



OGIRC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter/Spring 2011



OGIRC/CICMR Joint Conference Production, Pharmacology, and Health Benefits of Traditional medicines



Sutherland (Afexa).

Over the course of the conference topics covered included plant biotechnology, agricultural, ethnobotanical and pharmacological aspects of ginseng and other traditional medicines, clinical trials, development of Chinese medicine, education, and regulatory framework. Scholars exchanged research data on the effect of ginseng in varying medical conditions such as cardiovascular health, immune function, diabetes, cancer, and erectile dysfunction.

- Binh Tran, *Today Daily News*

This year's conference was held at the University of Ottawa from October 23 – 25, and gathered over one hundred Canadian and international participants from universities, government research and regulatory agencies and the natural health product private sector.

Opening remarks for the conference were presented by Dr. Roman Szumski, MD, Vice President, Life Sciences Division of the National Research Council of Canada and plenary lecturer Dr. Yung-Chi Cheng, Professor at Yale University School of Medicine and Chairman of the Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine. This conference drew in scholarly speakers from universities across Canada, Chinese scholars Dr. Li Ping (China-Japan Friendship Hospital) and Dr. Ming Zhu (Beijing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine), researchers from AAFC, NRC Institute for Nutrisciences and Health and OMAFRA. The industrial perspective was presented by Dr. Kan He (Naturex) and Dr. Sharla



**2010 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair
CNE Grounds. Toronto. Ontario. November 5 - 14**

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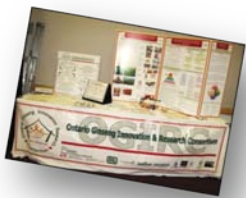
The OGIRC exhibited in the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair's "Health Professionals' Salon in the "Journey to Your Good Health" exhibit. The objective of the exhibit was to introduce our research project to the Health Professionals' Community and provide information on the traditional/cultural uses of North American ginseng, cutting-edge research on the effects of ginseng on health and future research directions. Another priority was to launch our survey "Health Care Providers' Perspectives on Standards of

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Evidence in TCM and Ginseng Use". This survey (expected to be conducted in 2011) will explore the knowledge base, attitudes and experiences of diverse health care providers have had integrating ginseng alone or in combination with other medicinal products in their therapeutic activities.

We were especially pleased to participate in the "Functional Foods & Natural Health Products: Staying Ahead of the Curve" themed Health Professionals Day on November 10. Dr. Lui participated in the event along with more than 100 dietitians, naturopaths and other health professionals, and we contributed ginseng tea to the Functional Foods Lunch. Dr. Lui also gave a 30-minute presentation on the Be Healthy Stage on Health Professionals' Day titled "What every health care provider should know about ginseng the miracle herb!"



OGIRC Display in the Health Professionals' Salon.



Dr. Lui's presentation on the Be Healthy! Stage.

OGIRC Workshops

The Pre-Clinical and Advanced Processing Platform Technology Groups (PTG) recently held workshops to:

- Review progress to date
- Explore ways to enhance the collaboration between PTGs
- Plan the "exit point" for the entire OGIRC project: creation of new, value-added Ontario ginseng products proven to be effective and safe

As the OGIRC is now in the second half of its 5-year mandate and the end date is approaching, we report that strong progress has been made towards fulfilling the three objectives:

1. To provide a systematic evaluation of the quality of Ontario-grown ginseng roots and to develop

2. To develop a unique (protectable and trackable) ginseng variety with predictable quality, safety and medicinal properties
3. To develop new value-added Ontario branded products possessing selected health promotional effects

With continuing efforts from our Investigators and Trainees, the research generated by the OGIRC membership will be of significant value to the ginseng growers, our industry partners in the Natural Health Product (NHP) sector (Naturex, Jamieson), and consumers.

Journal Clubs

Thanks to all our 2010 – 11 Journal Club Presenters!

Presenter	Topic
Robert Bi Yan Wu	Value added Ontario Ginseng Products Protective effects of Ginseng against ischemia-reperfusion injury
Subhrojit Sen	American ginseng prevents extracellular matrix formation in diabetic nephropathy
Megan Migchels	North American Ginseng Administration alters metabolic variables in the rat
Melissa Moey	Ginseng attenuates lepin-induced cardiac hypertrophy
Colin Carruthers	Influence of NA Ginseng on the initiation and progression of atherosclerosis
Mao Jiang	American Ginseng acutely regulates the contractile function of the heart
Sahar Samimi	Extraction of ginsenosides from NA Ginseng: selectivity & immunoactivity
Mehrnaz Salarian	An injectible angiogenic poly(propylene fumarate)/TiO ₂ based bone cement

Media Coverage



The OGIRC was featured on the cover of the Toronto Star's *Insight* section on January 2, 2011. Thanks to Star reporter Nicole Baute for her article!

