# CIHR Human Immunology Network (CHIN)

**The CIHR Human Immunology Network (CHIN) is a resource network that** **facilitates, promotes and enhances research in human immunology** **and its translation into clinical care and public policy.**

**Specific Aims:**

* To be a ***source*** of standardized protocols for human immunology research;
* To ***facilitate*** access to research material and technologies, and to expedite regulatory processes;
* To ***engage*** national and international human immunology stakeholders to promote research in human immunology; and
* To ***lead*** the development of activities of knowledge dissemination in human immunology at national and international levels.

**Deliverables:**

1. To standardize protocols for human sample processing and sharing;
2. To facilitate access to research material and reagents through formalized collaborations;
3. To expedite ethical and biosafety protocols for human immunology research;
4. To organize an Annual International Conference on human infection and immunity;
5. To provide linkage between the Canadian human immunology research community and international organization-based initiatives in human immunology research.

**Structure of CHIN:**

* Director of CHIN– Joaquin Madrenas (McGill University)

**Nodes & Leaders:**

* Dalhousie University – Scott Halperin
* McGill University – Ciro Piccirillo
* University of Toronto – Tania Watts
* McMaster University – Jonathan Bramson
* Western University\* – Bhagirath Singh
* University of Manitoba – Kent Hayglass
* University of British Columbia – Rusung Tan

**External Advisory Board**

* Dr. Garry Fathman
* Dr. Jennifer Gardy
* Dr. Aubrey Tingle

\*Note that Western University is the administrative coordinating node for CHIN

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**Accomplishments:**

In its first year of operation, CHIN has made significant strides in the establishment of the network. Accomplishments to date include:

* Establishment and set-up of the administrative coordinating node
* Launch of the CHIN website
* Face-to-face meeting of the node leaders in December 2011, and regular monthly teleconference meetings
* Organization of a satellite symposium on “*Immune Regulatory Mechanisms in Health & Disease*” at FOCIS 2012 in Vancouver in partnership with the Canadian Society of Immunology
* Formation of an External Advisory Board to provide advice and guidance to the network

**Next Steps:**

As CHIN moves forward into the second year of its mandate, plans are in the works for expansion of the network. In addition, presence at international meetings and conferences will be ramped up to increase the profile of the network. CHIN plans on organizing community events across the country to inform the public of current research in human immunology. Finally, a focus on providing resources to trainees and fellows in the form of training seminars will also be examined as a possible resource that can be provided by CHIN.

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