

## Prospective cohort studies in Canada and their role in assessing environmental risk factors

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Executive Director, Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project, U of T

For OEH Seminar, Toronto  
January 10, 2020

1

## Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

*None*

***Declaration:***

- *Professor McLaughlin is co-lead of program with funding awarded through a national competition to establish the scientific base for the Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project*

2

## Outline

1. Environmental epidemiology examples and designs
2. Cohort study history & Canadian opportunities
3. Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project
  - CPTP purpose, design & current status
4. CPTP for studies of environmental factors
5. CPTP partnerships and unique opportunities
6. Future directions and discussion

3

3

## Environmental & Genetic Factors in Lung Cancer

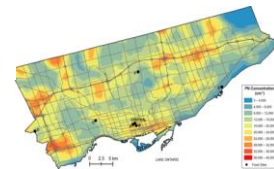


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Advance Access publication:  
November 27, 2013

A Case-Control Study of Long-Term Exposure to Ambient Volatile Organic Compounds and Lung Cancer in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Paul J. Villeneuve\*, Michael Jerrett, Darren Brenner, Jason Su, Hong Chen, and John R. McLaughlin



Toronto-based case-control study: 445 cases & 948 controls

**Results:** Benzene - OR=1.8 (95% CI = 1.3 - 2.7) Nitrogen dioxide - OR=1.6 (95% CI = 1.2 - 2.1)

### Environmental Factors

24 publications

Synergy Consortium – 5K cases + 6.5k controls

Exposure OR (95% CI)

eg, ETS 1.4 (0.9-2.2)

Pub

Kim et al, Int J Ca 2014

### Genetic Factors

21 publications

ILCCO Consortium – 12K cases + 15k controls

Gene

OR (95% CI)

eg, 15q25 1.2 (1.1-1.3)

Pub

Hung et al, Nature 2009

### Consider:

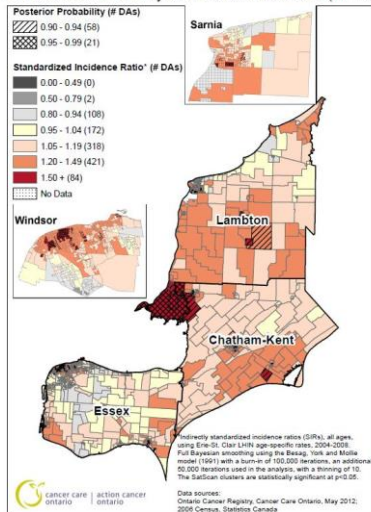
- Strength of association & causality?
- Modifiable risk factor?
- Effective intervention?
- Implementation & by whom?

4

4

## Cancer Registry Data - Ontario Population (cohort)

Male Lung Cancer Incidence, 2004-2008, 1323 Observed Cases in the Erie-St Clair LHM by 2006 Dissemination Area (N=1105)



### Lung Cancer Standardized Incidence Ratios

– Advanced GIS analysis with Bayesian smoothing & covariate adjustment

### Geospatial Analysis Project

(Cancer Research Society grant to McLaughlin, Holowaty, Norwood & Harris)

*Population data resources for exposures & outcomes enable environmental studies*

5

5

## Previously presented - Cross-Canada Case-Control Study - An early report on Glyphosate

[published odds ratio (OR), relative risk (RR) and confidence interval (CI)]

McDuffie et al. (2001), Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 10:1155

- Recall of pesticide exposures in early-1990s and before
- 4 types of cancer & many pesticides
- Prior hypothesis re: NHL and Phenoxy-herbicides (e.g., 2,4-D)
- Number who ever used glyphosate

Cases = 51/517 (10%) vs. Controls = 133/1506 (9%)

- **Ever used glyphosate - OR = 1.2 (95% CI = 0.8-1.7) (adjusted\*)**
- **Longest use of glyphosate - OR = 2.1 (95% CI = 1.2-3.7)\***

\* Logistic regression model adjusted for age, province, medical risk factors (e.g., measles, mumps, family history, etc.)

6

6

## Study Design Options – e.g., NHL

### Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

- Annual Incidence rate = 20 per 100,000 (age-standardized, both sexes combined / Source: Canadian Cancer Statistics, 2016)
- Rare disease

### How large a cohort needed to obtain 500 incident cases ?

- Cohort size (approximately)
  - = No. cases / Rate (cases per 100,000 persons per year)
  - = 2,500,000 p-yrs (i.e., follow 100,000 for 25 yrs)
- Whereas our case-control study collected information on approximately 2,000 participants

7

7

## Interpretation of Glyphosate Results from Case-control vs. Cohort Studies

| Study                     | OR            | # Cases                    | Exposure Assessment                          |
|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Case-Control - NHL</b> |               |                            | All used self-report                         |
| - McDuffie 2001           | 2.1 (1.2-3.7) | <b>517 (51 exposed)</b>    |  |
| - De Roos 2003            | 2.1 (1.1-4.0) | 872                        | Validation with no evidence of recall bias * |
| - Eriksson 2008           | 2.0 (1.1–3.7) | 910                        |  |
| <b>Cohort</b>             |               |                            | Self-report, with validation in sub-study    |
| - De Roos 2005            | 1.1 (0.7-1.9) | <b>92 NHL (71 exposed)</b> |  |
|                           | 2.6 (0.7-9.4) | 32 Multiple Myeloma        |  |

\* - Blair and Zahm. Epidemiology. 1993; 4:55–62.

8

8

## Radiation & Breast Cancer – *A cohort example*

### Canadian Fluoroscopy Cohort Study

- Howe and McLaughlin. Radiation Research 1996



- 31,917 women
- treated for TB in Canadian institution between 1930-52
- 688 breast cancer deaths from 1950 to 1987
- Excess RR approximately constant from 5 to 39 yrs after exposure, with a possible decrease between 40 and 57 yrs
- Model estimates excess lifetime risk of breast cancer mortality after repeated, low-dose radiation exposures
- Relevant to risk assessment for routine mammographic screening

9

9

## Cohort study history & Canadian opportunities

10

10

## Prospective Cohort Studies – *A selective history*

- Frost (1935) introduced "cohort study" in 1935 to study TB in people born at different periods
- Framingham Heart Study – n = 5200 recruited in 1948-52, with 65 year follow-up and >3000 publications (Dawber et al)
  - Including odds ratio and early use of logit, leading to logistic regression (Cornfield 1951)
- Doll and Hill (1954) published 1<sup>st</sup> mortality follow-up from British Doctors Study – n=40,000 recruited in 1951 and followed for 50 years (Doll et al 2004)
  - Assessing environmental risk factors – e.g., Doll and Peto (1954) re: smoking

11

11

## Prospective Cohort Studies in Canada

– *a brief historical selection*

- Computerized record linkage (Newcombe, Science 1959)
- Many cohort eg's across Canada – by population stratum, age (birth, older ages), occupation, geographic, ethno-cultural, disease-status, etc.
- Canadian Fluoroscopy Study – 120,000 adults fluoroscoped for TB therapy from 1930-52 with 60+ yr follow-up - linked to mortality and cancer incidence (Miller et al.)
- Canadian National Breast Screening Cohort Study (NBSS) – 90,000 women in RCT of breast cancer screening, ages 40–59 between 1980-85, 30 yr follow-up by record linkage (Miller et al.)



