

FIRST RESEARCH GRANT AWARDED FROM THE BAXTER CANADIAN HEMOPHILIA EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

B-CHERP: First Hemophilia Research Award Recipient Announced

Montreal (November xx, 2009) Dr. Jean St-Louis, chair of the research committee of the Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors of Canada (AHCDC) announced today that Dr. Paula James, clinician scientist at Queens University has been awarded the first Baxter Canadian Hemophilia Epidemiological Research Program (B-CHERP) grant. Her winning application is a research study titled "A Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) to Determine Factors that Contribute to Mucocutaneous Bleeding". The research team includes co-investigators Dr. Lillicrap of Queen's University, Dr. Poon of the University of Calgary and Dr. Jackson of the University of British Columbia.

The first research goal of the GWAS team is to validate a condensed Bleeding Questionnaire to broaden its clinical utility as a screening tool and allow physicians at every level of care to effectively screen patients with hemorrhagic symptoms using a common language. Not only will this improve communication, it should also result in more appropriate hemostatic testing, and facilitate accurate diagnoses. Once a proper diagnosis has been made, patients will benefit from the institution of appropriate treatment strategies for their hemorrhagic symptoms.

The second research goal of the team is to identify the genetic loci that are associated with mucocutaneous bleeding by performing a genome wide association study. The identification of these loci could have far-reaching implications including: improving the basic understanding of the biology of coagulation, facilitating the improvement of laboratory testing, and potentially allowing for the identification of novel therapeutic targets to treat both bleeding and clotting disorders.

The goal of the Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors of Canada (AHCDC) is to ensure excellent care for persons with congenital bleeding disorders in Canada through clinical services, research and education. More information on the AHCDC can be found at www.ahcdc.ca

The Baxter Canadian Hemophilia Epidemiological Research Program (B-CHERP) was created as a partnership between Baxter Corporation and the Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors of Canada (AHCDC). B-CHERP provides Canadian investigators and hemophilia clinic directors resources to conduct quality population-based clinical research in hereditary bleeding disorders in Canada. Research grants that qualify for the funding include clinical, descriptive and epidemiological studies of hereditary bleeding disorders, including hemophilia A and B (including inhibitor patients), Von Willebrand disease, and other rare inherited bleeding disorders. One to 3 research proposals will be funded every year, each with a maximum grant of \$75,000 annually. A total of up to \$225,000 will be available every year for 3 years. For more information on the Baxter Canadian Hemophilia Epidemiological Research Program (B-CHERP), and the dates of the next competition, visit the program website at www.bcherp.ca.