

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Upcoming Events
- Research News
- Trainee in Focus
- Meet the New Executive

PREAMBLE

We are pleased to circulate the inaugural edition of the CST Pediatric Group newsletter. The newsletter will be a tool to communicate news and events, and to foster engagement and collaboration within our membership.



RESEARCH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

CST Annual Meeting—Montreal, QC

Feb 26 to Mar 2, 2014

Registration is open. Visit the [CST website](#) for more details.

CST Pediatric Group Meeting—Montreal, QC

February 26, 2014 at 6:00pm EST

Please RSVP by emailing Patricia Birk [here](#)

World Transplant Conference—San Francisco, CA

July 26-31, 2014

See their [website](#) for more details.

Co-Investigators:

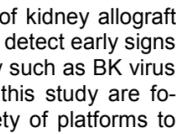
Dr. Julie Ho (U of Manitoba), Dr. David Wishart (U of Alberta), Dr. Ian Gibson (U of Manitoba), Dr. Seema Mital (U of Toronto), Dr. Atul Sharma (U of Manitoba).

Participating sites and team members:

Halifax – Dr. Philip Acott, Patrick O'Regan; Hôpital St. Justine – Dr. Veronique Phan, Christine Massicotte, Marie-Suzanne Ouellet; Montreal Children's Hospital – Dr. Beth Foster, Vanessa DiGirolamo and Matt Kocal; Ottawa – Dr. Anne Tsampalieros, Barb Murchison; Toronto – Dr. Valerie Langlois, Theresa Thompson and Jun Chuan Teh; Hamilton – Dr. Steve Arora; London – Dr. Ajay Sharma; Winnipeg – Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen, Dr. David Rush; Saskatoon – Dr. Robin Erickson; Edmonton – Dr. Catherine Morgan, Sudeshna Bhattacharya; Calgary – Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka, Nadia Barnieh, Lorraine Hamel; Vancouver – Dr. Doug Matsell

Pediatric Renal transplant Optimization using Biomarkers

A major challenge in transplantation is the need to balance timely diagnosis and treatment of serious allograft injury, against the damage associated with invasive testing or over-immunosuppression. The PROBE study, led by Principal Investigator Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen and funded by CIHR, aims to identify non-invasive biomarkers in urine that can be used in real-time monitoring of kidney allograft function in children. These biomarkers will detect early signs of acute rejection and other types of injury such as BK virus infection. The techniques being used in this study are focused exclusively on urine, using a variety of platforms to identify chemokines and metabolites.



A truly national study with 12 pediatric renal centres participating, the team will prospectively enroll all new pediatric kidney transplant patients in Canada. The PROBE team is committed to building clinical research capacity for pediatric kidney transplantation in Canada. Continued enrolment of a prospective cohort of pediatric kidney transplant patients will build a foundation for the next generation of observational and interventional studies in this field.

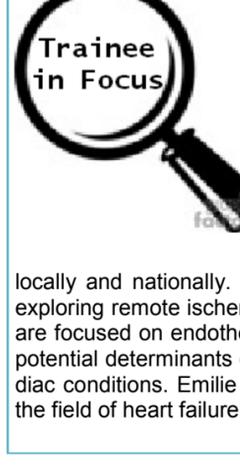
Co-Investigators: Dr. Julie Ho (U of Manitoba), Dr. David Wishart (U of Alberta), Dr. Ian Gibson (U of Manitoba), Dr. Seema Mital (U of Toronto), Dr. Atul Sharma (U of Manitoba).

