



NMIN Board of Directors names a new Scientific Director

Dr. Gilbert Walker appointed

Dr. Gilbert Walker has been appointed as NMIN's Scientific Director & CEO, effective 14 September 2022.

Dr. Walker is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemistry in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences of the University of Toronto and the Chief Technical Officer of Sylleta Inc., a clean-tech company.

He has been involved in NMIN since its initial planning stage and has been an NMIN Principal Investigator, co-leader of the Network's Diagnostics research theme, and NMIN's Associate Scientific Director since the Network's founding. He has served as Interim Scientific Director & CEO since July 2022.

"I am eager to continue working with all the tremendously talented and capable people in this Network, toward achieving the most impactful social and economic outcomes possible in the time remaining to us as a funded NCE," states Dr. Walker.

"Solidifying our legacy strategies and launching their implementation will also be a major focus for me. Preserving the major components of NMIN's nationally networked structure is a key objective for all our stakeholders."

"I look forward to working with Dr. Walker over the next two years," says NMIN's Board Chair Inès Holzbaur.

"His extensive knowledge of Network operations, his championing of collegiality, capacity building, networking and EDI, and the breadth of his scientific knowledge will all serve the Network well as it enters its culminating phase as an NCE."

The University of British Columbia remains the Network's Host Institution and the administrative headquarters continues to be led by Executive Director Dr. Diana Royce.

[More information](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With NMIN now in the final third of its NCE lifespan, and with a newly appointed Scientific Director and major Network event on the horizon, the Network is well-positioned to maximize the use of its remaining time and funding.

On the research investment front, four LOI applicants for Round 4 (*Project Impact Support*) funding have been invited to submit full proposals, with more LOIs expected by the extended deadline of 17 October.

As well, four Round 5 (*Integrated Programs*) EOI applicants have been invited to submit full proposals by 3 October, with final funding decisions expected in mid-November.

NMIN's [Strategic Initiatives \(SI\)-Commercialization program](#), in the meantime, remains available to NMIN investigators who have IP from NMIN-funded projects to commercialize, or who are planning or have established nano-medicine companies they wish to grow.

We especially encourage NMIN researchers with new or emerging technologies to leverage the SI program to access the services of NMIN's [early Health Technology Assessment \(eHTA\) Core Facility](#). The eHTA offers tools, training and services by which to assess the potential value and commercial viability of your new health science technology, to better inform R&D and commercialization decisions.

You can learn more about how the eHTA can support your work by attending the three-part webinar series "[Using value assessment to inform R&D priorities](#)," detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

NMIN's [2022 Scientific Meeting](#) and inaugural [Trainee Symposium](#), taking place 17-20 November 2022 in Toronto, promises to re-energize the Network as only face-to-face gatherings can.

These events will facilitate the development of new collaborations and legacy planning, as well as community-building and skills enhancement among NMIN trainees. Our collective celebration of past

Continues on next page

Message from the Executive Director—continued

accomplishments and future opportunities will propel us into the post-NCE phase in a position of strength.

Speaking of which, I am delighted to embark on this next leg of the NMIN journey with Dr. Gilbert Walker as NMIN's Scientific Director & CEO.

I wish to thank all those who responded to the Network's call for expressions of interest in the Scientific Director role, and note that the process revealed a significant depth of leadership capacity among Network participants. Many exciting new ideas for legacy directions and initiatives were identified that will fuel the development of the Network's legacy plans.

I look forward to continuing the Network-wide dialogue towards ensuring high-impact legacies for this outstanding team of scientists, technicians and trainees.

Dr. Diana Royce, Ed.D.
Executive Director, NMIN

RESEARCHER NEWS

NMIN spin-off company
Nanovation Therapeutics was featured in a [Tech Times piece](#) on the current landscape of LNP development, and announced a new innovative vaccine-focused [collaboration with BasalImmune](#).

NMIN Research Leader Dr. Pieter Cullis received the [2022 Thudichum Life Award](#) for his contributions to phospholipids research; was featured in [The Conversation](#) for his part in COVID mRNA vaccines; and was [interviewed](#) with Dr. Katalin Karikó by MaRS about the science behind these vaccines.

NMIN Researcher Dr. Fabio Rossi was elected to the Royal Society of Canada.



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Scientific Meeting & Trainee Symposium

Omni King Edward Hotel | Toronto, ON



Scientific Meeting: 17-19 November 2022 | Trainee Symposium: 19-20 November 2022



Elaine Copsey & Lloyd Jeffs
Precision NanoSystems
Opening Keynote



Shehzad Iqbal
Moderna
Invited Speaker

IT'S TIME TO RECONNECT... IN PERSON!

