

Biography
Richard Isnor, PhD
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Richard Isnor is Manager of the Atlantic Regional Office for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC-Atlantic), based in Moncton, NB. Previously, he was Director of Innovation Policy and Science at the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa and also worked for three years with the National Research Council of Canada managing the Genomics and Health Initiative.

Richard holds a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Policy Studies from the University of Sussex, UK; a Master's in Environmental Studies from Dalhousie University, Canada; and a B. Sc. in Biochemistry from Mount Allison University, Canada. He has held science and technology policy and management positions in a variety of federal government organizations, including Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada and the Privy Council Office.

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Abstract
Research Partnership Opportunities Involving NSERC

Health-related science is a priority for federal research and development (R&D) investment. In 2012-13, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), invested close to \$175 million in health and life-sciences related research conducted by Canada's post-secondary institutions. This is in addition to the direct and in-direct federal investments made in health and food-related R&D conducted by the business community, investments by regional economic development agencies and provincial governments, and research funded by other federal agencies such as the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and research conducted by federal departments and agencies such as the National Research Council (NRC). Funding mechanisms for research in Canada have evolved considerably in the past decade to favour highly collaborative approaches. Numerous studies have shown that collaboration is the lifeblood of innovation, necessitating strong linkages between industry, academia and government. Canada must continue to embrace and pursue collaborative research arrangements, particularly between our post-secondary institutions and industry, in order to advance innovation and healthy outcomes in our food, nutrition and health sectors. Such efforts will facilitate better health for Canadian consumers, as well as new economic opportunities for the food sector. This presentation will provide an overview of NSERC-funded research activities in Canada, drawing significantly on examples of collaborative food-for health related research underway, as well as outlining opportunities for further collaborative research arrangements involving industry and post-secondary institutions.