


[View this email in your browser](#)



April 2025 Newsletter





Year Three Highlights

2024

Message from the Executive

Thank you to all our wonderful members for your contributions to the network, helping us work toward our ongoing mission to enhance the health of children with IBD. Although CIDSCaNN remains predominantly a network for research (clinical, basic, translational), and with links to health administrative data, our scope has expanded to include pillars of Education and Patient Engagement & Advocacy. And of course, sustainability continued to be a strong focus in 2024. These highlights are from the Year Three Report submitted to CHLD. We encourage you to read the full report for more detailed information.

Changes to the Executive Committee

We thank Dr. Jennifer deBruyn, who completed her term in November. Dr. Eileen Crowley transitioned to Co-Chair alongside Co-Chair Dr. Eytan Wine, and Dr. Eric Benchimol was welcomed as Co-Chair Elect.

→ AMBITION

Our major research initiative prospective cohort study comparing anti-TNF antibody therapy with anti-IL12/23 antibody therapy has recently completed recruitment. It offers unique opportunities to optimize therapy based on pro-active therapeutic drug monitoring, and to refine assessment of endoscopic severity in children using central reading of colonoscopy video-recordings (first manuscript submitted).

→ PARTNERED PROJECTS

Partnered projects allow us to investigate:

- the role of pathobionts in children with colitis
- predictors of response to anti-TNF therapy
- collection of intestinal resection biopspecimens
- youth and parent preferences for treatments
- Improving transition to adult care

→ EDUCATION

In 2024, the Education Committee held four **National Education Events**. These webinars help us identify research gaps and facilitate discussions about possible collaborative research ideas. As part of the Crohn's Colitis Canada PACE transition study, the education committee ran national educational transition webinars for control participants in 2023 and 2024. These will continue in 2025.

→ MANUSCRIPTS & PUBLICATIONS

Members continue to share the amazing work being done, through articles and presentations, in Canada and internationally. There were **three presentations** and **one publication** by CIDSCaNN members in 2024.

Read the Year Three Highlights!

A summary of the CIDSCaNN Year Three Report to the CH.I.L.D. Foundation is now available.

Members are encouraged to download a copy of this summary on the [blog](#).

Thank you for another fantastic year!



Don't forget to check the Project Tracker!

We're excited to roll out the CIDsCaNN Master Project Tracker, a new tool to help us stay organized, aligned, and collaborative as our network continues to grow.

With so many incredible projects underway, this tracker makes it easy to see what's happening across the board, ensure key policies are followed, and highlight the amazing work being done. Already leading a project? Make sure it's listed—and if it is, take a moment to confirm the info is accurate and up to date. Let's keep the momentum going!

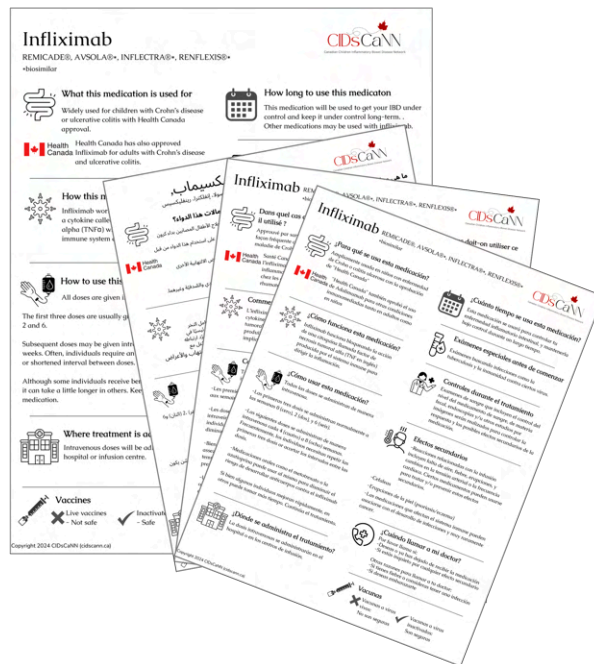
Find the Tracker in the CIDsCaNN Shared Documents DropBox folder, within the CIDsCaNN Activity Management folder. If you have trouble accessing it, contact Michelle (michelle.ouzounis@sickkids.ca).

Project Tracker on the shared Dropbox

CIDsCaNN Medication Fact Sheets are now available!

Find trusted, clear information about commonly-prescribed IBD medications, designed for patients and their loved ones. **PLUS**, additional resources to help with pill swallowing, needle phobia and understanding biosimilars.

