The Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) and its Foundation, the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF), in collaboration with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the CAG-CIHR partners, aims to promote excellence in research. The overarching objective is that this research, in turn, will lead to new discoveries that will translate into improved health for Canadians. Moreover, this partnership will sustain and increase this capacity through high-quality education and research training of talented young scientists and clinicians in gastroenterology. The CAG strategic plan is to sustain its strong support of biomedical research while increasing support for research in CIHR pillars 3 and 4, including outcomes research, quality assurance and knowledge translation. The present report, on behalf of the research committee (Table 1), outlines another very successful year for this partnership program.

Details relating to eligibility and application processes for all of the following awards are available on the CAG website (www.cag-acg.org/research). The review and assessment of every application complies with CIHR standards and guidelines, and any potential conflicts of interest are meticulously identified and avoided.

Operating Grant and New Investigator Award
One operating grant and one new investigator salary award (Table 2) were awarded this year.

CAG-CIHR-Partnered Postdoctoral Operating Fellowship Program
The fellowship program is the cornerstone in the CAG research activities and its sustained success makes it a model for other societies. A large number of applications were received again this year and with support from the CIHR, the CCFC and CAG’s industry partners (identified in Tables 2 to 5) 15 fellowships were funded (Table 3). Two fellows received CAG/CIHR awards in name only because their applications ranked at a level to be funded entirely by the CIHR.

CDHF-CIHR PhD Studentship Program
Three PhD students (Table 6) were funded under this partnership program.

Summer Studentships
It is critical that young investigators be supported at all levels of their training. Thus, in partnership with CCFC, 14 students received awards ($7,000 each) to work in laboratories of recent or established investigators whose interests cover many facets of gut function in health and in disease (Table 4).

Resident Research Program
Ten awards were made available with the generous partnership from Takeda Canada, Shire Canada, Warner Chilcott, and Aptalis Pharma (Table 5).

Community Research Grant (CREG)
The CREG is an award specifically designed to assist community-based gastroenterologists, who are members of the CAG, take advantage of an operating research funding grant in digestive sciences. The CAG and the CDHF awarded the 2012 Community Research Grant to Dr Adrian Bak (Kelowna, British Columbia) for his project titled ‘Potential of the water method of colonoscopy as a universal screening test’.

Workshop Grants
Two CAG Workshop Grants were provided: one for the Farncombe Symposium Workshop (September 22 to 25, 2011) and a second for the Kananaskis Inflammation Workshop (January 21, 2012). These workshops make a significant contribution to education in gastroenterology (GI) research, and help to showcase the cutting-edge GI research from Canada and beyond.

# Table 1

| Position                  | Name                  | Institution                                      | Term       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------|
| VP Research Affairs       | André Buret           | University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta)          | 2011–2014  |
| Member                    | Nathalie Perreault    | University of Sherbrooke (Sherbrooke, Quebec)     | 2011–2014  |
| Member                    | Aleixo Muise          | University Toronto (Toronto, Ontario)             | 2011–2014  |
| Member                    | Jennifer Jones        | University of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan) | 2011–2014 |
| Member                    | Maida Sewitch         | McGill University (Montreal, Quebec)              | 2011–2014  |
| Member                    | Bill Sahil            | University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia) | 2011–2014 |
| Member                    | John Wallace          | McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario)           | 2011–2014  |
| Member                    | Decker Butzner        | University of Calgary                             | 2012–2014  |
| Member                    | Colby Zaph            | University of British Columbia                    | 2012–      |
| Member (trainee)          | Tamia Lapointe        | University of Calgary                             | 2012–      |

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### Table 2
**Funded grants 2012**

| Candidate | Grant                                | Term, years | Institution                              |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------|
| Julia Liu | CCFC-CIHR-CAG New Investigator Salary Award | 5           | University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta) |
| Laura Sly | Abbott-CIHR-CAG Operating Grant      | 1           | University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia) |

CAG Canadian Association of Gastroenterology; CCFC Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada; CIHR Canadian Institutes of Health Research

### Table 3
**Funded Postdoctoral Fellowships 2012**

| Candidate | Award                        | Institution                               | Term, years | Supervisor(s)                      |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Abdel Elkadi | Janssen-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Ontario) | 2           | Aleixo Muise                      |
| David Kevans | Abbott-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto, Ontario) | 2           | Mark Silverberg and Ken Croitoru   |
| Alexandre Morizot | Abbott-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | McGill University (Montreal, Quebec) | 2           | Maya Saleh                        |
| Menno Oudhoff | Janssen-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia) | 2           | Colby Zaph                        |
| Scott Patterson | Ferring-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of British Columbia | 2           | Meagan Levings                    |
| David Prescott | CCFC-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario) | 2           | Stephen Girardin                 |
| David Reed | CCFC-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of London (United Kingdom) | 2           | Ashley Blackshaw                  |
| Jose Reyes-Hernandez | Janssen-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta) | 2           | Derek MKay                        |
| Susan Robertson | Janssen-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of Toronto | 2           | Dana Philpott                     |
| Martin Stahl | CCFC-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of British Columbia | 2           | Bruce Vallance                   |
| Ali Rezaie | CAG-CIHR Fellowship (in name only) | University of Calgary | 2           | Gilaad Kaplan and Subrata Ghosh  |
| Carmen Dominguez-Brauer | Takeda-CIHR-CAG Fellowship | University of Toronto | 2           | Tak Mak                           |
| Jocelyn Silver | CAG-CIHR Fellowship | University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Manitoba) | 2           | John Walker and Ciaran Kelly    |
| Subhanka Dolai | CAG-CIHR Fellowship | University of Toronto | 2           | Herbert Gaisano                   |
| Paul James | CAG-CIHR Fellowship (in name only) | Sunnybrook Research Institute (Toronto, Ontario) | 2           | Elaine Yong and Jill Timmounh    |

