

Biography

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC
Scientific Director, Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes
Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Philip M. Sherman, MD, FRCPC is Professor of Paediatrics, Microbiology, & Dentistry at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto where he has been on faculty since 1984. Phil completed medical school at the University of Calgary and training in pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco. Training in gastroenterology and research was completed at the Hospital for Sick Children and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC.

He is a Past-President of the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition and a Past-President of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology. He is the recipient of a Canada Research Chair (tier 1) in Gastrointestinal Disease. His research program is funded by support currently provided by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). His research interests focus on epithelial cell signal transduction responses to pathogenic, commensal, and probiotic bacteria.

In 2010, Phil was awarded the prestigious Shwachman Award from the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN). The award recognizes significant and lifelong scientific or educational contributions to the field of pediatric gastroenterology, and awardees must also hold a record of advocacy for child digestive diseases and demonstrate exemplary service to the field. Phil assumed the position of Scientific Director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes in January, 2009.

Abstract

Focus on Partnerships: The CIHR Perspective

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) strongly values and supports the concept of collaboration. As stated in our strategic plan, "CIHR cannot fulfil its mandate without the collaboration and support of domestic and international partners." As such, CIHR seeks partnerships with organizations from the public, private and voluntary health sectors, as well as with international research funders. Partnerships at CIHR vary in scale and scope, ranging from in-kind support for workshops that bring together researchers and knowledge users, to financial support for multi-million dollar research networks. This variability gives partners flexibility, as they can engage in large and small research funding initiatives. CIHR strives to ensure that the partnership provides mutual benefit. A number of partnership models have developed over the years: CIHR has partnered directly with the private sector (traditionally with the pharmaceutical sector) to support workshops, enhance research capacity, promote career development and launch research funding opportunities. CIHR also creates funding opportunities that encourage or require applicants to seek matching funding from partners, which provides the opportunity for private sector organizations to work directly with applicants on projects supported by CIHR. In addition, CIHR partners directly with professional associations and health charities that also provide the opportunity for CIHR to partner indirectly with the private sector. In such cases, financial support from the private sector is leveraged by the professional association or health charity that can be matched by CIHR. In conclusion, there are a variety of opportunities to partner with CIHR to support future strategic funding research opportunities.