

DREAM

Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba



St. Theresa Point, Manitoba

hello

Welcome to Diabetes Research Envisioned and Accomplished in Manitoba (DREAM)'s third 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 Committee

In 2026, the DREAM theme gained a new member: Dr. Sukhpreet Tamana, a clinical psychologist specializing in pediatric psychology. We're looking forward to expanding our multidisciplinary research in diabetes with her expertise!



Scan here to go to our website!

**Check out the calendar of all
DREAM events and other updates here**

<https://www.dreamdiabetesresearch.com/>

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14th Annual Dream Symposium: Making Connections for Innovation, Nov 12 & 13th 2025



The DREAM Symposium was held on November 14 with the theme “Making Connections for Innovation”. This symposium was especially meaningful as DREAM had the opportunity to honour the late Dr. Barry Lavallee and Frances Desjarlais with a Blanket Ceremony. The symposium began with an opening blessing from Elder Jack Robinson followed by a pipe ceremony and musical performance from Sons of the Drum. Dr. Lindsay Crowshoe presented the Dr. Heather Dean Lecture in Excellence in Pediatric Diabetes Research.



The DREAM Trainee Day was a success! The day consisted of a knowledge translation panel, poster competition and two workshops: 1) How to ask clear research questions that lead to research, 2) Sex and Gender in Research. Congratulations to Khushali Trivedi and Amrit Thandi for winning 1st place in the oral presentation competition, and Hans Sanchez for winning 1st place in the poster competition!

Thank you to our sponsors!



OUTREACH 2026

The **iCARE** and **NextGeneration** teams, along with Four Arrows Regional Health Authority, completed an outreach trip to the Island Lake Anisininew Nation communities in March 2026. The team went to Garden Hill, Wasagamack, and St. Theresa Point where we screened at-risk participants for diabetes and kidney disease, met with community leadership and hosted a community feast in Wasagamack for the first time. During our visit to St. Theresa Point we took the first steps toward the development of a community-based, Anisininew Youth Advisory Group for Type 2 Diabetes Research by hosting a meeting with young people in St. Theresa Point Anisininew Nation.



New Publications

- *Omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids modify glucose metabolism in THP-1 monocytes* by **Michael Byun, Roni Armon, Tamiris Souza, Hope Anderson, Ayesha Saleem*, Samantha Pauls***, Jan 2025 *Biochemistry and Cell Biology*
- *DNA damage-mediated senescence alters human islet extracellular vesicle secretion and protein cargo* by **Brittany Gruber, Yash Rawal, Priscilla Irabor, Liz Sellers*, Christy Pylypjuk, Vern Dolinsky*, Brandy Wicklow***, Mar 2025 *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*
- *Beyond A1C: An interpretive descriptive qualitative study of youth experiences and perceptions of living with type 2 diabetes* by **Mandy Archibald*, Allison Dart*, Brandy Wicklow*, Katherine Pundyk, Seth Marks, and Liz Sellers***, September 2025 *Journal of Advanced Nursing*
- *Automated Insulin Delivery Systems and Glucose Management in Children and Adolescents With Type 1 Diabetes: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis* by **Hannah Steiman de Visser, Seerat Waraich, Manik Chhabra, Jennifer Yamamoto*, Ian Zenlea, Nicole Askin, Rasheda Rabbani, Jonathan McGavok*, TEAM Trial Patient Coresearchers**, Nov 2025 *JAMA Pediatrics*
- *Insulin production is sustained during DNA damage-mediated senescence in adult human beta cells* by **Camille Prefontaine, Jasmine Pipella, Nayara Rampazzo Morelli, Yi-Chun Chen, Bruce Verchere, Peter Thompson***, Nov 2025 *Diabetologia*

*denotes DREAM researchers



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL 28 **DREAM Trainee Summer Series**
Liz Bilton, *People First HR*
12 - 1 PM | 500 JBRC

OCT 8 **Annual DREAM Trainee Lectureship**
Dr. Tara MacDonald, *University of Toronto*
12 - 1 PM | 500 JBRC

NOV 4 **DREAM Trainee Day & Poster Competition**
9 AM - 6 PM | Canadian Museum for Human Rights

NOV 5 **15th Annual DREAM Symposium**
8 AM - 3 PM | Canadian Museum for Human Rights

AWARDS

Dr. Allison Dart was awarded the Champion Award, which honors a senior CHRIM member (10+) who exemplifies leadership, expertise, and a long-standing commitment to advancing child health research through mentorship, collaboration and scientific excellence.