NMIN network participants (researchers, collaborators, trainees, committee members), guest speakers and sponsors are invited to NMIN's 2022 Scientific Meeting & Trainee Symposium in Toronto, 17-20 November.

The 2022 Scientific Meeting program includes research panels, keynote & invited speakers, a poster competition, a networking reception, and a gala dinner and celebration.

Find program, registration
and other details on
NMIN's website:

[Scientific Meeting](#)

[Trainee Symposium](#)



Pieter Cullis
NMIN / UBC
Closing Keynote

NMIN's Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) Program

NMIN trainees win all three poster awards at Liposome Research Days 2022

NMIN proudly acknowledges the trainees who won the Poster Awards granted at [Liposome Research Days \(LRD\) 2022](#).



Left to right above: Yulin Mo (University of Toronto), Dr. Miffy Cheng and Jerry Leung (both at The University of British Columbia) were the presenting authors of the posters judged to be of best quality at the event.

Meet the winners of NMIN's 2022 Graduate Awards



NMIN is pleased to introduce the 15 recipients of its 2022 Masters- and Doctoral-level Graduate Awards. Recipients hail from seven universities in five provinces. [Read about the award recipients & their projects.](#)

Mitacs

FUNDING SUPPORT REMINDER

Mitacs Internships and Fellowships are available, earmarked for NMIN HQP to work with non-academic partner organizations on nanomedicine research.

See the [FAQs & application information](#) on the [NMIN website](#).

HQP Research Presentations

The tenth round of this series highlighting NMIN HQP's research took place on 5 August 2022, encompassing the use of gene-editing tools to treat skin disease, LNPs for gene therapies and vaccines, and Terahertz signals for protein activation.



Juliana Bolsoni
University of British Columbia



Albert Kamanzi
University of British Columbia



Hadeel Mohammad
University of Toronto

Round 10 | NMIN HQP Research Presentations

VIDEOS & POSTERS

The eleventh round will take place 29 September 2022 and will feature research involving the use of nanotechnology and LNPs for the treatment of pancreatic and colorectal cancer and to enhance platelet function. Join us!



Abdulaziz Alhussan
University of Victoria



Parnian Mehinrad
University of Alberta



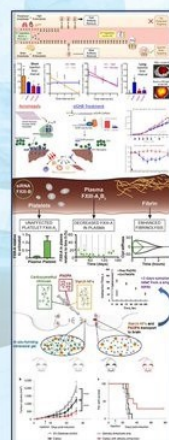
Colton Strong
University of British Columbia

Round 11 | NMIN HQP Research Presentations
29 September 2022 | 12:30 – 1:30 pm (PT) | 3:30 – 4:30 pm (ET)



INFO | REGISTER

For a searchable list of presentations featured in this series, with links to posters and video recordings, see the [HQP Research Presentations Database](#) on NMIN's website.



NANOMEDICINES TRANSLATED

NMIN
NANOMEDICINES INNOVATION NETWORK
RESEARCH TRANSLATION NANOMEDICINES

NMIN's NanoMedicines Translated Program engages NMIN HQP in a hands-on learning process to produce clear-language summaries of their NMIN-supported, peer-reviewed research publications.

Participants in the program produce a communications tool by which to disseminate their research to the broader public and acquire knowledge translation skills.

[Visit the NMIN website](#)

for more information about *NanoMedicines Translated*, including eligibility requirements, benefits of participation, and how to apply.

Using value assessment to inform R&D priorities:

An introduction to early health technology assessment (eHTA)

This three-part NMN webinar series will introduce participants to the concepts of health technology assessment (HTA) and early health technology assessment (eHTA), and will discuss how assessing value can inform decisions about translating an invention into a commercially viable product.

By the end of this webinar series, participants will have gained a broad understanding of:

- A technology's lifecycle and why technologies can fail to be widely adopted;
- The key components of health technology assessment, economic evaluation, and budget impact analysis, and when to use them; and
- Early health technology assessment and how it can be used to inform the development and maximize the value proposition of a new health technology.

Presented by Fernanda Nagase
eHTA Core Facility | UBC

Information & Registration

SESSIONS

5 October 2022

Beyond safety and efficacy:

Why successful commercialization does not depend only on clinical trials data

26 October 2022

Know your payers:

Will insurers pay for your health technology?

23 November 2022

Position your health technology for success:

How Early Health Technology Assessment can quantify the potential value & uptake of your novel technology

eHTA



Recent NMN Events



nanomedicines.ca



info@nanomedicines.ca



[@NMIN_NCE](https://twitter.com/NMIN_NCE)



<https://bit.ly/3aaEZRv>

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