



DIVISION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY & METABOLISM

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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NEWSLETTER JULY 2011

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Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism

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I am honored and pleased to have been appointed Director of the BBDC. I plan to continue in my role as university Division Director of Endocrinology, since I believe that there is a natural synergy between these two organizations.

The Banting and Best Diabetes Centre was established in 1978 as an extra-departmental unit of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. The programs of the BBDC are supported almost entirely from the income on its endowments held by the University. Much to the credit of the previous BBDC Director, Dr. Dan Drucker, the BBDC is recognized internationally and is a tremendous enabler of diabetes research at all U of T affiliated institutions. The BBDC has an inclusive membership, it focuses on supporting trainees with studentships, travel grants and fellowships, it sponsors high value educational activities such as the Diabetes Update held every second year, its core lab supports clinical researchers and other diabetes scientists, applications for funding are subjected to a rigorous peer-review scientific process, it has excellent communications including a well-developed website and newsletter, its administration is lean and efficient and demonstrates fiscal responsibility. BBDC seminars and the Annual Scientific Day are high quality and are very well attended.

The current BBDC endowment does not support the development of new programs, unless a decision were made to divert funds from the existing, highly successful programs such as fellowships and studentships. That is certainly not my intention. Therefore, any growth and expansion of BBDC programs must be accompanied by active fundraising. Fortunately, over the past 4 years, the BBDC has developed a strong partnership with UHN, and there is a joint fundraising effort by the U of T fundraisers and fundraisers of the Toronto General Hospital Foundation. A considerable proportion of the funds raised by the TG Foundation flow back to UHN researchers in the form of fellowships and studentships. I hope to further develop this relationship and to actively pursue all fundraising opportunities to support the activities of the BBDC. Since most philanthropic giving originates with doctor-patient relationships, this partnership is of great benefit to the BBDC. I will be urging Endocrinology leadership at non-UHN hospitals to also actively participate in their respective hospital foundation's fundraising activities and to follow the UHN model.

If we are successful in raising significant funds in support of diabetes there are many exciting initiatives we can undertake. These include but are not limited to an expansion of research funding programs, expansion of the BBDC role as a provider of diabetes education and innovator of new models of diabetes care. I would like to see the BBDC more involved in global research collaborations and outreach to primary care diabetes providers in Ontario. Since I anticipate success in fundraising over the next 5 years it is important for us to embark on intensive planning for the expansion of diabetes research, education and clinical care initiatives. Members of the Division of Endocrinology will team up with our colleagues from basic science departments to play a key role in this process, which will begin in earnest this Fall. The Division of Endocrinology and the BBDC are already world class, and I am committed to sustaining and further developing their excellence over the next 5 years.

Gary Lewis
Director, Division of Endocrinology, U of T

Program Director's update – Dr. Jeannette Goguen

There are three initiatives that will be starting shortly in our division:

1. Endocrine Pearls: Core trainees, endocrine trainees and staff will be able to subscribe to "Endocrine Pearls", which are modeled on the highly successful Nephrology and Cardiology Pearls. Subscribers are emailed an endocrine question daily, Monday through Friday, and are expected to discuss the question with the on-service endocrine resident and staff. The answers are emailed out at the end of every week. This will promote the acquisition of core endocrine knowledge for the core residents on our service, and reinforce the knowledge in our endocrine residents.
2. The mini-CEX/PGY-5 Clinic forms that we have been using to evaluate our residents are going electronic as part of a DOM pilot project involving three division, including our own: our endocrine trainees will have the forms on their mobile phones, and we will complete the evaluation forms electronically.
3. Another DOM pilot that we will be participating in is a more formalized group QI project for the PGY-5s, with teaching and supervision from an endocrine supervisor and the Sunnybrook quality doctors. A project that is relevant and timely for the division as a whole will be chosen.

[\[TOP\]](#)**Honours and Awards****Congratulations to:**

Bruce Perkins and **Dominic Ng** on their promotion to Associate Professor.

