

## Alberta Inflammatory Bowel Disease Consortium

### Immediate opportunities for graduate students and postdoctoral trainees

The Alberta Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Consortium is a multidisciplinary research team aimed at understanding how environmental, microbial, and genetic factors conspire to cause Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis in humans. Our team consists of basic and clinical scientists in gastroenterology with expertise in immunology, microbiology, genetics, epidemiology, bioinformatics, and systems biology. This team was awarded a \$5 million grant from the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research in March 2009 and is presently recruiting trainees at both the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta (Edmonton). Tier I of our project involves a unique province-wide registry of CD and UC patients that has been established to provide detailed clinical and environmental data on existing IBD patients, as well as a prospective registry of newly-diagnosed cases. Tissue banks have been established in both Calgary and Edmonton for collection of endoscopic intestinal biopsies, blood, and stool. In addition to clinical and environmental data, all patients will be characterized for known IBD-associated genes and intestinal microbiota. Tier II involves bench research presently examining (1) the impact of diet and environmental pollutants on intestinal mucosal immune/barrier function and compositional dynamics of the gut microbiota and, (2) the effects of various IBD-gene mutations on dendritic cell priming of lymphocytes. Research positions are available in all of these areas and successful applicants may have the opportunity to choose which research area to pursue, as best fits their career goals.

- Graduate students will receive training in pertinent immunological, microbiological, epidemiological or molecular biological techniques.
- Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to have demonstrated excellence in one of these areas evidenced by recent publications, and will receive training in techniques that compliment and extend their current expertise.
- All trainees recruited into the Alberta IBD Consortium will receive training in translational research, knowledge transfer and commercialization, and will be expected to present their findings at national and/or international conferences and to take their data to publication.
- Applicants must have the ability to work both independently and as a team member, and should possess excellent written and spoken communication skills.

**Positions are available immediately and stipends will be in line with national levels and experience of the successful applicants. Recruitment will continue until all positions are filled. Trainees may begin in the fall or winter of the 2009-2010 academic year.**

**Interested individuals should submit a letter of interest, current CV, academic transcripts (unofficial transcripts are acceptable) and 2 academic letters of reference to:**

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