

CHILD Study



In 2007, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and AllerGen NCE Inc. provided a grant of \$12-million to seed a 6-year research initiative now known as the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) study which is directed by Dr. Malcolm Sears, Professor of Medicine at McMaster University.

The CHILD study is a prospective longitudinal, population based birth-cohort study that will enroll 5,000 families from 4 regions across Canada. With additional funding, the study will follow the children from before birth to 5 years of age to investigate the roles of indoor and outdoor environmental exposures, infections, nutrition, genetics and psychosocial factors in the development of allergic diseases, including food allergies, eczema, allergic rhinitis and asthma, particularly examining gene-environment interactions.

The CHILD study has brought together leading researchers from numerous specialties including pediatric and adult respirology, neonatology, population health, epidemiology, allergy and immunology, infectious diseases, environmental assessment, medical geography, geographic information systems, environmental hygiene, occupational medicine, obstetrics, pulmonary physiology and pathology, genetics, genetic epidemiology, epigenetics, nutrition, molecular biology, psychology, air quality, toxicology, sociology, neuroimmunology, biostatistics and bioethics.

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CHILD arose from three initiatives:

- **Health Canada / CIHR**
- child health and the environment
- **AllerGen Network of Centres of Excellence**
- risk factors for development of allergy and asthma
- **University Researchers**
- neonatal immunology and infant lung development

Who is involved in CHILD?

- Over 40 investigators from multiple institutions across Canada
- Federal partners
- Health Canada, CMHC
- Established research teams at 4 recruitment centres
- Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver

What is CHILD's current status?

- Funding commenced January 2008
- Ethics approval obtained at all sites
- Pilot recruitment completed December 2008, with 200 pregnant mothers enrolled
- Pilot data currently being evaluated
- Full CHILD study will begin in Spring 2009

Opportunities for Kids Health Research

- 5000 children in a longitudinal population-based, family-centered research study
- Potential platform for future initiatives in pediatric research

