

DREAM

Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba



hello

Welcome to Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba (DREAM)'s first newsletter! We are an interdisciplinary team of basic and clinical scientists who work together to improve the lives of children and families living with diabetes. This newsletter will include updates, symposium information, DREAM trainees information and more! If you have any questions or comments reach out to us at dream@chrim.ca.

DREAM Steering Circle

The DREAM Steering Circle, formerly known as DREAM Stakeholders/Data Access Committee was revamped in November 2023, with the first in-person meeting on November 15, 2023. Co-leads Drs. Allison Dart and Taylor Morriveau have formed a circle that includes members from First Nation organizations and communities all over the prairies.



Website
DREAM's website got a makeover!

**Check out the calendar of all
DREAM events and other updates here**
<https://www.dreamdiabetesresearch.com/>

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DREAM TRAINEES



12th Annual Dream Symposium: Using Team Science to Understand Type 2 Diabetes and its Complications



The DREAM Symposium was held on November 16, and the theme was “Using Team Science to Understand Type 2 Diabetes and its Complications”. The symposium began with an opening blessing from Elder Andy Wood which was followed by a performance from Walking Wolf Drum Group. Dr. Denise Feig presented the Heather Dean lecture. Invited guest speakers from across North America flew to Winnipeg to speak about their different research projects.

The DREAM Trainee Day on November 15 focused on professional career development. The day consisted of a cultural safety presentation by Dr. Linda Diffey, a grant-writing seminar presented by Dr. Jon McGavock, and a panel discussion with academic and non-academic panelists, followed by a poster session. Congratulations to Jasmine Pipella and Khushali Trivedi for tying for second place for the trainee poster competition, and Patience Obi for winning first place!



OUTREACH 2024

The **iCARE** and **NextGen team**, along with Dr. Chukwudumebi Onyiuke of the Four Arrows Regional Health Authority’s research and data unit, completed an outreach trip to Island Lake Anisiniw Nation communities in March with guidance from Tanya McDougall, an Anisiniw Nation scholar, and Lionel Mason, an Elder and Knowledge-Share. The team screened at-risk participants for diabetes and kidney disease, met with community leadership and hosted two community feasts to share results and build relationships.



- *Cardiorespiratory Fitness and Physical Activity in Pediatric Diabetes: A Systemic Review and Meta-Analysis* by **Hannah Steiman De Visser, Isaak Fast, Nicole Brunton, Edward Arevalo, Nicole Askin, Rasheda Rabbani, Ahmed M. Abou-Setta, Jon McGavock***, February 2024
- *Establishing evidence for immune surveillance of β -cell senescence* by **Nayara Rampazzo Morelli, Jasmine Pipella, Peter Thompson***, February 2024
- *Factors Affecting Quality of Life in Adolescents Living with Type 2 Diabetes: A Sub study of The Improving renal Complications in Adolescents with type 2 diabetes through REsearch cohort* by **Lucas Mosienko, Brandy Wicklow*, Jon McGavock*, Liz Sellers*, Sara Schur, Brenden Dufault, Melissa Del Vecchio, Allison Dart***, January 2024
- *24-h ambulatory blood pressure readings and associations with albuminuria in youth with type 2 diabetes: A cross sectional analysis from the iCARE cohort* by **Allison Dart*, Liz Sellers*, Jon McGavock*, Melissa Del Vecchio, Brenden Dufault, Jill Hamilton, M Constantine Samaan, Josephine Ho, Sydnee Monias, Brandy Wicklow***, October 2023

*denotes DREAM researchers



UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 30 **DREAM Trainee Series**
Jasmine Pipella & Dr. Peter Thompson
 11 AM - 12 PM | 500 JBRC

MAY 7 **DREAM Trainee Series**
Manuel Sebastian & Dr. Christine Doucette
 11 AM - 12 PM | 500 JBRC

MAY 8 **Café Scientifique**
Diabetes in Children
 7 - 8:30 PM | Degrees Diner,
 65 Chancellors Circle

MAY 14 **DREAM Trainees Summer Series**
Introduction to DREAM
Drs. Allison Dart & Vern Dolinsky
 12 - 1 PM | 500 JBRC

AWARDS



Dr. Ayesh Saleem was awarded an Innovation Proof-of-Concept Grant from Research Manitoba in February 2024 for her project “*Development of fetal extracellular vesicles as diagnostic markers of genetic diseases*”.

Dr. Peter Thompson was awarded the Allen Rouse Basic Science Career Development Research Award for his project “*Exploring origins and treatments for sick beta cells in type 1 diabetes*”.



Dr. Meaghan Jones received a Michelle Harkness Mentorship Award in January 2024. This award recognizes outstanding mentoring by investigators in allergic reaction research and education.

GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

- **Danish Malhotra** was awarded the 2024 College of Pharmacy MSc scholarship.
- **Rushie Tyagi** was awarded the UMGF award and BiImaging North America Professional Development Award in 2023.
- Congratulations **Caitlin Menzies** (PhD) and **Khushali Trivedi** (MSc) for receiving the 2023-24 Research Manitoba Studentships.
- **Michael Byun** was awarded the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Studentship.
- **Jasmine Pipella** received the 2023-24 Canada Graduate Scholarship (MSc) and Janice Dodd Award for Excellence.
- The FGS Research Completion Scholarship was awarded to **Marcelo Ninalaya**, **Danish Malhotra** and **Jasmine Pipella**.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Marcelo Ninalaya** won silver in the MSc Trainee category and **Caitlin Menzies** won silver in the PhD Trainee Category at the 2023 CHRD Poster Competition.
- **Danish Malhotra** was awarded the HSGSA award for Excellence and Travel Award at the MSHRF poster competition.
- Congrats **Kushali Trivedi** and **Jasmine Pipella** for receiving silver at the 2023 DREAM Symposium Poster Competition.
- **Manuel Sebastian** presented at national and international conferences: EASD, ISG, Diabetes Canada, and CIRTN.
- **Nayara Rampazzo-Morelli** presented at the A-BC Conference In Vernon, BC.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Manuel Sebastian** co-authored a paper in the journal Molecular Metabolism.
- **Michael Byun** submitted a pre-print for an article in the journal of Biochemistry and Cell Biology.
- **Nayara Rampazzo-Morelli** and **Jasmine Pipella** co-authored a paper, "Establishing evidence for immune surveillance of β -cells."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



Nicole Brunton is a PhD Candidate in **Dr. Jon McGavock's** lab. She was recently selected to present an oral presentation at Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER) conference in Austin, TX! The title of her talk is "Exposure to gestational diabetes and hypertension in offspring: a triangulation approach."



Floriane Houenagnon joined as a MSc student in **Dr. Samantha Paul's** lab in September 2023. She's studying the impact of fatty acids and obesity in macrophage cell metabolism and function. Floriane is also an active member of DREAM, as the trainee development coordinator!



Patience Obi is a PhD Candidate in **Dr. Ayesha Saleem's** lab. Patience is investigating the role of extracellular vesicles in mediating the positive effects of chronic contractile activity. Patience received gold at the 2023 DREAM Symposium Poster Competition!

Winter 2024 New Students



Thiago Baltus joins Dr. Doucette's lab as a post-doctoral fellow!



Berkay Ozerklig joins Dr. Saleem's lab as a visiting scholar from Turkey!



Lydia Amooga joins Dr. Doucette's lab as a MSc student!