Dr. Peter Thompson was awarded the Rising Star Award, which recognizes a new CHRIM member (less than five years) who is actively developing their research program and contributing meaningfully to the CHRIM community, while establishing themselves as a future leader in child health research.

Dr. Taylor Morriveau was awarded the IMPaCT Early Career Salary Award. This award facilitates participation in a 1-year immersive learning experience with assigned mentors and deliverables, and is designed to give skills and network to design, conduct, and communicate about clinical trials with pregnant people and children.



2025 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

- **Nicholas Klassen, Lydia Amooga, and Khushali Trivedi** won bronze, silver, and gold, respectively, in the PhD Trainee Category at the 2025 CHRD Poster Competition.
- **Khushali Trivedi** received the 2025 Ken Pfafsky Award.
- **Lydia Amooga** received the Lois M. Brockman Graduate Student Thesis Research Fellowship in the Area of Child Development and Canadian Mother-Child Collaborative Training Platform Bursary.
- **Jasmine Pipella** received the Research Manitoba PhD studentship.
- **Camille Prefontaine** received the CIRTN-R2FIC and NSERC-CREATE MSc training award, and Research Manitoba MSc studentship.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Caitlin Menzies** and **Khushali Trivedi** presented at the Canadian Society of Pharmacology and Therapeutics Conference in June 2025.
- **Jasmine Pipella** and **Khushali Trivedi** were selected to present an oral presentation at the 2025 DREAM Symposium.
- **Jasmine Pipella** orally presented and **Mystica Amonyi, Lydia Amooga, Floriane Houenagnon, Caitlin Menzies, Camille Prefontaine, Dr. Nayara Rampazzo Morelli** and **Khushali Trivedi** presented a poster at the 2025 Diabetes Canada conference.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Caitlin Menzies** published a review article in Journal of Cardiovascular Development and Disease.
- **Camille Prefontaine** published two journal articles in Scientific Reports and Diabetologia.
- **Jasmine Pipella** published an article in Diabetes Journal.
- **Nayara Rampazzo Morelli** published an article in Star Protocol.

Annual Trainee Lectureship with Dr. Hertzler Gerstein



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS



Corey Sanderson is a MSc student in **Dr. Christine Doucette's** lab. Corey, a "sewing scientist" created the beautiful Star Quilts that

were presented at the Blanket Ceremony at the DREAM symposium. Sewing has been an extremely important part of Corey reconnecting with his Anishinaabe culture. He was taught that star blankets are gifted to people who have done something significant for the community; it's a recognition by the Creator of important milestones in one's life, this could be life, births, celebrations, weddings, and even death itself. Corey was also featured as a local artist as part of IKEA's Indigenous Reconciliation Journey, and you can view the quilt he created at the Winnipeg IKEA!



Khushali Trivedi is a PhD student in **Dr. Vern Dolinsky's** lab. She was selected to orally present her research titled "Sirtuin 3 Deficiency in the Liver is Associated with Mitochondrial Dysfunction and Hepatic Steatosis in Gestational Diabetes" at the Canadian Lipid & Vascular Summit in Saskatoon, SK in September 2025.



Trainee Retreat at Barnhammer

2025 New Students



Aimen Sharoze joins Dr. Thompson's lab as a MSc student!



Nicholas Klassen joins Dr. Saleem's lab as a PhD student!



Alycia Johnson joins Dr. Thompson's lab as a MSc student!



Kabishana Shangar joins Dr. Doucette's lab as a MSc student!



Zeynep Ergun joins Dr. Saleem's lab as a PhD student!