Anthony Miller  
Professor Emeritus, DLSPH  
and *Order of Canada!* (Dec. 2019)

12

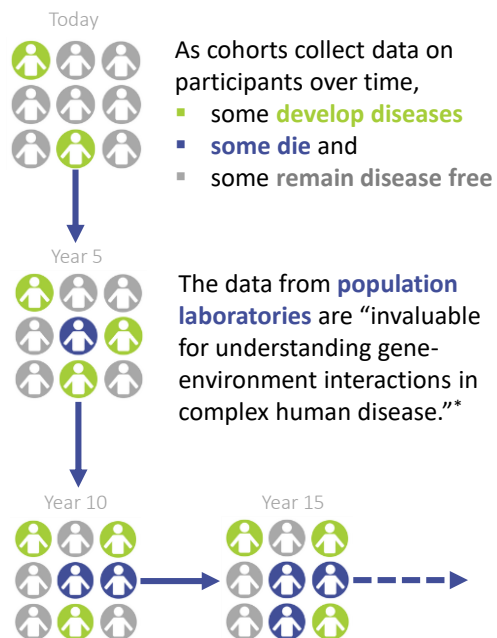
12

## Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project (CPTP) - Purpose, design & current status

14

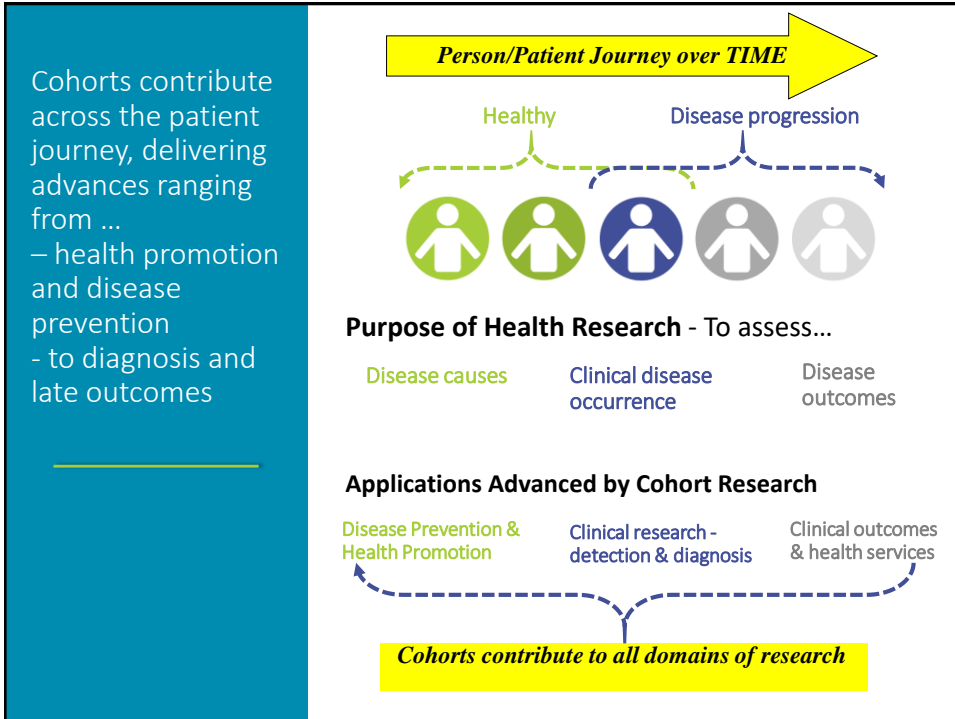
14

Large-scale population health observatories enable detection of disease risks

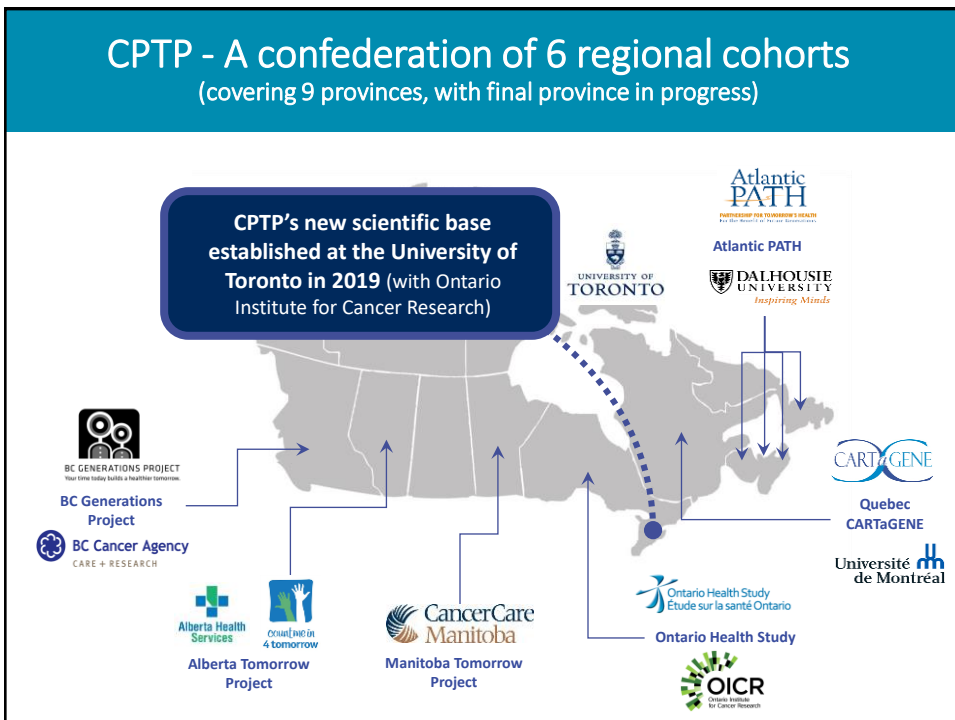


\* Source:  
Maniolo et al. 2006 . *Genes, environment and the value of prospective cohort studies.*