Andrew Advani and Catherine Yu on successfully passing their three year review

Jacqueline James on her appointment to the position of VP Education at Mount Sinai Hospital

Jeannette Goguen on her appointment to the position of Director of Programs, Department of Medicine

Mladen Vranic for receiving an honorary science degree from the University of Toronto

Ravi Retnakaran – awarded an Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation Early Researcher Award

Angela Cheung – received the Eugenie Stuart award for best MSc/PhD supervision in IMS, 2011

Baiju Shah for receiving a CIHR New Investigator Award

[\[TOP\]](#)**Meetings**

47th EASD Annual meeting - September 12-16, 2011 Lisbon, Portugal

www.easd.org

CDA/CSEM Meeting October 26 – 29, 2011 Toronto, ON

<http://www.diabetes.ca>

Gairdner Foundation - Diabetes; 90 years after the discovery of insulin

MaRS Centre, 101 College Street

Wednesday October 26th,

2011 <http://www.gairdner.org/calendar/diabetes90yearsafterthediscoveryofinsulin>

[\[TOP\]](#)**Division Member Profile**

Dr. Phillip Segal

Phil Segal grew up in Ottawa but ventured west to attend medical school at the University of Alberta. In 2004 he moved back to his home province, where he completed his Internal Medicine and Endocrinology training in Toronto. He recently completed the Master Teacher program at the University of Toronto and is excited to assume his new role as an Assistant Professor at the University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital, where he hopes to continue to develop his skills and impact as a clinician – teacher throughout the educational continuum from the most junior medical student to postgraduate endocrinology fellows.

Above all, Phil is a busy clinician. He regularly attends on the inpatient endocrinology consult service (and occasionally on the Internal Medicine teaching unit) and has a growing outpatient practice. His main clinical focus is in thyroidology- both malignant and benign disease. He has been working to develop his skills in neck ultrasound and ultrasound guided biopsy and enjoys teaching these techniques to residents and fellows. He is actively involved in teaching in the pre clerkship medical program and is helping to develop an integrated curriculum for the endocrinology component of the MMD (Mechanisms, Manifestations and Management of Disease) course for second year medical students. He also has a particular interest in developing high quality educational resources and seminars to help non-specialist physicians safely order insulin. When he is not roaming the wards crusading against the “insulin sliding scale” he can be found working in collaboration with the nephrology team at St Michaels Hospital to develop a new “uendocrine” educational website.

Phil has and continues to play many roles in life besides being a doctor. He has been a grill chef at a diner, an amateur jazz trombonist, a member of the curling club at the University of Edinburgh, a beginner salsa dancer and even a Toastmaster. However, his current role a new dad to Jeremy, his 1 year-old son, is undoubtedly the most rewarding of all.



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Other News & Updates

Update on Clinical Trials Working Group

June 13, 2011

Members of Working Group: Ravi Retnakaran (lead), Bernard Zinman, Larry Leiter, Bruce Perkins, Lorraine Lipscombe, Muhammad Mamdani, David Klein, Baiju Shah, Julia Lowe, Denice Feig, Richard Gilbert, Gary Lewis

The original objective of the Clinical Trials Working Group was to facilitate co-ordinated clinical trial activities across the University Division of Endocrinology. In that context, in 2009, the working group applied for funding from the Department of Medicine (DOM) Strategic Innovation competition. The DOM Strategic Innovation committee asked for changes in our proposal, including (i) a single disease focus on diabetes and (ii) the development of a diabetes registry. The committee also asked that we work with the Applied Health Research Centre (AHRC) at St. Michael’s Hospital in moving this initiative forward. Our proposal was thus revised in accordance with these suggestions and was subsequently successful in obtaining the requested funds. We then met with Muhammad Mamdani and David Klein from AHRC regarding the development of this registry. As the initial plan was to develop a clinical trial and implement the registry around this trial in a cost-effective manner, the group designed a protocol for a clinical trial. Ultimately, however, the intended pharmaceutical sponsor decided not to pursue this trial in the fall of 2010.

The current focus of the group is on development of the diabetes registry. The team at AHRC is working to build the diabetes registry, which will be first tested at Mount Sinai Hospital. Once it has been shown to work well, it would then be rolled out to the other sites of the Division of Endocrinology. Ultimately, it is hoped that the co-ordination between the sites achieved with this registry will facilitate co-operation and co-ordination in clinical trial activities across the Division of Endocrinology.

[\[TOP\]](#)

Journal Articles

Publications of Primary Division of Endocrinology Appointees – April 1st 2011 to June 30th 2011

1. [Redundant role of the cytochrome c-mediated intrinsic apoptotic pathway in pancreatic \$\beta\$ cells.](#)
Choi D, Schroer SA, Lu SY, Cai EP, Hao Z, **Woo M**.
J Endocrinol. 2011 Jun 30. [Epub ahead of print]
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2. [Nuts as a Replacement for Carbohydrates in the Diabetic Diet.](#)
Jenkins DJ, Kendall CW, Banach MS, Srichaikul K, Vidgen E, Mitchell S, Parker T, Nishi S, Bashyam B, de Souza R, Ireland C, **Josse RG**.
Diabetes Care. 2011 Jun 29. [Epub ahead of print]
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3. [O-linked \$\beta\$ -N-acetylglucosamine \(O-GlcNAc\) supports p38 MAPK activation by high glucose in glomerular mesangial cells.](#)
Goldberg H, Whiteside C, **Fantus IG**.
Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab. 2011 Jun 28. [Epub ahead of print]
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4. [The postpartum cardiovascular risk factor profile of women with isolated hyperglycemia at 1-hour on the oral glucose tolerance test in pregnancy.](#)
Retnakaran R, Qi Y, Sermer M, Connelly PW, Hanley AJ, **Zinman B**.
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5. [Gut-liver Interaction in Triglyceride-rich Lipoprotein Metabolism.](#)
Xiao C, Hsieh J, Adeli K, **Lewis GF**.
Am J Physiol Endocrinol Metab. 2011 Jun 21. [Epub ahead of print]
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6. [Persistent lipid abnormalities in statin-treated patients with diabetes mellitus in Europe and Canada: results of the Dyslipidaemia International Study.](#)
Leiter LA, Lundman P, da Silva PM, Drexler H, Jünger C, Gitt AK; on behalf of the DYSIS investigators.
Diabet Med. 2011 Jun 16. doi: 10.1111/j.1464-5491.2011.03360.x. [Epub ahead of print]
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7. [Physiological and Pharmacological Mechanisms through which the DPP-4 Inhibitor Sitagliptin Regulates Glycemia in Mice.](#)
Waget A, Cabou C, Masseboeuf M, Cattani P, Armanet M, Karaca M, Castel J, Garret C, Payros G, Maida A, Sulpice T, Holst JJ, **Drucker DJ**, Magnan C, Burcelin R.
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[The Extra-Hematopoietic Role of Erythropoietin in Diabetes Mellitus.](#)

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[Dorsal versus ventral monofilament testing of the great toe for the identification of diabetic sensorimotor polyneuropathy.](#)

Orszag A, Shin TM, Bril V, **Perkins BA.**

Diabetes Res Clin Pract. 2011 May 30. [Epub ahead of print]

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[Protein kinase C \$\beta\$ inhibition ameliorates experimental mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis.](#)

Tokuyama H, Kim S, Zhang Y, Langham RG, Cox AJ, Gow RM, Kelly DJ, **Gilbert RE.**

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[Levothyroxine dose and risk of fractures in older adults: nested case-control study.](#)

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[Long-term administration of the histone deacetylase inhibitor vorinostat attenuates renal injury in experimental diabetes through an endothelial nitric oxide synthase-dependent mechanism.](#)

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J Hypertens. 2011 Jun;29(6):1175-84.

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J Bone Miner Res. 2011 Apr 13. doi: 10.1002/jbmr.403. [Epub ahead of print]

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[Lecithin cholesterol acyltransferase null mice are protected from diet-induced obesity and insulin resistance in a gender-specific manner through multiple pathways.](#)

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J Biol Chem. 2011 May 20;286(20):17809-20. Epub 2011 Mar 16.

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[Histone deacetylase inhibition attenuates diabetes-associated kidney growth: potential role for epigenetic modification of the epidermal growth factor receptor.](#)

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Kidney Int. 2011 Jun;79(12):1312-21. Epub 2011 Mar 9.

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[A high-throughput proteomic approach provides distinct signatures for thyroid cancer behavior.](#)

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[Separation and reformation of cell surface dopamine receptor oligomers visualized in cells.](#)

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[Acute cannabinoid receptor type 1 \(CB1R\) modulation influences insulin sensitivity by an effect outside the central nervous system in mice.](#)

Song D, Bandsma RH, Xiao C, Xi L, Shao W, Jin T, **Lewis GF**.

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[Vhl is required for normal pancreatic \$\beta\$ cell function and the maintenance of \$\beta\$ cell mass with age in mice.](#)

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[How can we meet the information needs of patients with early stage papillary thyroid cancer considering radioactive iodine remnant ablation?](#)Sawka AM, Straus S, Gafni A, Brierley JD, Tsang RW, Rotstein L, **Ezzat S**, Thabane L, Rodin G, Meiyappan S, David D, Goldstein DP.

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[NOD1 Activators Link Innate Immunity to Insulin Resistance.](#)Schertzer JD, Tamrakar AK, Magalhães JG, Pereira S, Bilan PJ, Fullerton MD, Liu Z, Steinberg GR, **Giacca A**, Philpott DJ, **Klip A**.

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PMID:

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[Nuts as a Replacement for Carbohydrates in the Diabetic Diet.](#)**Jenkins DJ**, Kendall CW, Banach MS, Srichaikul K, Vidgen E, Mitchell S, Parker T, Nishi S, Bashyam B, de Souza R, Ireland C, Josse RG.

