Congratulations!

June 2016—CEGIIR members completed the following accomplishments:

**Faculty**

**Academic Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure:** Dr. Constantine (Dean) Karvellas

**Promotion to Associate Clinical Professor:** Dr. Shalaan (Jesse) Siffledeen

**Promotion to Assistant Clinical Professor:** Dr. Vijeyakumar Selvarajah

**Special Recognition:** Dr. John McKaigney

**Special Recognition:** Dr. Eric Semlacher

**Trainees**

Listed below are CEGIIR students who have successfully defended their Master’s theses in Spring 2016.

**Natalie Klostermann:** “An individualized and multifaceted transition intervention is needed for pediatric patients with inflammatory bowel disease” Natalie is off to the University of Toronto to pursue her medical degree.

**Braden Millan:** “Fecal microbiota transplantation: how it can be expanded for the use in treatment of other diseases and manifestations” He will be attending medical school at the University of Calgary.

**Candace Beilman:** “Cost-effectiveness of anti-TNF therapy for the management of inflammatory bowel disease” Candace has accepted a position as a Research Coordinator for Drs. Halloran and Kroeker beginning in September.

**Did you know?**

Catgut, used in musical instruments and sutures since 3 BC (and now used in high-end tennis rackets), is not from cats. The word is either an abbreviation of “cattlegut” or misinterpretation of “kit” (meaning fiddle) in “kittstring”.

Catgut is made from the small intestines of animals (e.g., cow, sheep, or goat). The cleaned, scraped, and chemically treated guts are twisted together in groups of 3 to 20. They are then dried and polished before use.

**Congratulations!**
certmaster of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, played the violin.

The trio performed works by Beethoven, Chopin, Monteverdi, Rachmaninoff, Massenet, and De Falla and received a standing ovation.

Of the 100 donations, approximately 75 were from colleagues, friends, and Dr. Dieleman’s patients, many of whom were in the audience.

Hosted by the Dieleman’s, the event raised $12,000 for CASA.

Multi-talented CEGIIR Members Wow Donors

April 30, 2016—A concert was held at Giovanni’s School of Music to raise funds to support Dr. Leo Dieleman and his wife, Anne. The monies are supporting their week-long cycling expedition through the mountains (from Montana to Jasper) to raise awareness and donations for the CASA Foundation.

CEGIIR hepatologist/researcher by day, Dr. Juan Abraldes, impressed everyone with his tenor voice. The unassuming gastroenterologist/researcher/cyclist Dr. Dieleman provided accompaniment on the piano. Virginie Gagne, assistant concertmaster of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, played the violin.

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Digestive Disease Week (DDW) — Highlights
By Ammar Keshteli

May 21-24, 2016—Do you want to attend the world’s largest gathering of scientists, physicians, and trainees in the field of gastroenterology?

Do you want to have an enjoyable 4 or 5-day trip to a city in the United States?

If you answered “Yes!” to either question, then make arrangements to attend Digestive Disease Week (DDW) in 2017!

DDW is the annual conference of the American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD). Each year almost 15,000 researchers, physicians, academics, and students attend this conference! Not surprisingly, it is considered the largest (and best!) in the world.

This year’s DDW was held in the lovely and historic city of San Diego. CEGIIR members presented research studies to attendees from around the world and benefited from expert feedback and discussions. We also attended seminars, sessions, keynote lectures, and industry events.

In spite of the wealth of knowledge, excitement, and networking opportunities, we found time to enjoy the many local attractions! Numerous restaurants, beautiful beaches, historical places (e.g., Old Town), and the famed zoo were some places that me and my student peers had a chance to visit.

I look forward to seeing you next year in Chicago, IL. The event formally runs from May 6 to May 9th. Either before or after DDW, I am looking forward to opportunities such as eating deep dish pizza, seeing the Shedd Aquarium and the Art Institute of Chicago, or maybe watching the Chicago Cubs play at Wrigley Field!

Recent and Noteworthy Publications


For recent CEGIIR publications, click here
At the Centre of Excellence for Gastrointestinal Inflammation and Immunity Research (CEGIIR), our mission is to enhance Canada’s reputation in science and health by conducting high quality, leading edge research to address basic science, clinical, and patient-oriented questions in topics related to digestive diseases. The CEGIIR research infrastructure is tightly knit with gastroenterology and hepatology adult and pediatric clinics, surgery, and palliative care to facilitate rapid assessment and implementation of research findings. CEGIIR attracts scientists, offers unique and desirable learning opportunities for trainees, creates careers for highly qualified Canadians, and contributes to the academic, economic, government, social, and healthcare sectors of our society.

Comings and Goings
Dr Kevin O’Reagan has completed a fellowship in IBD under the mentoring of Dr. Richard Fedorak. He returns to Australia at the end of June along with his family. He designed a comprehensive framework to study the pharmacokinetics of anti-TNFs for the treatment of acute, severe ulcerative colitis in hospitalized patients. Pilot results are promising. Please contact either Drs Kroeker or O’Reagan if you are interested in continuing this study.

Dr Cathy Lu has accepted a faculty position with the University of Calgary. Her appointment will further cement and foster joint research activities conducted by the two academic centres in Alberta.

Ms Alex Dittrich has been accepted into Medicine at the University of Calgary.

Welcome to Ms Ana Wigger, Dr. Andy Mason’s medical administrative assistant.

Upcoming Conferences
ILCA 2016
Sep 9-11, 2016. Vancouver, BC

XXIXth International Workshop on Helicobacter and Microbiota in Inflammation and Cancer
Sep 15-17, 2016. Magdeburg, Germany

Neuroimmunophysiology of the Gastrointestinal Tract International Conference
Sep 29-Oct 1, 2016. Banff, AB

UEG Week 2016
Oct 15-19, 2016. Vienna, Austria

Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases
Dec 8-10, 2016. Orlando, FL

Canadian Digestive Diseases Week™
Mar 3-6, 2017. Banff, AB

Upcoming Grant Applications
CAG Conference Grant: $10,000
Submission date: Sep 1, 2016

CIHR Multiple grants
Project Scheme—Fall 2016
Reg.: Aug 23; Application due: Sep 6
Foundation Scheme—Fall 2016
Reg.: Aug 9; Application due: Aug 20

NASSCD Celiac Disease New Investigator Competition: $50,000/yr
Submission date: Sept 12, 2016