15

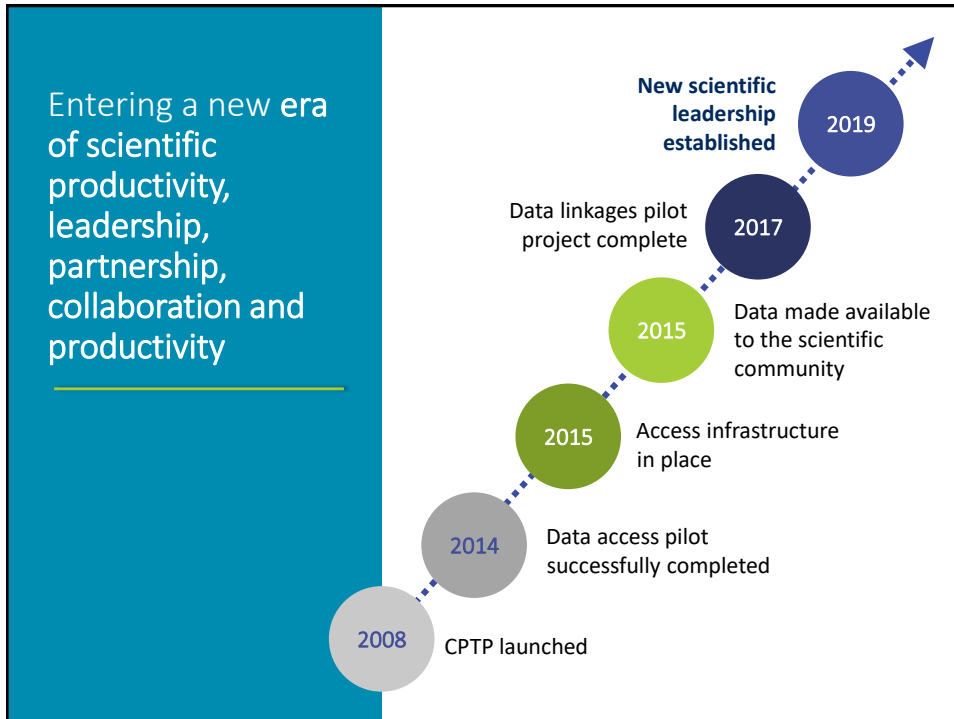


16



17





18

CPTP's leadership brings extensive experience in building large-scale research initiatives

- Build on & strengthen established structures
- Strong scientific and operational leadership
- Build on existing partnership
- Designed to strategically attract new partners



**Dr. John McLaughlin**  
Executive Director



**Dr. Philip Awadalla**  
Scientific Director

*Experienced in building and sustaining major research platforms used by researchers across Canada, including CPTP.*

- **Leadership Team:**
  - Dr. Trevor Dummer, National Scientific Co-Director at UBC - with all Regional Directors
- **Operational leads** - across Canada
- **National Strategic Advisory Council** – with Funders and Hosts
- **International Scientific Advisory Board**

19

## CPTP Purpose, Vision and Mission

**Purpose:** Enhance and accelerate research to prevent disease for a healthier Canada.

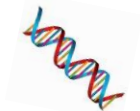
**Vision:** Improve population health through a better understanding of the causes of chronic disease and cancer.


**Mission:** To provide a national platform that supports high quality, innovative population health research in Canada and globally.

20

20

## CPTP Data and Biosamples: Beginning in 2008



| Core questionnaire   | DNA containing samples  | Physical measures  | Urine samples   | Toenail clippings  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;300,000</li> <li>• Demographics</li> <li>• Lifestyle</li> <li>• Risk factors</li> <li>• Several others</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Venous blood collection (&gt;150,000)</li> <li>• Blood spots (&gt;28,000)</li> <li>• Saliva (&gt;8,000)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 90,000</li> <li>• Height/weight</li> <li>• Waist/hip circumference</li> <li>• BMI</li> <li>• Grip strength</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101,000</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• &gt;30,000</li> </ul>  |

21

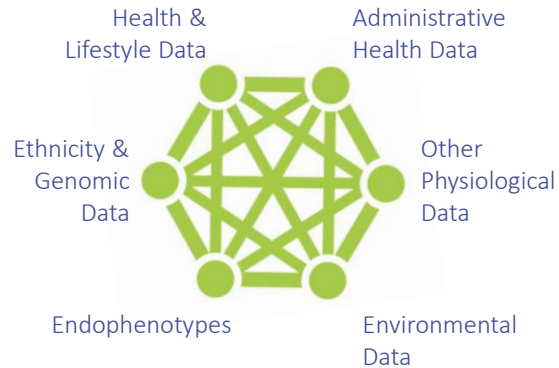
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## Enabling diverse health research based on linked data

- e.g.

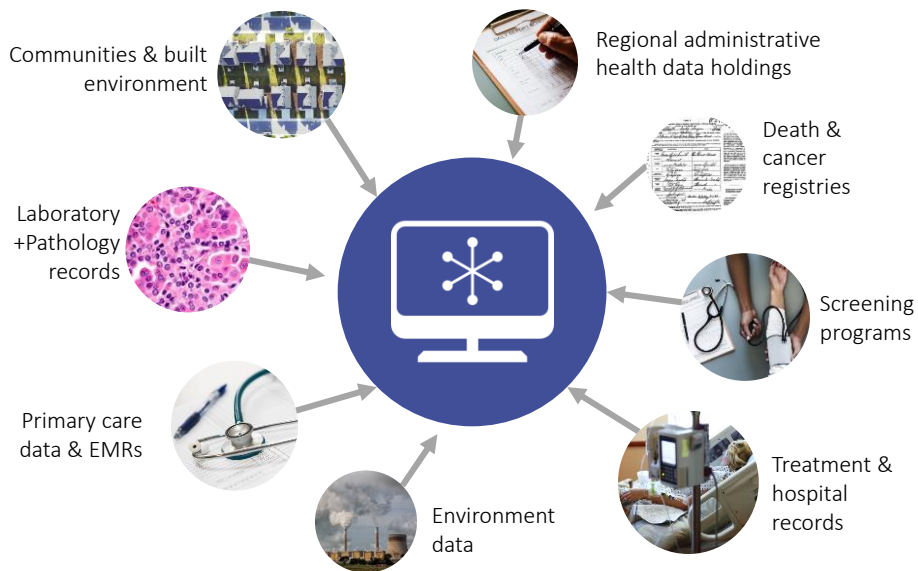
- causes of illness
- outcomes of disease
- response to clinical interventions
- community interventions
- detection of health related inequities
- health systems performance etc.

CPTP is **linking personal, behavioural, environmental, health system and biological data** to investigate cancer and chronic disease causes and determinants.

