



January 2021

I am pleased to share with you this first in a series of regular Scientific Director's updates on NMIN.

Despite the many challenges associated with the ongoing pandemic, it is my pleasure to report that our Network continues to thrive, with research progressing apace and numerous commercial opportunities already emerging from our investments.

Of course, a major validation of our field, and a harbinger of accomplishments to come, is the role nanomedicine science

is playing in more than one of the COVID-19 vaccines now being distributed worldwide; I direct you to the [recording of my recent talk](#) on this topic for further details.

I am proud to be leading this community of researchers, partners and trainees so committed to discovery and innovation, and I look forward to our continuing to advance the field together.

Dr. Pieter Cullis, PhD., FRSC, FNAI (USA)  
Scientific Director & CEO, NMIN

### NMIN's new Strategic Initiatives—KTEE/ Commercialization Support Program

NMIN is pleased to announce the launch of its Strategic Initiatives (SIs)—Knowledge and Technology Exchange and Exploitation (KTEE)/Commercialization Support Program.

The program accelerates the commercialization of IP by responding rapidly to requests for related support from NMIN investigators with potential funding up to \$50,000.

The program scope, objectives and eligibility requirements are detailed on NMIN's webpage.

[READ MORE](#)

### NMIN Round 1 Research Generates Commercial Opportunities

Despite COVID-19 delays, Network researchers have actively pursued their research objectives, which have generated early indications of commercially relevant outcomes, including:

- Two start-up companies with more under development, spanning all three NMIN Research Themes;
- Accelerating publication rates: over 250 publications accepted and/or published (peer-reviewed articles, posters, and abstracts); and
- Numerous patent filings submitted and pending.

### NMIN Commercialization Consultants Inventory

A continuously updated inventory of consultants to support NMIN investigators' efforts to commercialize the IP and know-how arising from their NMIN-support research projects is available to NMIN investigators.

For more information contact April O'Connell, Manager, Research & Partnerships: [apriloconnell@nanomedicines.ca](mailto:apriloconnell@nanomedicines.ca)

### LSI Virtual Seminar Series

#### Dr. Pieter Cullis

Professor – Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology  
University of British Columbia  
Scientific Director & CEO, NanoMedicines Innovation Network  
Canada's National Centre of Excellence in nanomedicines

#### The Long & Winding Road to the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine



[Watch the recording here.](#)

### NMIN supports new Strategic Initiative—Research



*Single-particle measurements to enable rational design of lipid nanoparticle carriers for gene therapies and vaccines*

PI: Dr. Sabrina Leslie

Dr. Leslie has been awarded \$50,000 for a one-year research SI that will study RNA loading and release from lipid nanoparticle vehicles to characterize RNA delivery in vitro and in cells.

[READ MORE](#)

### Dr. Shana Kelley receives the Order of Ontario



NMIN Research Leader Dr. Shana Kelley was named a 2020 Officer of the Order of Ontario in recognition of "her research which has led to new technologies that are transforming medicine."

[READ MORE](#)

## NMIN launches two new HQP activities

### Advanced Training Certification (ATC)

The NMIN ATC recognizes a trainee's engagement in capacity-building activities organized by NMIN, its partners or other recognized organizations, where the learning involved goes "above and beyond" conventional academic training and supports the formation of a well-rounded professional.

As a qualification on your CV, NMIN ATC provides a competitive advantage by formally recognizing national-level network experience as well as training across a range of professional and interpersonal skills.

[More information](#)

### Poster Presentation Series

Through NMIN's Poster Presentation Series, NMIN HQP can collaboratively develop their poster presentation skills, deliver presentations in a supportive environment, and receive constructive feedback from qualified professionals.

Presentation Sessions will be booked monthly; contact [Leah Graystone](#) to reserve a slot.

[More information](#)

## CAPACITY-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Recent NMIN capacity-building webinars:

- [Recent Advancements in CRISPR Reagents](#)
- [Designing Effective Commercialization Plans for Grant Proposals](#)

Resources (slides, recording) available for both.

### Connect & Communicate with Confidence (C<sup>3</sup>)

hosted by Leah Graystone (NMIN)



A series of four online workshops:

- Top Ten TED Talk Tips (Jan 28)
- Speaking with Influence & Impact (Feb 11)
- Graphic Design & PowerPoint (Feb 24)
- Bulletproof Presentation Preparation Strategies (Mar 4)

This workshop series will support the development of advanced communication skills among NMIN participants, regardless of their present level of ability.

[More information](#)

### Transformation through networking

*"NMIN has allowed us to break out of our UBC 'bubble' and build collaborations nationwide. I now have a much better understanding of the work being undertaken in other parts of Canada. Ours is a relatively large country - but NMIN makes it feel a little more intimate..."*

*"Through NMIN, our network of collaborators has grown substantially... We now can deliver LNP materials into a whole range of tissues for various applications and we get to work with world-leading experts in those fields."*

Jayesh Kulkarni, NMIN PDF in Gene Therapy

### Life Sciences in the Global Fight against COVID-19

February 2, 2021 | 9-11 am PST

A Cascadia Innovation Corridor Virtual Forum featuring NMIN's Dr. Pieter Cullis and Lesley Esford.

[More information](#)

**NMIN Lecture Series** will kick off in February 2021, with Dr. Pieter Cullis speaking about COVID-19 vaccine development and challenges for the nanomedicines field.

**Pieter Cullis Invitational Lectures** will focus on the frontiers of nanomedicines and major successes in the field, beginning in March 2021.

[Advanced registration](#) required for this event. NMIN HQP earn two [ATC](#) credits by attending.

## BUILDING BIOTECH: Science and Talent Accelerating Biomedical Innovation

A Pan-Canadian  
Showcase and Dialogue

February 17, 2021  
1:30 – 5 pm ET (virtual)

Featuring:



SHANA KELLEY  
Director  
Precision Medicine  
Initiative (PRIME), UofT



ANDREW CASEY  
President and CEO  
BIOTECCanada



CARL HANSEN  
Founder and CEO  
AbCellera



JEREL DAVIS  
Managing Partner  
Versant Ventures



PIETER CULLIS  
Scientific Director  
Nanomedicines Innovation  
Network (NMIN), UBC



GERARD WRIGHT  
Director  
Michael G. DeGroot  
Institute for Infectious  
Disease Research,  
McMaster University



JESSICA CHUTTER  
Managing Director  
Chairman of Biotechnology  
Investment Banking,  
Morgan Stanley



MICHEL BOUVIER  
Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Research in  
Immunology and Cancer  
(IRIC), UMontréal



LLOYD SEGAL  
CEO  
Repare Therapeutics



PHILIPPE GROS  
Deputy Vice Principal  
Research,  
McGill University



[More information](#)