Members can [download these sheets](#) or direct patients and families to the website where they will find the sheets in four languages (where available)—English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Sheets may be added or updated over time, so be sure to check back for updates.



Thank you to all CIDsCaNN members who contributed to this important initiative!

RPh, Sarah Kohut, PhD Psychology, Dareen Elsayed, Pharmacy student, Emile Demers, Pharmacist, Guillermo Costaguta MD, Marie-Catherine Turcotte, MD, Linda Adouane, MD, Nourane Helali, MD, Hugo Gagnon, MD, Kasey Wiseman, medical student, Heather Dyer, Communications Specialist

Important Reminders

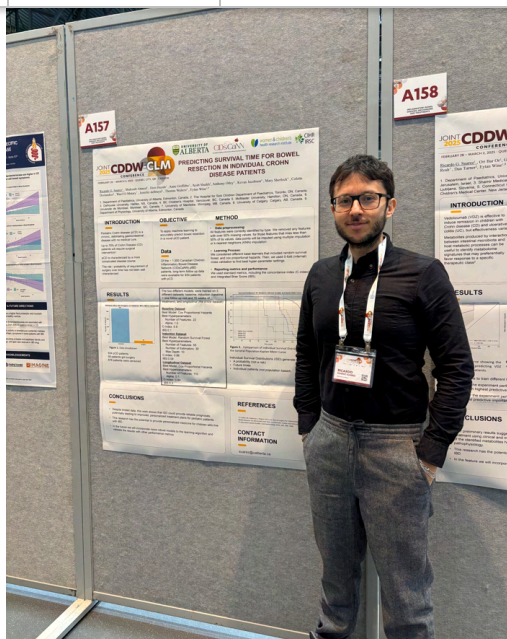
Access the CIDsCaNN database. We encourage CIDsCaNN members and trainees to develop research protocols, abstracts and publications using information from the CIDsCaNN database. Find information on the [Governance & Policies](#) webpage.

CIDsCaNN provides financial support for the cost of printing posters and abstract fees for network-related submissions. Please email Suzanne at suzanne.shek@sickkids.ca for information.

Preparing a grant application? The budget builder is available by contacting Michelle at michelle.ouzounis@sickkids.ca.

The CIDsCaNN shared documents [Dropbox](#) has logo files, poster templates and branded powerpoint templates for member use.

Presentations, Awards & Grants



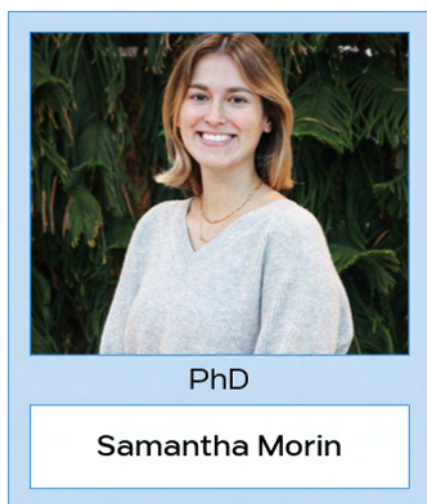
abstract for the study, **PREDICTING SURVIVAL TIME FOR BOWEL RESECTION IN INDIVIDUAL CROHN DISEASE PATIENTS** at the recent CDDW conference.

Ricardo was also awarded with the CIDsCaNN travel grant to attend CDDW!

Learn more! A single-page summary of this study has been posted to the blog at cidscann.ca. To see your research highlighted on the blog, contact Heather (heather.dyer@ucalgary.ca).

Congratulations to the following TRIANGLE Award recipients!

Samantha Morin received an AMPLIFY Doctoral Salary Award



Sam Morin's doctoral research explores how movement behaviours – such as physical activity, sedentary time, and sleep – are linked to health outcomes in children and adolescents with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) treated with Infliximab. Using a mixed-methods approach, her work examines associations between movement and drug levels, daily disease-related wellbeing, and patient and caregiver experiences during treatment. This research aims to inform more holistic care strategies to ultimately improve treatment response, quality of life, and long-term outcomes for youth living with IBD.

Rabia Khan received an AMPLIFY Postdoctoral Salary Award

During research training, Rabia has led various projects at SickKids Hospital focused on IBD. Her current research includes assessing the health services using patterns and outcomes of children with IBD and Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC) in Ontario. This work will contribute to valuable



PDF

Rabia Khan

research, providing insights into the burden of IBD, informing patient counselling, identifying those at risk of poor outcomes, and aiding in health system planning for better treatment strategies.

Eileen Crowley received an Early Career Researcher SECURE Award

CIDSCaNN research to be presented at ESPGHAN 2025!