Participating sites and team members:

Halifax – Dr. Philip Acott, Patrick O'Regan; Hôpital St. Justine – Dr. Veronique Phan, Christine Massicotte, Marie-Suzanne Ouellet; Montreal Children's Hospital – Dr. Beth Foster, Vanessa DiGirolamo and Matt Kocal; Ottawa – Dr. Anne Tsampalieros, Barb Murchison; Toronto – Dr. Valerie Langlois, Theresa Thompson and Jun Chuan Teh; Hamilton – Dr. Steve Arora; London – Dr. Ajay Sharma; Winnipeg – Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen, Dr. David Rush; Saskatoon – Dr. Robin Erickson; Edmonton – Dr. Catherine Morgan, Sudeshna Bhattacharya; Calgary – Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka, Nadia Barnieh, Lorraine Hamel; Vancouver – Dr. Doug Matsell



PROBE PI Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen (C) Coordinators Susan McMurrich (L) and Lise Bourrier (R)



Emilie Jean-St-Michel, MD CM

Emilie is originally from Abitibi-Témiscamingue, northern Quebec. She completed her undergraduate medical studies at McGill University and both her pediatrics and pediatric cardiology training at SickKids Hospital. She is currently training as a Pediatric Heart Failure and Transplantation fellow at SickKids Hospital. Throughout her clinical training, Emilie has remained very active in research and has won several awards recognizing her work both locally and nationally. She conducted and published research exploring remote ischemic preconditioning. Her current projects are focused on endothelial function and exercise physiology as potential determinants of outcomes in patients with various cardiac conditions. Emilie hopes to pursue an academic career in the field of heart failure and transplantation.



MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE

A new CST Pediatric Group Executive was elected in March 2013. Below you will find brief descriptions of the committee members and their roles within the Executive and beyond.

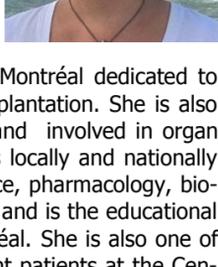


Chair Susan Samuel, MD MSC

Dr. Samuel is a clinician scientist and pediatric nephrologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary. She is supported by salary awards from both the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP) and Kidney Research Scientist Core Education and National Training Program (KRESCENT). Her research goals are to identify modifiable and/or preventable factors that cause death and disability in children with kidney disease. She has served on the CST Pediatric Group Executive committee since 2009 and assumed the role as Chair in 2013. She is also the Chair of the Pediatrics Committee within the Canadian Kidney Knowledge Translation and Generation Network and leads the Canadian Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome project.

Past Chair Véronique Phan, MD MSC

Dr. Phan is a pediatric nephrologist at the CHU Ste-Justine. She completed her studies in pediatric nephrology at SickKids Hospital and completed a MSc in Clinical Epidemiology at McMaster University. She has been a member of the CST since 2001. She has held numerous positions in the CST Pediatric group and was the Chair between 2011-2013. She is currently the Assistant Director of the Solid Transplant Program at the Université de Montréal dedicated to continuing medical education and research in the field of transplantation. She is also involved in the kidney pancreas group of Transplant Quebec and involved in organ allocation policy. She is involved in numerous research projects locally and nationally touching diverse aspects of transplantation (transition, adherence, pharmacology, biomarkers). She is actively involved in teaching pediatric residents and is the educational director of the Department of Pediatric of l' Université de Montréal. She is also one of the founders of the Transition Clinic for pediatric renal transplant patients at the Centre Universitaire de l'Université de Montréal.



Chair Elect Aviva Goldberg, MD MA

Dr. Goldberg is a pediatric nephrologist and assistant professor at the University of Manitoba. She trained in pediatric nephrology and transplantation in Winnipeg and Chicago (Northwestern University). She also completed a fellowship in ethics and medical humanities at Northwestern University, and obtained a Master's degree in bioethics and health policy from Loyola University. Dr. Goldberg serves as the ethics medical advisor to the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and the Manitoba Provincial Health Ethics Network. She is ethics advisor for Transplant Manitoba. Dr. Goldberg chairs the ethics committee of the Canadian Society of Transplantation. Dr. Goldberg is the founding board member of the Chicago Transplant Ethics Consortium, and the new co-lead for the professionalism and ethics curriculum in the undergraduate medical education program at the University of Manitoba.

