolfson, a McGill University professor and medical scientist at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre.

Trained as a biostatistician and epidemiologist, Dr. Wolfson is a fellow of the American College of Epidemiology. Her research interests lie in the epidemiology of neurodegenerative disorders including: dementia, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

Dr. Wolfson also maintains a methodological and statistical research program, the goals of which are to improve the design and analysis of epidemiological studies. She is a CLSA co-principal investigator and leads CLSA initiatives on neurological conditions and veterans' health. She is also the director of the Statistical Analysis Centre (SAC) and chair of the Data and Sample Access Committee.

As SAC director, Dr. Wolfson oversaw the development of the CLSA DataPreview Portal, which provides researchers with the information they need to understand the data and apply for data access. Her team at the SAC are responsible for ensuring the data collected in the CLSA are cleaned, prepared for analysis and distributed to approved researchers.

"It is essential that the CLSA data be made available to the research community as soon as it is feasible while protecting participant confidentiality. The entire CLSA team are working hard to meet that goal," Dr. Wolfson said.

Events:

CAG2014: Landscapes of Aging, the 43rd Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology: <http://CAG2014.ca> - October 16 – 18, 2014, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada