
Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Asthma and the Microbiome

BC Children's Hospital Research Institute
Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Asthma is the most common chronic non-communicable disease. Asthma typically begins in childhood and lasts throughout life. The numbers are striking: asthma affects ~13% of children (~500,000 in Canada) and more than 3 million Canadians of all ages. This high prevalence, combined with significant asthma-related morbidity, leads to a heavy economic and human burden of asthma in Canada and worldwide.

The gut microbiome is one of the most populated regions of the human body with 10-100 trillion microbial cells. There is compelling evidence that links a gut microbial dysbiosis to the development of asthma. To date, very little is known about the particular species and mechanisms by which members of the intestinal microbiota affect asthma development. Our goal is to identify specific gut microbes (bacterial, fungal and eukaryotic communities) associated with asthma at age 8 years.

Two postdoctoral positions are available to join an energetic and collegial group dedicated to enhancing the health of children. The successful applicant will work at the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute on this exciting collaborative project directed by Dr. Stuart Turvey. This position will be translational and interdisciplinary in nature aimed at examining microbiome sequencing data in a large birth cohort dedicated to defining the origins of asthma.

Applicants should have a recent (<2 years) PhD or MD/PhD with a strong background and publication record in a relevant field (e.g. immunology, genetics, molecular biology). The position will rely heavily on statistical analyses so demonstrated expertise in statistical analysis is required. In addition, either experience in microbiome analysis or in processing of metagenomics data would be an asset. The position will commence as soon as possible. The initial appointment will be for a one-year term, with potential for annual renewal. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Qualified candidates should send (by email) a statement of research interest, curriculum vitae and contact details for 3 referees to:

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