Secretary/Treasurer Patricia Birk, MD

Dr. Birk is the Medical Director of the Pediatric Kidney Program-Transplant Manitoba, Section Head of Pediatric Hospital Medicine and Associate Medical Director of the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health at the University of Manitoba. After completing Pediatric Nephrology fellowship at the University of Minnesota, she initiated the Pediatric Protocol Biopsy Program in Winnipeg—the focus of her research. Dr. Birk has a strong interest in medical education and academic mentorship and is a past recipient of the 'Educator of the Year' award from the Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Manitoba. She is currently serving a second term as the Chair of the CST Education Committee. She is also the pediatric representative on the National Kidney Registries Advisory Committee (NKRAC) in Canada. Patricia is an avid road cyclist and an unabashedly biased Winnipeg Jets fan.



Patricia Birk's first podium presentation



Member-at-Large Simon Urschel, MD

Dr. Urschel is the Clinical Director Pediatric Cardiac Transplant at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He obtained his medical degree from the Johannes Gutenberg University (Mainz, Germany) and has acquired clinical and research expertise in basic immunology, congenital and acquired immunodeficiencies as well as emerging infections during his training in Pediatrics at the Ludwig Maximilians University (Munich, Germany) and during a research fellowship in transplant immunology at the University of Alberta. His research focuses on the adaptive immune response of the immature immune system in healthy, immunocompromised and immune suppressed children. A special focus is on the impact of maturation of the immune system on ABO incompatible transplantation, HLA antibody development and post transplant lymphoproliferative disorders. He has received multiple awards for his research. Dr. Urschel has been a member of CST since 2008 and has been member-at-large the Executive of the Pediatric Group since 2010. He is also a member of the CST Scientific Meeting Organizing Committee since 2011 representing heart and basic sciences.

Member-at-Large Seema Mital, MD

Dr. Mital is an Associate Professor Pediatrics, Acting Section Head of the Heart Function Program, and Staff Cardiologist at SickKids Hospital and University of Toronto. She is also the Chair of the CST Pediatric Research Network. Her research program focuses on translational research using genomics and stem cells platforms to identify causes of childhood heart disease and to personalize the care of children with heart disease and children after transplantation. She established an Ontario-wide biobank for childhood heart disease and then expanded this program nationally into a research consortium which includes multi-organ transplant patients from multiple centres. This research consortium is now funded by CIHR through the Canadian National Transplant Research Program (CNTRP) to perform multi-centre studies aimed at individualizing immunosuppression to meet the needs of the growing child, reducing viral and other immunosuppression related complications and improving medication adherence to collectively improve post-transplant outcomes.



Member-at-Large Lorraine Hamiwka, MD

Dr. Hamiwka is a Pediatric Nephrologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor at the University of Calgary. She is the Director of the Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program and leads the Multi-Organ Transplant Group at the Alberta Children's Hospital. She is also a member of the Policy and Procedure Committee of the Southern Alberta Transplant Program. In 2011, she founded a "Young Adult Kidney Transplant Clinic" that is held monthly at the Foothills Medical Centre to help improve young adult kidney transplant recipients' healthcare experience and support them toward a successful and healthy future when transitioning from pediatric to adult healthcare. She developed the Pediatric Nephrology Residency Training Program at the University of Calgary in 2006 and is actively involved in medical education. Her research interests in pediatric transplantation include quality of life and long term outcomes. She is a collaborator in national multi-centre transplant research projects including the PROBE Study and the SickKids Transplant Biobank Registry.

Allied Health Member-at-Large Nadya Nalli, BSc.PhM

Ms. Nalli received a BSc in Pharmacy from the University of Toronto, and completed a paediatric residency at The Hospital for Sick Children. She is a staff pharmacist at the Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Centre at SickKids Hospital. She has been part of a multi-disciplinary team caring for children who have received multi-organ transplants, since 1998. She is the allied health representative on the Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Council at SickKids. Ms. Nalli is involved in research, particularly in the field of immunosuppressant pharmacokinetics and has also co-authored abstracts/case reports in the field of transplantation. She is a lecturer at the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto. She is also a preceptor for doctorate of pharmacy students at the University of Toronto and pharmacy residents at SickKids. Ms. Nalli has been a member of CST for a number of years and believes that these organizations are integral in building a sustained network of paediatric transplant specialists that spans medicine, nursing and allied health.



Questions, comments, or to submit anything for future publications, please contact Susan at s.samuel@albertahealthservices.ca

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#)