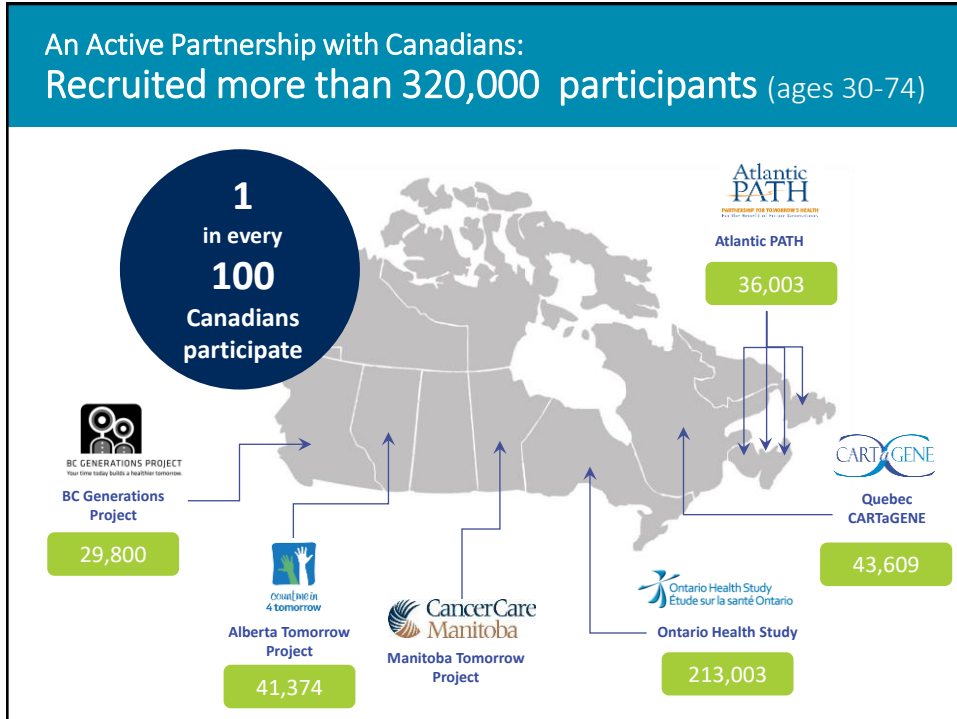


22

## Linking to health data – A distinct Canadian advantage



23



24

Summary of CPTP participants and data available for research

T Dummer et al.  
CMAJ, June 2018

### The Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project: a pan-Canadian platform for research on chronic disease prevention

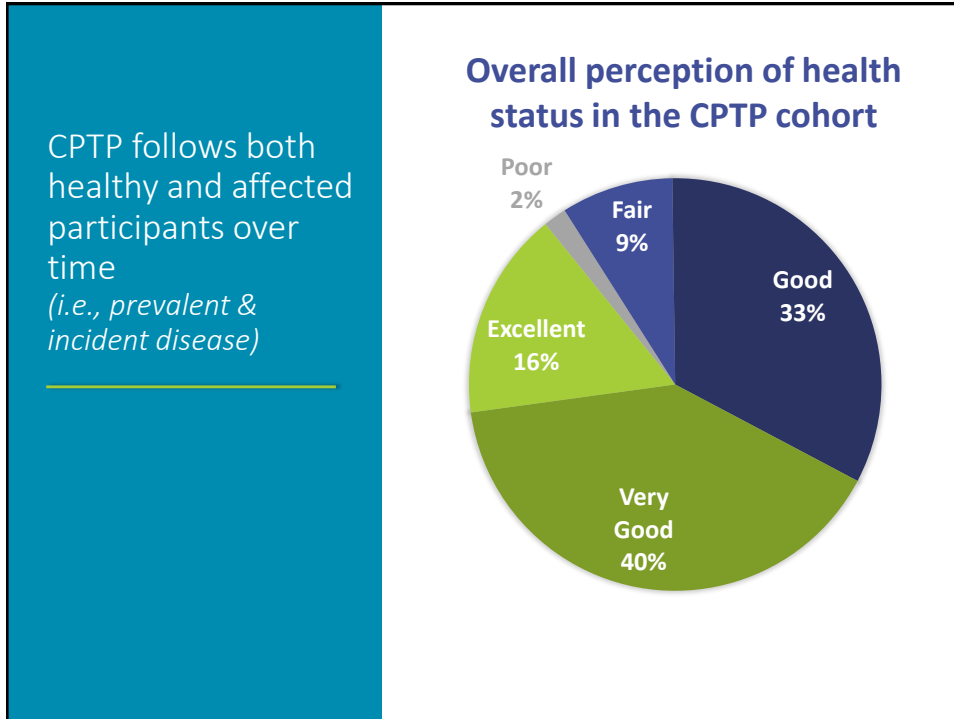
Trevor J.B. Dummer PhD, Philip Awadalla PhD, Catherine Boileau PhD, Camille Craig MSc, Isabel Fortier PhD, Vivek Goel MD, Jason M.T. Hicks MSc, Sébastien Jacquemont MD, Bartha Maria Knoppers PhD, Nhu Le PhD, Treena McDonald MSc, John McLaughlin PhD, Anne-Marie Mes-Masson PhD, Anne-Monique Nuyt MD, Lyle J. Palmer PhD, Louise Parker PhD, Mark Purdue PhD, Paula J. Robson PhD, John J. Spinelli PhD, David Thompson MSc, Jennifer Vena PhD, Ma'n Zawati LL.M; with the CPTP Regional Cohort Consortium\*

■ Cite as: CMAJ/2018 June 11;190:E710-7. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.170292

| Region                     | Participants, no. (%) |                       |                | Provided venous blood sample |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
|                            | Men                   | Women                 | Total          |                              |
| Atlantic PATH              | 10 185 (30.4)         | 23 344 (69.6)         | 33 529         | 23 897 (71.3)                |
| CARTaGENE                  | 18 995 (44.8)         | 23 438 (55.2)         | 42 433         | 29 874 (70.4)                |
| Ontario Health Study       | 66 172 (40.5)         | 97 291 (59.5)         | 163 463        | 41 085 (25.1)                |
| Alberta's Tomorrow Project | 13 433 (34.6)         | 25 351 (65.4)         | 38 784         | 29 193 (75.3)                |
| BC Generations Project     | 9028 (31.3)           | 19 780 (68.7)         | 28 808         | 26 562 (92.2)                |
| <b>CPTP total</b>          | <b>117 813 (38.4)</b> | <b>189 204 (61.6)</b> | <b>307 017</b> | <b>150 611 (49.1)</b>        |




Note: CPTP = Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project, PATH = Partnership for Tomorrow's Health.

25



26

## Enriching the CPTP Datasets

| Derived Data   | Questionnaires  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Data Linkage  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genotype (fall 2018)</li> <li>• Blood Analyte Data (fall 2018)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPTP core follow-up questionnaire</li> <li>• Occupational History Questionnaire</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE) (fall 2018)</li> <li>• Cardiac, Vascular and Cognitive Dysfunction Alliance (CVCD Alliance) (spring 2019)</li> </ul> |

27

27

Access to CPTP Data  
by the Research  
Community

CPTP Data Portal  
—Online and Active

Website: [www.partnershipfortomorrow.ca](http://www.partnershipfortomorrow.ca)

Portal: [portal.partnershipfortomorrow.ca](http://portal.partnershipfortomorrow.ca)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/cptproject](http://www.facebook.com/cptproject)

Twitter: [@cptproject](https://twitter.com/cptproject)

[portal.partnershipfortomorrow.ca](http://portal.partnershipfortomorrow.ca)

Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project **CPTP PORTAL** HOME COHORT DATASETS BIOSAMPLES ACCESS

The Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project (CPTP) Portal provides the research community with the necessary resources to identify epidemiological and biological data available from five participating cohorts to answer innovative research questions. A request for access to CPTP data is initiated directly through the CPTP Portal.

| Cohort design   | Datasets  | Biological samples  | Access   |
|---|---|---|--|
|   |   |   |  |
| Find out more about the five regional cohorts of the CPTP.<br><a href="#">Read more</a> | Find out more about the CPTP datasets and data harmonization approach.<br><a href="#">Read more</a> | Find out more about CPTP's biological sample collection and its upcoming availability.<br><a href="#">Read more</a> | Find out more about CPTP Access Policy, the access process, and approved research projects.<br><a href="#">Read more</a> |

**Welcome to the CPTP Portal!** The Portal includes comprehensive information on cohort design, the data harmonized across five regional cohorts, the biological samples collected, and CPTP's Access Policy and access process.