### Table 4
**Canadian Association of Gastroenterology and Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada-funded Summer Studentships 2012**

| Candidate | Supervisor | Sponsor | Institution                              |
|-----------|------------|---------|------------------------------------------|
| Edwin Ka-Ho Cheng | Carla Coffin | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology | University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta) |
| Daniella DeCoffe | Deanna Gibson | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology | University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia) |
| Jeffrey Kay | Mark Silverberg | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology | Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto, Ontario) |
| Tony Kwon | John Brumell | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology | The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Ontario) |
| Tahrin Mahmood | Ping-Chang Yang | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology | McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) |
| Yaei Mansour | Eytan Wine | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology | University of Alberta (Edmonton, Alberta) |
| Sean Ridout | Patricia Brubaker | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology | University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario) |
| David Rodrigues | Nicola Jones | Canadian Association of Gastroenterology-CDHF Ivan Beck Award* | The Hospital for Sick Children |
| Matthew Bernstein | John Walker | Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada | University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Manitoba) |
| Bonnie Cheung | Laura Sly | Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada | University of British Columbia |
| Jordan Iannuzzi | Derek MKay | Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada | University of Calgary |
| Stephanie Mah | Julia Liu | Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada | University of Alberta |
| Lucas Mastropaulo | Alexio Muise | Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada | The Hospital for Sick Children |
| Tessa van Tol | Meagan Leving | Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of Canada | University of British Columbia |

*Awarded to the highest-ranked applicant. Award includes an additional $1,000. CDHF Canadian Digestive Health Foundation

### Table 5
**Resident Research Awards 2012**

| Candidate | Supervisor | Sponsor | Institution                              |
|-----------|------------|---------|------------------------------------------|
| Meredith Borman | Mark Swain | Aptalis Pharma | University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta) |
| Peter Church | Anne Griffiths | Takeda Canada | The Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto, Ontario) |
| Abdul Elkadi | Alexio Muise | Warner Chilcott | The Hospital for Sick Children |
| Vivian Huang | Geoffrey Nguyen | Aptalis Pharma | Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto, Ontario) |
| Zain Kassam | John Marshall and Paul Moayyedi | Takeda Canada | McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) |
| Julia McNabb-Baltar | Alan Barkun | Shire Canada | McGill University (Montreal, Quebec) |
| Matthew Sadler | Gilaad Kaplan | Takeda Canada | University of Calgary |
| Michael Stewart | Donald MacIntosh | Takeda Canada | Dalhousie University (Halifax, Nova Scotia) |
| Pamela Valentino | Binita Kamath | Shire Canada | University of Toronto (Toronto, Ontario) |
| Mohammad Yaghoobi | Alan Barkun | Takeda Canada | McGill University |
CCFC-CAG Partnership

The CCFC continues to be a key partner in the CAG research program and IBD research, a major focus of the research being conducted. The summaries (Tables 2, 3 and 4) show that CCFC supported three Fellowships, one New Investigator salary award and six summer studentships.

Congratulations to all the successful awardees. We look forward to your contributions and your continued participation in the CAG research program. And again, many thanks to CIHR and CCFC and your contributions and your continued participation in the CAG research program. And again, many thanks to CIHR and CCFC and your contributions to the CAG industry partners – the 14 summer studentships, 10 resident research awards, 15 fellowships, one salary award and one operating grant total a research dollar commitment in 2012 of $1,974,000.

CANADIAN DIGESTIVE DISEASES WEEK 2012

In addition to reviewing research applications, the other main role of the research committee is review of abstracts submitted to Canadian Digestive Diseases Week (CDDW), which showcases the best of Canadian GI research. A total of 332 abstracts were accepted to the core CDDW/Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (CASL) Winter Meeting scientific program: 49 as CAG or CASL oral presentations, and the remainder in one of two poster sessions.

The following are the 2012 recipients of CAG awards:

• Dr Charles Bernstein (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba) – Research Excellence Award
• Dr Elena Verdu (McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario) – Young Investigator Award
• Dr Nicola Jones (University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario) – Visiting Research Professor
• Dr Connie Switzer (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta) – Education Excellence Award
• Dr Clarence Wong (University of Alberta) – Young Educator Award
• Dr David Armstrong (McMaster University) – Visiting Clinical Professor
• Dr Richard Hunt (McMaster University) – The RD McKenna Memorial Lecturer

The 2012 student research prizes were awarded based on the quality of abstracts submitted to CDDW as follows:

CAG sponsored:
K Brown, University of British Columbia (Vancouver, British Columbia)
J Cotton, University of Calgary (Calgary, Alberta)

CCFC sponsored:
JM Natividad, McMaster University
JJ Kim, McMaster University

It has once again been an excellent year for Canadian GI research and everyone involved deserves congratulations. Should CAG members have questions relating to the work of Research Affairs, or proposals on how to expand or promote our activities, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

With Thanks,
André Baret
VP Research Affairs

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