

## DMNB QUARTERLY REPORT (RESEARCH)

**Q1: April – June 2019**

### RESEARCH

#### General Update

The April to June 2019 quarter was an exciting one for our Research Team with the announcement of a **partnership agreement** in May between DMNB's own Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil and molecular biotechnology company ProtoKinetix.

Working with the New Brunswick IMPART investigator team, Dr. Pulinilkunnil will lead tests on a potential cardioprotectant molecule developed by ProtoKinetix called PKX-001 to determine its therapeutic potential for cardiac metabolism.

In other noteworthy news this quarter, DMNB's newest Principal Investigator, Dr. Dan Dutton, was announced as the **runner-up** of this year's Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR) Article of the Year Award. In the wake of the release of his June report on the marital status of those in poverty, Dr. Dutton was also interviewed by the Calgary 660 AM News.

Also, with the onset of summer, the DMNB Research Department is currently at its busiest with:

- 5 Principal Investigators
- 1 MSc Student
- 1 Senior Scientist
- 8 Summer Students
- 4 Postdoctoral Researchers
- 5 Volunteers
- 6 PhD Students
- 10 Grant-Paid Staff

Therefore, with so many hands on deck and projects on the go, there will surely be no shortage of updates to share in the third quarter.

#### Metrics

##### Funding Awarded to Principal Investigators (PIs)

In DMNB's second quarter, Dr. Dan Dutton received a **\$10,000 grant** from the New Brunswick Employment and Social Inclusion Corporation (ESIC) for a joint study with principal applicant Dr. Herb Emery (UNB) on "The characteristics and trajectory of deep poverty in New Brunswick."

##### Principal Investigator (PI) Peer-Reviewed Publications

Between April and June 2019, two DMNB Principal Investigators saw their work published:

1. **1 Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil Article:** Biswas D, Duffley L, Pulinilkunnil T. Role of branched-chain amino acid-catabolizing enzymes in intertissue signaling, metabolic remodeling, and energy homeostasis. *FASEB J.* 2019 May 14: fj201802842RR. Doi: 1096/fj.201802842RR. PMID: 31084571
2. **1 Dr. Dan Dutton Report:** Dutton DJ. Marital status of those in poverty. *Social Policy Trends.* June 2019.

#### Presentations by Principal Investigators (PIs)

April was a busy month for Dr. Dan Dutton with **three presentations** around New Brunswick. On April 5, he spoke at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton for a Department of Sociology Research Workshop on quantile regression.

The week after, on April 12, he gave a presentation entitled “Population Health: Some Theories and Tools” on the University of New Brunswick Saint John campus for the Department of Psychology Colloquium.

Then, at the end of the month, he returned to Fredericton for the New Brunswick Social Policy Research Network Govmaker Conference to speak about “Healthy Aging Through Manipulating the Policy Environment” on April 30.

Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil, on the other hand, took a more jet-setting approach to presentations this quarter with **one in Manitoba** and **one in the Netherlands**.

As part of a Visiting Scholar Lecture, Dr. Pulinilkunnil traveled to Winnipeg to give a presentation entitled “Role of Transcription Factor EB in Metabolic Health and Disease.” Then, in June, it was off to Amsterdam to participate in the Society for Heart and Vascular Metabolism’s 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Sessions with a talk on “Autophagy and cardiac metabolism in cardiac diseases – Novel approaches for metabolic modulation.”

Dr. Petra Kienesberger’s PhD Student, Kenneth D’Souza, also gave a presentation at the American Oil Chemists’ Society (AOCS) Annual Meeting in May on the “Effect of whey peptides on metabolism and insulin in muscle and fat cells” for which he won a Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation (DMRF) **Kathryn A. Weldon Travel Award**.