Thomas Walters is heading to ESPGHAN in May to present the abstract for Ustekinumab in Bionaive Crohn's Disease (Ustekinumab group from AMBITION-CD with 1 year follow-up). It was accepted as a late-breaking abstract to ESPGHAN!

=Welcome=

Join us in welcoming new CIDSCaNN member, Michael Shpoliansky!

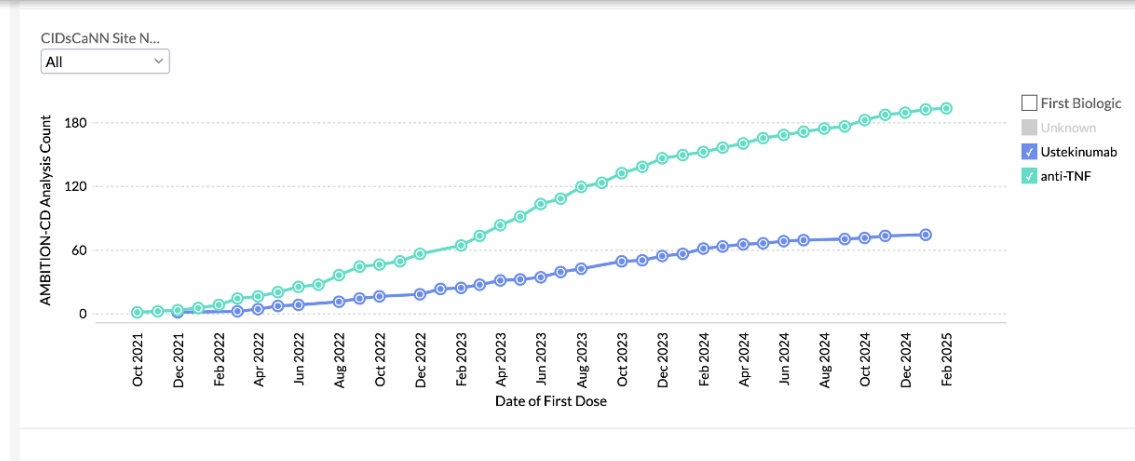
Dr. Shpoliansky is a gastroenterologist and head of the IBD program at Children's Hospital, Winnipeg.

Reminder

Did you know? Conference travel funds are available for trainees and early-stage investigators who submit and present abstracts of CIDSCaNN data.

Find the application form [on the website](#).

Current Projects



Phase 2 CIDSCaNN: AMBITION-CD

Participating sites: All

Assessment of Mucosal Biochemical and clinical response to Interleukin-12/23 or TNF Inhibitors in biologic-naïve Crohn's Disease

Target: 200 antiTNF, 100 UST

AMBITION-CD Site Lead Meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month.

Inclusion criteria: Children age 2-17y with Crohn's disease starting first biologic as antiTNF or UST for luminal Crohn's disease

Contact: Hayley hayley.mckay@sickkids.ca

Contact: Michelle
michelle.ouzounis@sickkids.ca

Site	Enrolled in AMBITION-CD	Biologic	
		Ustekinumab	Anti TNF
Calgary	12	9	3
Ottawa	27	1	26
Montreal	4	3	1
Ste Justine	19	10	9
Vancouver	51	1	50
Toronto	64	18	46
London	20	5	15
Edmonton	28	18	10
Halifax	19	3	16
St Johns	4	0	4
Winnipeg	16	3	13
McMaster	3	3	0
Total	267	74	193

Biopsies	97 (43%)
DNA	189 (84%)
RNA	167 (77%)
Serum	173 (77%)
Stool	110 (49%)

Education Update

Missed the latest Education Session? No problem!

You can watch it on the [CIDSCaNN YouTube channel](#).

Have you subscribed to be notified of Education sessions?

This is intended to help us keep track of registration and notify participants of cancellations or changes. All you need to do is [visit the website](#) and fill in a short form.

Please respond to the Education Committees' survey about future topics!

As we take your topic suggestions very seriously, you may see one of your topic ideas show up during future sessions. Thank you very much for your ongoing engagement and ideas!

We encourage you to share the Education Session calendar invites with your multidisciplinary teams. Please find the dates for future sessions, and past recordings at cidscann.ca/education

[Go to the website](#)



PARTICIPATING SITES



Copyright (C) 2023 Canadian Children Inflammatory Bowel Disease Network. All rights reserved.

Contact:

555 University Avenue, Toronto ON Canada M5G 1X8

Email: info@cidscann.ca

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)