



Canadian Foundation on Fetal Alcohol Research
Fondation canadienne de
Recherche sur l'Alcoolisation foetale

BACKGROUND

About CFFAR

The Canadian Foundation on Fetal Alcohol Research (CFFAR) is an independent, non-profit foundation created to promote interest and fund research related to the short and long-term bio-medical, psychological and social effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, and the prevention of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD).

CFFAR awards research grants to eligible Canadian researchers annually in conjunction with International FASD day and the annual Fetal Alcohol Canadian Expertise (FACE) Research Roundtable.

In keeping with scientific and academic tradition, all grant applications are peer-reviewed under the direction in accordance with guidelines determined by the CIHR. Guidelines for Grant applications can be obtained on the CFFAR website at www.fasdfoundation.ca.

The review of applications is led by CFFAR's Research Director, Dr. Gideon Koren, a world renowned authority in FASD research.

CFFAR was created in September 2007 through a five year \$1 million commitment by the Brewers Association of Canada. CFFAR is governed by a Board of Directors, comprised of leading researchers, experts and interested parties in the field of FASD research. CFFAR's Board of Directors:

- Dr. Louise Nadeau, Ph.D., *Chair*
- Dr. Gideon Koren, MD, FRCPC, *Director of Research*
- Jacques LeCavalier, *Secretary*
- Maureen Maguire, *Treasurer*
- Howard Collins
- Ian Faris

About the 2009 grant recipients and their projects

The 2009 represent an elite team of Canadian researchers. They will be receiving funds over the next two years. They are:

- Dr. Bhushan Kapur, Ph.D, University of Toronto, for the research project titled "Placental transfer of formic acid in the presence and absence of folic acid"
- Dr. Krisztina Malisza, Ph.D, University of Winnipeg. Her research project is titled "Neuroimaging Cognitive in Children with ARND & ADHD".
- Dr. Ronald Roesch, Ph.D, Simon Fraser University. His work is titled "An examination of the abilities, risks and needs of adolescents & young adults with FASD in the criminal justice system".

About FASD

- FASD and its symptoms were first diagnosed close to 35 years ago.
- FASD is caused by a woman's consumption of alcohol during pregnancy.
- It is estimated that:
 - FASD affects over 300,000 Canadians¹;
 - 9 in 1000 children in Canada are born with FASD each year².
- First Nations Communities are particularly impacted by FASD. Studies have shown that in some Aboriginal communities 1 in 5 children are born with FASD³.
- FASD is the leading cause of developmental and cognitive disabilities in Canadian children⁴.
- Secondary disabilities such as depression, obsessive compulsive disorders and alcohol and drug dependency are often linked to FASD².
- Research demonstrates that people who suffer from FASD are at a much larger risk of experiencing negative socio-economic outcomes such as criminal records and incarceration, unemployment and homelessness².

¹ Public Health Agency of Canada. *Frequently Asked Questions*. 2005 www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/fasd-etcaf/pdf/faq_fasd_e.pdf

² Health Canada. *It's Your Health – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder*. 7 Dec 2006 www.hc-sc.gc.ca/iyh-vsv/diseases-maladies/fasd-etcaf_e.html

³ First Nations and Inuit Health. *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Effects*. 8 Mar 2005 www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnih-spni/famil/preg-gros/intro_e.html

⁴ Public Health Agency of Canada. *Summary Report: National Thematic Workshop on FASD*. 2006 www.nationalframework-cadrenational.ca/uploads/files/TWS_FASD/FASD_PHAC_EN_mar29_30_06.pdf



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About Fetal Alcohol Canadian Expertise (FACE)

- FACE (Fetal Alcohol Canadian Expertise) is a network of over 150 researchers, program providers and other stakeholders, actively engaged in FASD prevention and intervention.
- At FACE Research Roundtables held each year on or about September 9th, members and guests continue the time-honoured tradition of research collaboration—presenting scientific findings for peer review, describing successful service models, and identifying next steps in the fight against Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).
- Since 2000, Roundtable participants have been the first to:
 - study the direct medical and educational costs of FASD in Canada and social impact of FASD on an individual's life;
 - develop new screening methods such as meconium testing, and diagnostic tools such as saccadic eye movements;
 - highlight the role of fathers in the prevention of FASD; and
 - develop award-winning programs to help pregnant women who use alcohol overcome their addiction.