**Data available**  
CPTP harmonized datasets are available to researchers through an access request and include:

28

CPTP for OEH research on environmental  
determinants of disease

29

29

Supporting studies  
of concern to local  
populations

## Arsenic and Health (Atlantic)

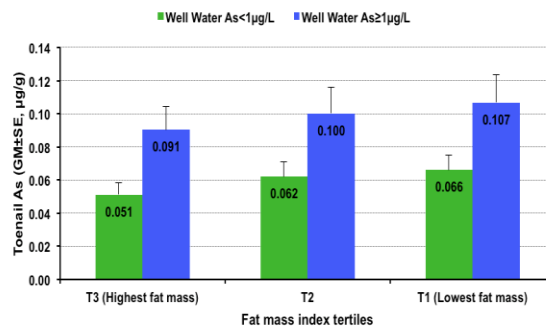
### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Relationship between drinking water and toenail arsenic concentrations among a cohort of Nova Scotians

Zhijie M. Yu<sup>1</sup>, Trevor J.B. Dummer<sup>1</sup>, Aimee Adams<sup>2</sup>, John D. Murimboh<sup>2</sup> and Louise Parker<sup>1</sup>

*Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology* advance online publication, 25 December 2013;

Arsenic concentrations in toenails exposed to different levels of well water arsenic among Nova Scotians across tertiles of body fat mass index



30

Advancing evidence  
and knowledge  
translation relevant  
to local populations

## Arsenic and Cancer (Atlantic)



Environment International  
Volume 66, May 2014, Pages 115-123



What is the role of obesity in the aetiology of arsenic-related disease?

Zhijie M. Yu<sup>a</sup>, Bryan Fung<sup>b</sup>, John D. Murimboh<sup>b</sup>, Louise Parker<sup>a</sup>, Trevor J.B. Dummer<sup>a,c</sup>

### Highlights

- An obesity-related diet score was developed using reduced rank regression
- Drinking water arsenic levels were comparable across quartiles of the diet score
- Individuals with obesity-related diets had lower toenail arsenic concentrations



Science of The Total Environment  
Volume 505, 1 February 2015, Pages 1259-1273



Understanding the translation of scientific knowledge about arsenic risk exposure among private well water users in Nova Scotia

Heather Chappells<sup>a,c</sup>, Norma Campbell<sup>a,b</sup>, John Drage<sup>a,b</sup>, Conrad V. Fernandez<sup>a,b</sup>, Louise Parker<sup>a,b</sup>, Trevor J.B. Dummer<sup>a,b</sup>

### Highlights

- Scientific and public knowledge of arsenic risk in private wells is misaligned.
- Well users surveyed were confident in water quality without regular testing.
- Local and social networks are key to arsenic risk knowledge circulation.
- Stakeholder interaction highlights effective channels for risk communication.

31

CPTP Partnership:

## Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium

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Funded as CIHR Signature Initiative (\$4M over 5 years)

Environmental data linked to CPTP

CANUE is led by :


- **Dr. Jeffrey Brook** (PI)
- With CPTP leaders and interdisciplinary, pan-Canadian team of research leaders and collaborators







- Every location in Canada described by complex set of environmental factors
- CANUE is building capacity to study how these multiple **environmental factors are linked to a wide range of health outcomes**
- Enable effective, evidence-based strategies for planning healthy cities and towns, today and in the future.



32

### CANUE Data Platform – Data Themes



| NEIGHBOURHOOD FACTORS   | GREEN/BLUE SPACES   | CLIMATE  |
|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| AIR QUALITY   | NOISE   | TRANSPORTATION   |


**ANALYSIS-READY EXPOSURE DATA = easy for researchers to access and use**

*Source (with thanks): J. Brooks, D. Doiron, E. Seaton*

Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium 33

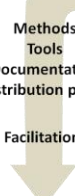
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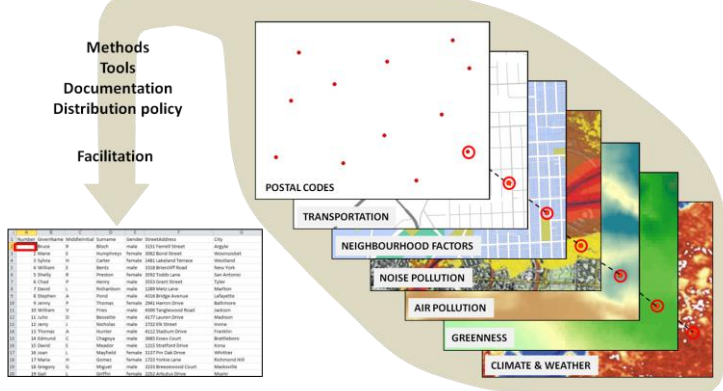




## CPTP and CANUE

Methods  
Tools  
Documentation  
Distribution policy  
Facilitation





1980

● CANUE DATA

→


2050

*Source (with thanks): J. Brooks, D. Doiron, E. Seaton*

Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium


34

34



## CANUE Data Linked to National CPTP Dataset

<https://portal.partnershipfortomorrow.ca/>



CPTP PORTAL

HOME COHORT DATA BIOSAMPLES ACCESS SEARCH SUPPORT

### ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE DATA

The CIHR-funded Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium (CANUE) collates and generates standardized area-level environmental data on air and noise pollution, land use, green/natural spaces, climate change/extreme weather, and socioeconomic conditions and links this data to existing Canadian cohort studies and administrative health databases. An initial batch of CANUE exposure datasets have been merged with the national harmonized CPTP dataset and are now available to researchers. These datasets include:

- Canadian Active Living Environments Database (Can-ALE)
- Material and Social Deprivation Index
- Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI; i.e. "greenness" metrics)
- Annual average nitrogen dioxide (NO2) exposure
- Annual average ozone (O3) exposure
- Annual average fine particulate matter (PM2.5) exposure
- Annual average sulfur dioxide (SO2) exposure
- Weather and Climate metrics