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[Antigen-based therapy with glutamic acid decarboxylase \(GAD\) vaccine in patients with recent-onset type 1 diabetes: a randomised double-blind trial.](#)**Wherrett DK**, Bundy B, Becker DJ, Dimeglio LA, Gitelman SE, Goland R, Gottlieb PA, Greenbaum CJ, Herold KC, Marks JB, Monzavi R, Moran A, Orban T, Palmer JP, Raskin P, Rodriguez H, Schatz D, Wilson DM, Krischer JP, Skyler JS; the Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet GAD Study Group.

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[Inulin increases short-term markers for colonic fermentation similarly in healthy and hyperinsulinaemic humans.](#)Fernandes J, Vogt J, **Wolever TM**.

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[GABA exerts protective and regenerative effects on islet beta cells and reverses diabetes.](#)Soltani N, Qiu H, Aleksic M, Glinka Y, Zhao F, Liu R, Li Y, Zhang N, Chakrabarti R, Ng T, **Jin T**, Zhang H, Lu WY, Feng ZP, Prud'homme GJ, **Wang Q**.

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[Duodenal Mucosal Protein Kinase C- \$\delta\$ Regulates Glucose Production in Rats.](#)Kokorovic A, Cheung GW, Breen DM, Chari M, Lam CK, **Lam TK**.

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[The postpartum cardiovascular risk factor profile of women with isolated hyperglycemia at 1-hour on the oral glucose tolerance test in pregnancy.](#)Retnakaran R, Qi Y, Sermer M, **Connelly PW**, **Hanley AJ**, Zinman B.

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[Atypical antipsychotics and effects of muscarinic, serotonergic, dopaminergic and histaminergic receptor binding on insulin secretion in vivo: An animal model.](#)Hahn M, Chintoh A, **Giacca A**, Xu L, Lam L, Mann S, Fletcher P, Guenette M, Cohn T, Wolever T, Arenovich T, Remington G.

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[Korean red ginseng \(Panax ginseng C.A. Meyer\) root fractions: Differential effects on postprandial glycemia in healthy individuals.](#)

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[Related citations](#)**Other Publications**

Grants

Congratulations to the following grant recipients
CHIR Operating grants (March 2011 completion)

Principal Investigator	Institution Paid	Program	Competition (Year/Month)	Assigned PRC	Project Title	CIHR Contribution	CIHR Equipment	Term Yrs/Mths
ADELI, Khosrow	Hospital for Sick Children (Toronto)	Operating Grant	201103	CHI	CALIPER: A Canada-Wide Initiative to Close the Critical Gaps in Pediatric Reference Intervals Details...	\$789,727	\$0	4 yrs 0 mth
MATTHEWS, Stephen G	University of Toronto	Operating Grant	201103	CIA	Multidrug Resistance in the Developing Blood Brain Barrier: Fetal Brain Protection Details...	\$925,615	\$0	5 yrs 0 mth
RETNAKARAN, Ravi R	Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto)	Operating Grant	201103	PH2	A Pre-conception Cohort to Study Gestational Diabetes Mellitus: Pre-gravid Determinants, Early Pregnancy Biomarkers and Postpartum Cardio-metabolic Risk Factor Profile Details...	\$804,195	\$0	5 yrs 0 mth
VOLCHUK, Allen O	University Health Network (Toronto)	Operating Grant	201103	DOL	The Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress Response in Pancreatic beta-Cells Details...	\$527,425	\$0	5 yrs 0 mth
WOLEVER, Thomas M	University of Toronto	Operating Grant	201103	NUT	The effect of a low glycemic index (GI) diet on maternal glycemic control and maternal and neonatal markers of postpartum diabetes risk in women with gestational hyperglycemia. Details...	\$444,989	\$0	3 yrs 0 mth

CDA 2011 Operating Grant competition Award

Drucker, Daniel J. – Operating Grant - GPR119 and the control of glucose homeostatis, Mount Sinai Hospital, 2001- 2014

Hanley, Anthony J. G. – Operating Grant - Longitudinal studies of insulin resistance, beta cell dysfunction and related biomarkers I the PROMISE cohort, University of Toronto, 2011 – 2014

Lewis, Gary F. – Operating Grant – Mechanism of fatty acid-induced impairment of glucose-stimulated insulin secretion. University Health Network 2001 2014

Retnakaran, Ravi R. – Operating Grant – Vitamin D. and the early pathophysiology of type 2 diabetes in women with a history of gestational diabetes. Mount Sinai Hospital 2011 2014.

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