Membership Update

Researchers

Membership Update

Trainees

Name, Institution	Platform Technology Group (PTG)
Ed Lui, Western (Scientific Director)	Pre-Clinical, Safety, Knowledge Translation
Dan Brown, AAFC/Western (Assoc. Director)	Plant Biotechnology
Praveen Saxena, Guelph	Plant Biotechnology
Jesse Zhu, Western	Advanced Processing
Paul Charpentier, Western	Advanced Processing, Phytochemistry
John Arnason, Ottawa	Phytochemistry, Advanced Processing
Marica Bakovic, Guelph	Pre-Clinical
Jim Henry, McMaster	Pre-Clinical
Zach Suntres, NOSM	Pre-Clinical
Qingping Feng, Western	Pre-Clinical
Morris Karmazyn, Western	Pre-Clinical
Earl Noble, Western	Pre-Clinical
Subrata Chakrabarti, Western	Pre-Clinical
John Trevithick, Western	Pre-Clinical
Lique Coolen, Western	Pre-Clinical
Joachim Madrenas, Western	Pre-Clinical
Kem Rogers, Western	Pre-Clinical
John Ciriello*, Western	Pre-Clinical
David Mutch*, Guelph	Pre-Clinical
David Bailey, Western/LHSC	Safety
Valter Feyles, Western	Safety
Andrew Watson*, Western	Safety
Ana Ning, Western	Knowledge Translation
David Sharp, Western	Knowledge Translation Commercialization & IP

Pre-Clinical	Plant Biotechnology
Misagh Alipour (GS)	VS Bhinu (PDF)#
Chike Azike (GS)	Divid Hawil (UGS)*#
Matthew Barnes (GS)	Carla Schmidt (T)#
Colin Carruthers (GS)	Di Wu (PDF)*
Luan Chau (T)	Sijun Zhou (PDF)
Jessica Davie (T)	Esther Uchendu (PDF)*
B. Deschambault (GS)#	Mukund Shukla (PDF)*
Tomasz Dzialoszynski (T)	
Mehrbod Estaki (GS)	
Juan Guo (PDF)#	
Jirui Hou (PDF)	
Mao Jiang (PDF)*	
Holly Lemmon (GS)*	
Cheryl Lui (UGS)*#	
Megan Migchels (GS)*	
Melissa Moey (GS)	
Hua Pei (T)	
Subhrojit Sen (PDF)	
Ratnesh Singh (PDF)	
Judit Toth (MS)*#	
Yufang Wang (PDF)*	
Sarah Wilson (UGS)*	
Yan Wu (GS)#	
Yong Fang Zhu (PDF)*	
*Recruited in Year 2-3	UGS: Undergraduate
#Left program in Year 2-3	GS: Graduate student
	MS. Medical Student
	T: Technician
	PDF: Post-doc

*New Collaborators

Welcome to our new Collaborators and Trainees!
Best of luck to our graduates!

Announcement



Graduate Student Travel Award

Jamieson Laboratories continues to demonstrate its ongoing support of the OGIRC through the establishment of the Jamieson Graduate Student Travel Award!

The objectives of this travel fund are to

1. Enhance education and training experience of graduate student trainees through the presentation of their research to the scientific community
2. Reduce the financial strain on supervisors to provide graduate students with travel funds

Eligibility

- Awarded to registered graduate students to present their ginseng research findings at a national or international conference.
- Papers/posters must be generated from the OGIRC research program and be the applicant's original research. Preference will be given to presenter that is first author.
- Supervisors comment on the importance and benefit of this travel to the student and OGIRC.
- Jamieson Laboratories is to be acknowledged
- Recipients will share their experience with the membership by submitting a written report or speaking at OGIRC Journal Club.

To Apply

- Submit an application form (www.uwo.ca/ogirc/members) with:
 - Conference abstract & proof of acceptance
 - Conference information (website)

For more information

- Visit the OGIRC website at www.uwo.ca/ogirc
- Email the OGIRC Central Office at ogirc@uwo.ca
- Phone the OGIRC Office at 519-850-2996 (x82996)

Upcoming Events

April

ORF Annual Progress Report

- Trainee Reports due to the Central Office by Monday, April 11
- Investigator Reports due to the Central Office by Monday, April 18

This is our chance to tell our funding agency about the research, presentations, publications, outreach and knowledge translation activities OGIRC researchers have accomplished in Year 3.

Please include as much detail as possible

May

Special Journal Club presentation by Dr. Suma Ramagiri from AB SCIEX on NA Ginseng metabolomics and mass spectrometry

June

OGIRC Summer Retreat

- Visit Jamieson Laboratories in Windsor

July

Indigenous Summer Camp

*Visit the OGIRC website
for more info!*



Questions or Comments?

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