*Source (with thanks): J. Brooks, D. Doiron, E. Seaton*

Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium

35

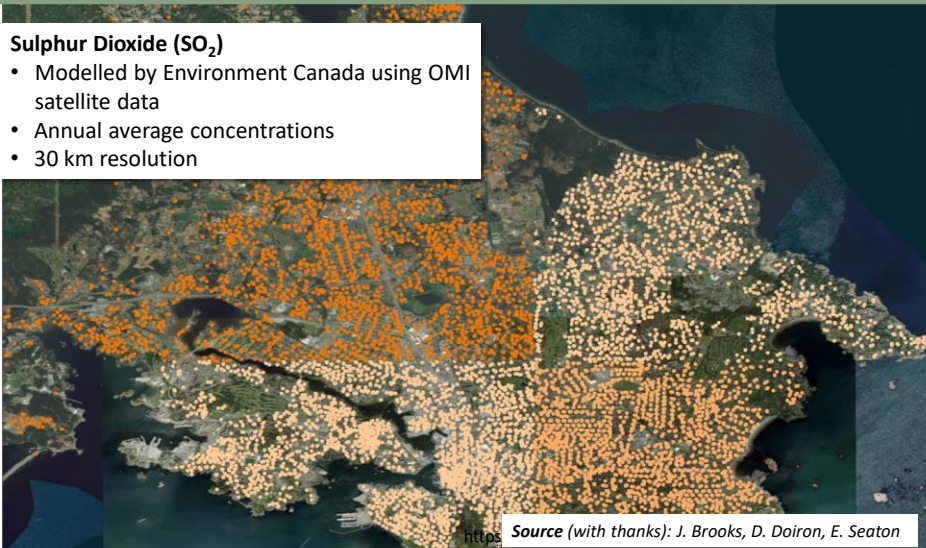
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## CANUE Data Example – Air quality



**Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)**

- Modelled by Environment Canada using OMI satellite data
- Annual average concentrations
- 30 km resolution




Source (with thanks): J. Brooks, D. Doiron, E. Seaton

Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium 36

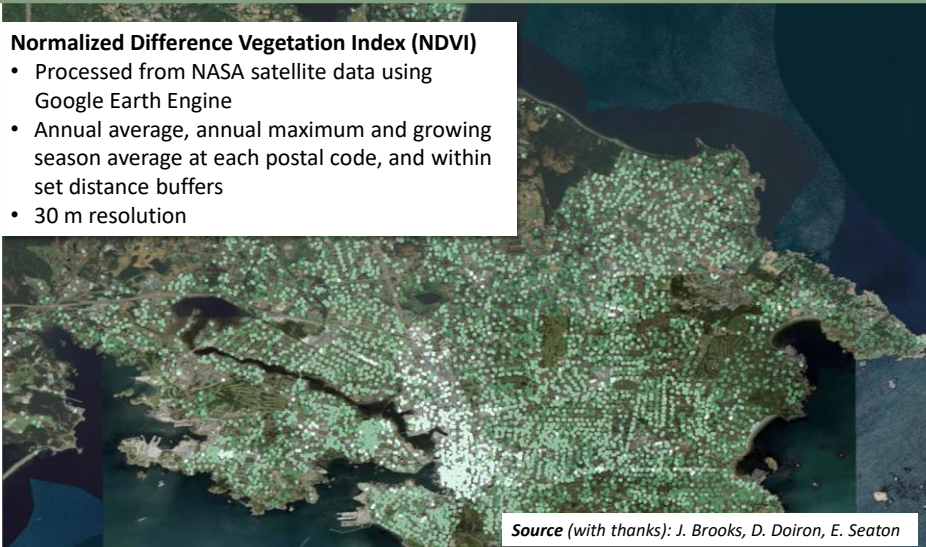
36

## CANUE Data Example – Greenness



**Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)**

- Processed from NASA satellite data using Google Earth Engine
- Annual average, annual maximum and growing season average at each postal code, and within set distance buffers
- 30 m resolution




Source (with thanks): J. Brooks, D. Doiron, E. Seaton

Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium 37

37

### CPTP Quintile distribution (preliminary data; n = ~250 000)

Quintile thresholds based on exposure data for all Canadian postal codes

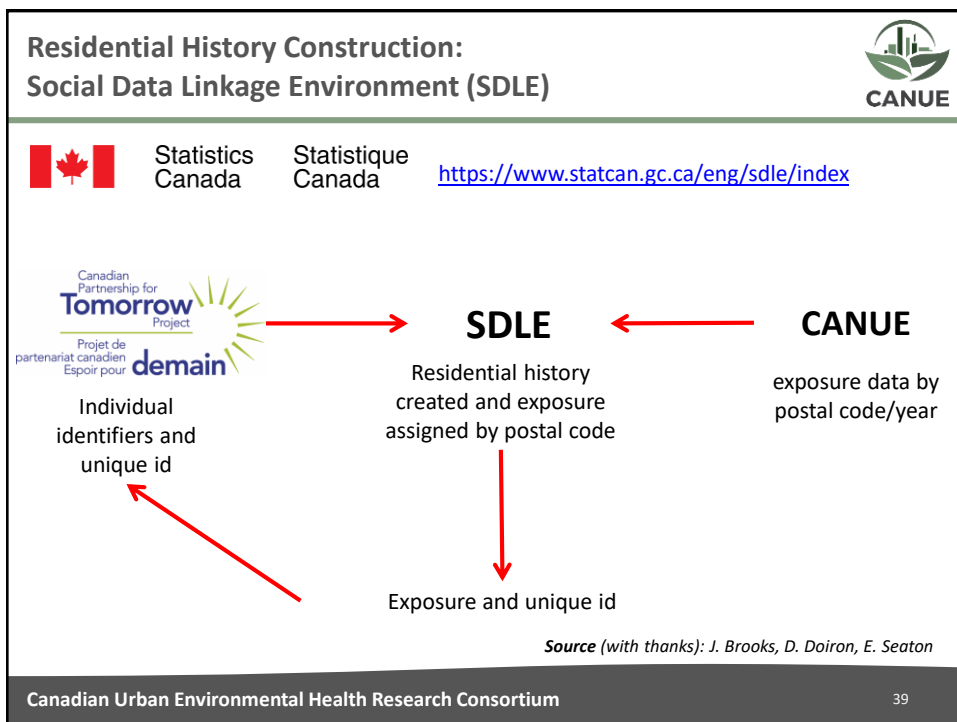


| Variable                 | Q1   | Q2   | Q3                | Q4   | Q5   |
|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Material deprivation     | 69 102<br><span style="color: green;">(28.4%)</span> | 56 578<br><span style="color: green;">(23.2%)</span> | 48 992<br>(20.1%) | 40 712<br>(16.7%)                                  | 28 094<br>(11.5%)                                  |
| Social deprivation       | 50 494<br>(20.7%)                                    | 49 717<br>(20.4%)                                    | 47 873<br>(19.7%) | 48 163<br>(19.8%)                                  | 47 231<br>(19.4%)                                  |
| Walkability              | 66 984<br>(26.7%)                                    | 84 445<br>(33.7%)                                    | 63 855<br>(25.5%) | 21 258<br><span style="color: red;">(8.5%)</span>  | 14 317<br><span style="color: red;">(5.7%)</span>  |
| NO <sub>2</sub>          | 54 685<br>(22.4%)                                    | 52 760<br>(21.6%)                                    | 46 326<br>(19.0%) | 43 022<br>(17.6%)                                  | 47 187<br>(19.3%)                                  |
| SO <sub>2</sub>          | 52 390<br>(23.2%)                                    | 41 642<br>(18.4%)                                    | 46 457<br>(20.5%) | 42 450<br>(18.8%)                                  | 43 286<br>(19.1%)                                  |
| O <sub>3</sub>           | 33 942<br>(13.5%)                                    | 28 905<br>(11.5%)                                    | 54 672<br>(21.7%) | 63 227<br><span style="color: red;">(25.1%)</span> | 70 993<br><span style="color: red;">(28.2%)</span> |
| Greenness<br>(year mean) | 41 631<br>(16.5%)                                    | 47 534<br>(18.9%)                                    | 57 504<br>(22.8%) | 56 267<br>(22.4%)                                  | 48 810<br>(19.4%)                                  |


