
MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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The Lung Association Awards funding vital to finding treatments and cures for Lung Disease

New sponsor gives back to its roots to ensure student research continues to be funded.

There is no question that research is our best defence against lung disease as well as our greatest tool to save lives. The facts are startling: Lung disease accounts for over 32% of adult deaths in Canada, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is the fastest and only rising cause of death in developed countries with 750,000 Canadians besieged by it, and asthma is the leading cause of emergency room visits for children in Alberta. The Lung Association, Alberta & Northwest Territories (“TLA”) is leading the way to find better treatments and cures by dedicating precious dollars to help fund the efforts of Alberta’s researchers. The support of individual donors and sponsors enabled the Lung Association to award \$255,000 this year to researchers from the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta.

The 2010-2011 Thoracic Network, Alberta & NWT Research Grants and Studentships were awarded to outstanding Alberta clinicians and healthcare professionals involved in vital lung research projects. Grants were awarded in three categories: National Grant Review, Angela Jone Clinical Memorial Award and Studentship Awards. Applications were evaluated at both the national and provincial level for their scientific merit and potential impact on the lung health of Albertans. Funds allocated to these awards are the result of the generosity of donors to The Lung Association *Lung Disease Research Campaign* and sponsorship from organizations concerned about lung health.

“This year we are thrilled to welcome the Associated Respiratory Holdings (ARH) Healthcare Foundation as sponsor of our studentship awards.” stated Leigh Allard, President and CEO of The Lung Association. “This group of committed respiratory healthcare professionals has committed \$200,000 over 4 years to support students involved in pulmonary research at Alberta Universities. This is the first funding ever secured for a project over an extended period of time.”

“I am excited about the newly formed relationship with the Lung Association of Alberta & NWT.” stated Rick Snyder of ARH Healthcare Foundation. “It is with great satisfaction that the foundation is able to support an organization where our roots were established. It is gratifying to support the area where we originated”.

The Lung Association is dedicated to advocating for increased funding for research. “Lung research is terribly underfunded, receiving only 4.5 % of research funding in Canada.” concludes TLA’s Leigh Allard. “TLA is

committed to promoting the need for health research and innovation, working with our community to increase investment in research discoveries towards improved lung health for all. We are delighted to announce this year's grant recipients and wish them well in their projects.”

National Grant Review Awards: \$30,000 per recipient

Dr. Morley Hollenberg - University of Calgary

Allergen Proteases, Protease Receptor-2 and Airway Inflammation

Dr. Brent Winston - University of Calgary

Potential use of metabolomics for CAP diagnosis and prognosis.

Dr. Chris Mody - University of Calgary

Host Defense to *Cryptococcus gattii* from Vancouver Island

Dr. Robert Newton - University of Calgary

Understanding the superior efficacy of long-acting β 2-adrenoceptor agonist (LABA) /inhaled corticosteroid (ICS) combinations

Dr. Richard Leigh - University of Calgary

- Do rhinovirus infections contribute to airway remodeling in asthma?

Dr. Dean Befus – University of Alberta

-Proactive Effects of Mast Cell Epithelial Interactions in FluA Infection

Angela Jone Memorial Clinical Research Grant: \$25,000

Dr Kamram Yusuf – University of Calgary

Umbilical cord blood levels of angiogenic and antiangiogenic factors and risk of bronchopulmonary dysplasia in preterm neonates

Associated Respiratory Holdings Healthcare Foundation Studentship Awards: \$10,000 per recipient

Jonathan Pelikan – University of Calgary

The Mechanisms of Human-Rhinovirus-Induced Viperin Expression in Human Airway Epithelial Cells and the Effects of Cigarette Smoke on This Expression

Richard Xiang - University of Calgary

Microbicidal Lymphocyte Signaling in Response to *Cryptococcus*

Danny Polley - University of Calgary

Cockroach allergen proteinases, PAR2 and asthma

Mehdi Azhdaradeh – University of Alberta

Suppressing the Spread of Airborne Diseases through Changing Physical Properties of Lung Mucus

Vishaal Rajani- University of Alberta

Modulation of Central Respiratory Networks of Central Respiratory Networks by ATP- the role of astrocytes and ectonucleotidases

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