

GASTROENTEROLOGY RESEARCH NEWS

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MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER

The BCCH IBD Research Program is pleased to welcome Hannah Kullmann to our team! Hannah will be joining us from January 2023 - December 2023.

- **Principal Investigators**

Dr. Kevan Jacobson and Dr. Sally Lawrence

- **Research Coordinators**

Olga Radivojevic and Zahra Shire

- **UBC Co-op Students**

Gabriella Guerra and Hannah Kullmann

Our team also has a **new office space**, you can now find us in **Room 2C66** by the MDU.



We are hosting a research education meeting on May 3rd from 3:00pm - 4:00pm. Please join on Zoom to learn more about our active, upcoming, and potential clinical trials and translational research.

ACTIVE STUDIES

OVATION

PFIZER

Investigational Product: Tofacitinib (Xeljanz)

The goal of this study is to determine if tofacitinib is safe and effective in inducing remission in children with moderate to severe UC who have shown an inadequate response or intolerance to at least one of the following prior therapies: oral or IV corticosteroids, AZA or 6-MP, or TNF inhibitors or anti-integrin therapy.

Eligibility:

- Patients aged 2 to <18 years old with moderately to severely active UC with a baseline PUCAI of ≥ 35
- Clinical diagnosis of UC for at least 12 weeks prior to baseline without a history of dysplasia or colon cancer



AMBITION-CD

CIDSCaNN and CHILD Foundation

Observational Study

The multi-center Canadian Children IBD Network (CIDSCaNN) brings together investigators across Canada to understand why IBD affects so many Canadian children. We will study children at the time of IBD diagnosis, exploring environmental factors and exposures; obtaining blood for assessment of genetic risk; and stool for assessment of microorganisms that might be important in the development of IBD. With this prospective cohort study, the goal is to compare outcomes of CD patients with ustekinumab versus anti-TNF as first biologic.

Eligibility:

- CD patients <17 years old who are anticipated to initiate anti-TNF or ustekinumab as treatment
- The duration of CD diagnosis should be \sim <18 months
- Perianal disease is NOT the primary or co-primary indication for biologic





TRANSITION TRIAL (PACE)

CROHN'S AND COLITIS CANADA

Intervention: Transition program

This unblinded randomized controlled clinical trial aims to evaluate the clinical and implementation efficacy of an intervention to improve the transition from pediatric to adult care in adolescents and young adults with IBD. The intervention consists of 4 core components: individualized needs assessment, skill-building, education, and a transition navigator facilitator (nurse practitioner or social worker).

Recruitment update: Recruitment target of 25 participants reached!

UPCOMING STUDIES

LAXATIVES AND THE MICROBIOTA

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

Investigational product: Laxatives

Goal: To evaluate the microbiome differences in laxative-treated pediatric populations compared to healthy children and adults.

Eligibility: Patients under 18 about to start a laxative for the first time (cases) or individuals of any age with no history of laxative use or constipation (controls).



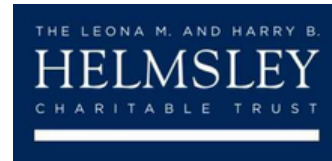
PIONIR

The Leona & Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

Intervention: Tasty Diet Protocol

Goal: To evaluate if the Tasty&Healthy diet is an effective intervention to lower risk of developing CD.

Eligibility: Healthy first degree relatives of children with CD who previously completed the GEM study and were identified as being at risk of developing CD.



KEPLER AND WEBB STUDIES

Takeda

Investigational Product: Vedolizumab (Entyvio)

Goal: To explore if vedolizumab is safe and effective in children with CD and UC by randomizing participants to high and low treatment groups.

Eligibility: CD and UC pediatric patients who have previously failed conventional therapies.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Transition Readiness in Youth with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (TREAD-IBD).

Foster A, Chan JM, Wine E, El-Matary W, Carroll MW, Kroeker KI, deBruyn JC, Seow C, Lawrence S, Evans K, Kluthe C, Sharifi N, Pears C, Nicol S, Olayinka L, Fu N, Huynh HQ, Bressler B, Bernstein CN, Jacobson K. Michaux M, Chan JM, Bergmann L, Chaves LF, Klinkenberg B, Jacobson K.

DOI: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2023.113403



Inflammatory Bowel Disease Among Canadian Children: Comparison between children of non-European descent and children of European descent.

Jeong, J, Walters TD, Huynh, HQ, Lawrence, L Mack, D, Deslandres, C, Otley A, El-Matary W, Sherlock, M, Griffiths, AM, Wine, E, Jacobson K, Church, P, Carroll MW, Benchimol EI, Seidman, E, Critch J, Bax K, Jantchou, P, Rashid, M, Kaplan, GG, Seow CH, Novak K, deBruyn, J for the Canadian Children IBD Network.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ibd/izac276>



We reached out to some previous co-op students who worked in the Division of Gastroenterology to see where they are now, and how their experience here helped shape their journey!

Udit Dalwadi (2013 - 2014)

I was a co-op student in Dr. Jacobson's lab in 2014, during which time I received my first exposure to many aspects of working in a basic science research lab. My time working with Dr. Jacobson was invaluable in establishing my career since he set me up to receive rigorous training and publish results during my undergraduate degree. After completing the co-op term and my BSc, I went on to pursue a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UBC under the supervision of Dr. Calvin Yip. Since 2022, I have been working as a Research Scientist at Altos Labs, a newly formed biotechnology company in the San Francisco Bay Area which is focused on researching cellular reprogramming and rejuvenation.



Chris Tang (2016 - 2017)

Since my time as a co-op student with the gastroenterology department, I've completed a masters in microbiology and immunology and moved to and back from Atlantic Canada. I've since pivoted my career towards bioinformatics, and currently work for a UBC lab coordinating research and performing data analysis on microbiome data. I hope to return to school for a post-baccalaureate degree in computer science and statistics next fall.

Laura Meleady (2018 - 2019)

After my time working with the wonderful GI team at BCCH (2018-2019) I finished a Masters of Science in Neuroepigenetics. I have since packed up and moved across the country to the Eastern-most province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Here, I am in my first year of medical school at Memorial University. Fondly known as "the rock" Newfoundland is surrounded by rugged coastline and wonderful hiking. If you come visit be warned they will make you kiss a cod to become an honorary Newfoundlander!



Clare Hii (2018 - 2019)

My name is Clare and I previously worked as a co-op research assistant in the BCCH Gastroenterology Department from 2018 to 2019. After completing my co-op terms, I finished my Bachelor of Science degree studying anatomy and physiology at UBC. In my last year, I also wrote my honours thesis with the Kopp lab studying pancreatic cancer. Motivated by all these experiences, I began medical school at UBC and am now in my 3rd year of studies. I will always cherish the connections and memories I made with the GI team!

Manaswi Yerrabattini (2019 - 2020)

After my co-op experience at BC Children's, I finished my Physiology degree at UBC and started Medical School at the University of Calgary. Currently, I am in my third year of medical school. Since starting clerkship rotations, I am excited to pursue a future in Family Medicine or Pediatrics. My co-op position has definitely made a huge impact on the trajectory of my career.






RECENT AWARDS

Co-op Supervisor Awards

Congratulations to **Dr. Kevan Jacobson** and **Olga Radivojevic** for winning co-op supervisor awards!

These awards are given based on nominations from co-op students and are awarded to supervisors who provide a meaningful and quality work experience for co-op students, excellent mentorship, and go above and beyond employer expectations.

CONTACT US

-  (604) 875-2345 ext. 5316
-  olga.radivojevic@cw.bc.ca
-  BCCH MDU, Room 2C66