*Source (with thanks): J. Brooks, D. Doiron, E. Seaton*

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38

38



39




**CANUE**

The Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium  
advancing research on urban living and human health

Twitter Facebook YouTube Name Email [Subscribe to Our Newsletter](#)

**For More Information about CPTP and CANUE:**



**Jeff Brook**  
Scientific Director

 UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**CPTP National Webinar**

- **by Jeff Brook on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00**
- [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FAo2IfKeSVynLe3noWe6ig](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FAo2IfKeSVynLe3noWe6ig)

**CPTP Website and Data Portal**

- <https://portal.partnershipfortomorrow.ca>

**CANUE Website and Data Portal**

- <https://www.canuedata.ca>

Canadian Urban Environmental Health Research Consortium 40

40

**CPTP Partnerships & Unique Opportunities**

41

41

Key partnership:

## Canadian Alliance for Healthy Hearts and Minds (CAHMM)

Funded by CPAC, to advance  
cardiovascular and  
cerebrovascular research

Comprehensive clinical and imaging  
data for a CPTP subset across Canada

Recruitment, assessment, specimen /  
data collection completed; MRI's  
completed; Resource being made  
available for research uses.

- Collected detailed information on  
vascular disease, cardiac disease and  
cognitive function using MRI scans
- Data collected from 10,000 Canadians  
through existing cohorts, including **1500  
First Nations people** living in Canada
- Unique data to evaluate the impact of  
diverse **environmental determinants  
on cardiovascular health**



The Alliance is co-led by **Drs. Sonia Anand**,  
Matthias Friedrich and the late Jack Tu.

42

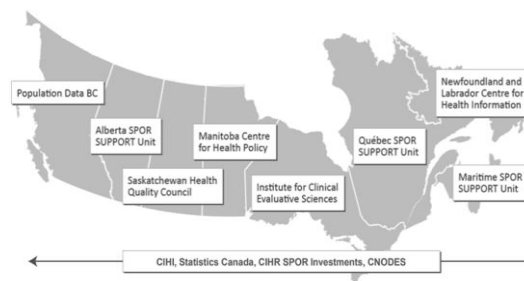
Key partnership:

## Pan-Canadian Real- world Health Data Network (PRHDN)

Enable CPTP to access linked  
health systems data from  
across Canada

PRHDN led by K. McGrail  
(BC), with M. Schull (ICES),  
national team and with  
CPTP leaders as co-  
applicants and end-users

PRHDN is a distributed data network that  
allows researchers and policy/decision  
makers across Canada to use linked and  
linkable administrative (real-world) **data  
holdings and expertise in multi-province  
studies** and initiatives without requiring  
that data leave provincial boundaries.



43

## Canadian Population Studies & CPTP's Unique Stature (examples)

### Cohort studies with comprehensive data and biospecimens:

#### N participants

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>CPTP</b> (Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project)            | <b>&gt; 320,000</b> |
| <b>CLSA</b> (Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging)                 | ~ 50,000            |
| <b>MIREC</b> (Maternal Infant Research on Environmental Chemicals) | 2001                |
| <b>CHILD</b> (Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development)    | 3455                |

### Examples of alternative platforms:

Canadian Health Measure Survey (5 cross-sectional surveys) ~ 29,000  
 Canadian Community Health Survey (X-S survey every 2 yrs) ~ 65,000

*Large size essential to assess complexity & rare exposures or outcomes*

44

44

CPTP singularly enables Canada to contribute to the network of internationally recognized large-scale initiatives

CPTP is an **internationally recognized large-scale initiative** (100,000+ participants) working with other large cohorts around the world, including:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Biobank Japan   |  |
| China Kadoorie Biobank                                  |  |
| <b>Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project (CPTP)</b> |  |
| EPIC  |  |
| Kaiser Permanente Research Program                      |  |
| LifeGene  |  |
| Million Veteran Program                                 |  |
| Million Women Study                                     |  |
| Multiethnic Cohort Study                                |  |
| MyCode Community Health Initiative                      |  |
| Nurses' Health Study (NHS/NHSII)                        |  |
| US Precision Medicine Initiative/ All of Us             |  |
| Tohoku Medical Megabank Project                         |  |

45

## Future Directions and Discussion

46

46

## CPTP Innovations for Occupational Epidemiology

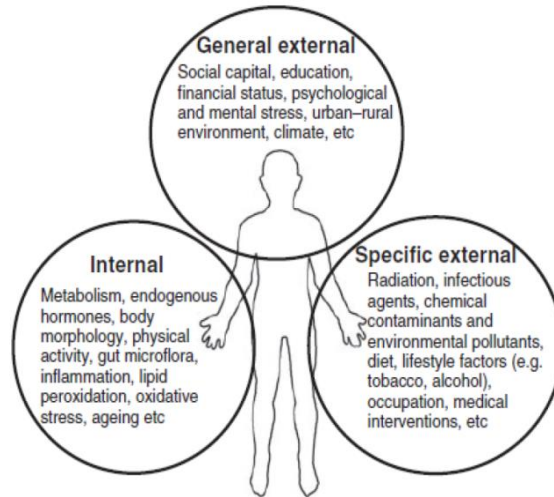
### Evaluation of AI algorithm to Classify Occupational History (2019-20)

- PI - Dr. Ellen Sweeney, Director of Strategic Research Initiatives, Atlantic PATH
- Interdisciplinary team conducting project to enhance CPTP's data platform
- Aim – to improve data quality by harmonizing data of Atlantic Path's and Alberta's Tomorrow Project's 111,000 occupational history questionnaires
- Automatic Semantic Occupational Coding algorithm (Bao, Baker, Adisesh) to analyze and harmonize open-text data, occupational history information across two cohorts, and evaluated for utility in other regions.

