



Fact Sheet

CCFC Research Programs

- Medical research is simply the best hope for finding a cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis known collectively as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).
- To date, CCFC has invested more than \$61 million in major medical research projects and is one of the world's leading sources of non-governmental funding of IBD research; in fact CCFC is Canada's major funder of IBD research.
- In 2008-2009, CCFC invested \$5.7 million in new and ongoing research.
- In 2007, CCFC began funding the landmark, cross-national **GEM** project looking at the **G**enetic, **E**nvironmental and **M**icrobial factors contributing to the onset of Crohn's disease.
- CCFC's long history of funding Canada's most talented IBD researchers, universities, and research institutes has helped junior scientists attract follow-on funding from other sources; attracted foreign scientists to work with Canadian teams; and helped senior research leaders attract talented researchers to join their teams.
- In 2003, CCFC created the CCFC IBD Research Institute – resulting in a major expansion of our research initiatives.
- CCFC funded Canada's first nationwide epidemiological study of IBD which reliably estimated the incidence and prevalence of IBD. These statistics assess the real "burden" of this disease on patients, their families and the Canadian health care system.
- Thanks to the significant research investment made by CCFC, much more is now known about the fundamental biology of the intestine. While much more is known about the mechanisms underlying IBD, the picture is much more complex than anticipated. More work is needed to develop an integrated understanding of the complete picture.

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