47

47

## The **Exposome** - Three Domains of Environmental Exposures (with examples)

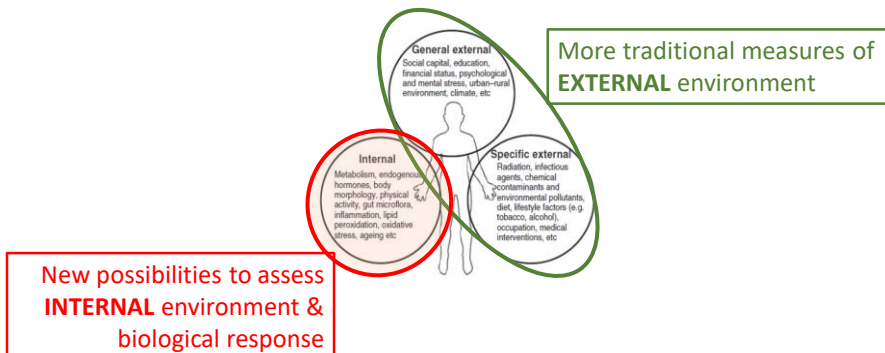


Source: C Wild. Int J Epidemiology 2012; 41: 24.

48 48

48

## Exposomics (Internal) & Detection of Biological Response



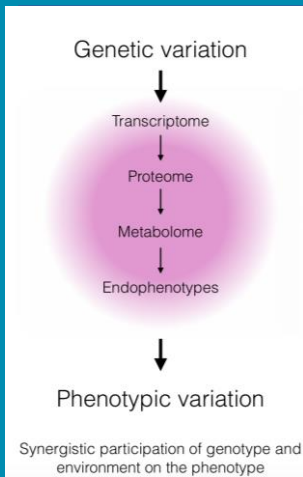
- High throughput ``genomics`` tools to characterize:
  - Genome – Transcriptome – Proteome – Metabolome ...
  - Characterize gene-environment interactions
  - Detect biological effects and susceptibilities

49 49

49



## CPTP enables studies of gene-environment interactions



## Recombination affects accumulation of damaging and disease-associated mutations in human populations

Julie G Hussin, Alan Hodgkinson, Youssef Idaghmour, Jean-Philippe Goulet, Elias Gbeha, Elodie Hip-Ki, Vanessa Bruat, Jean-Philippe Goulet, Thibault de Malliard, Philip Awadalla

*Nature Genetics* **47**, 400–404 (2015) | [View Article](#)



## High-Resolution Genomic Analysis of Human Mitochondrial RNA Sequence Variation

Alan Hodgkinson,<sup>1,4</sup> Youssef Idaghmour,<sup>1,2,†</sup> Elias Gbeha,<sup>1</sup> Jean-Christophe Grenier,<sup>1</sup> Elodie Hip-Ki,<sup>1</sup> Vanessa Bruat,<sup>1</sup> Jean-Philippe Goulet,<sup>2</sup> Thibault de Malliard,<sup>1,2</sup> Philip Awadalla<sup>1,2,‡</sup>

Mutations in the mitochondrial genome are associated with various human processes; however, little is known about the extent of mitochondrial RNA sequence variation within and across individuals, and its relationship to posttranscriptional modification. Using a genome-wide approach, we identified posttranscriptional modification of functionally im-



50

## CPTP enables studies of gene-environment interactions, of direct relevance and interest to communities

## Gene-by-environment interactions in urban populations modulate risk phenotypes

Marie-Julie Favé, Fabien C. Lamaze, David Soave, Alan Hodgkinson, H el oise Gauvin, Vanessa Bruat, Jean-Christophe Grenier, Elias Gbeha, Kimberly Skead, Audrey Smargiassi, Markey Johnson, Youssef Idaghmour & Philip Awadalla

*Nature Communications* **9**, Article number: 827 (2018) | **March 2018**



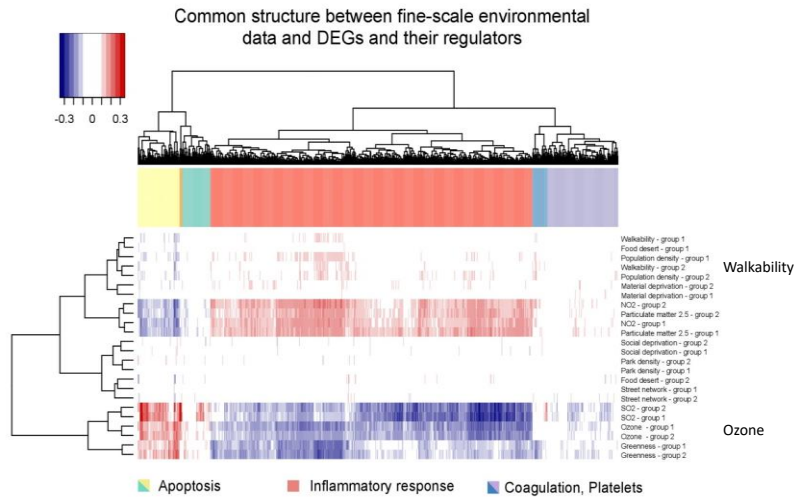
## Genetic study of Quebec residents finds air pollution trumps ancestry

"That's really what precision health is about," Dr. Awadalla said. "You want to capture these things before people are in the doctor's office and having to be treated."

51

## Integrating Internal and External Exposomes - Epigenomic Assessment of Gene-Environment Patterns in Quebec

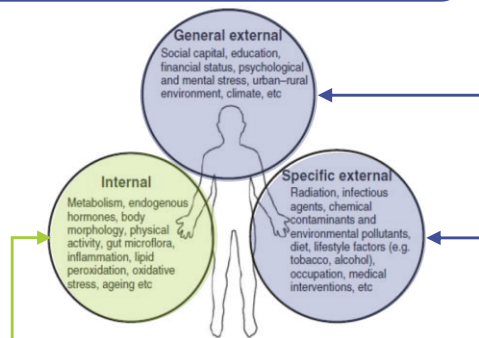
Awadalla et al (Nature Comms - 2017) - Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) are associated with local ambient air pollution.



52

Opportunity for advancing environment and health research in Canada

**CANUE** – Canada’s **external** exposome data for individual-level assessments, with CPTP



### New exposomics initiatives

- Complete exposome assessments
- Integration with big health data
- Enhance expertise & advanced analytical methods

53

## Discussion

CPTP makes “Big Data” and Cohort approaches possible to detect and manage environmental effects on health across Canada.

***What could you do with ongoing data on more than 300,000 participants across Canada?***

- Analysis of existing data, and collaborations to expand on and enrich data – e.g., advanced exposure assessment, exposomics...
- A platform for your grants, to support analytics and grad students – e.g., CIHR calls for proposals.
- A base and starting point for major initiatives – e.g., as with “Alliance” (CAHHM), CANUE, CFI, New Frontiers...
- Collaborations to resolve gaps and limitations in Canada’s population data capacity – e.g., sustained cohort follow-up complements Canada’s existing platforms for monitoring, characterizing and managing environmental health effects.

54

54



Thanks to all CPTP participants and supporters across the 6 regional cohorts who generously donate their time, information and biological samples. **CPTP is a success because of participants’ ongoing commitment.**

55



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