



Annual Reporting for Faculty Supported Research Centres, Core Facilities and Networks

All Centres (provisional Centres; McGill Centres), Research groups, Core facilities and Networks that receive funding from the Faculty of Medicine are required to provide two components of reporting:

- Annual Report of Activities, Outcomes
- End-of-Year Financial Report

The Annual and End of Year Reports covering the period from the 1st May until the 30th April are due by 4pm on May 22nd, 2015. Future funding will be dependent on the prompt receipt of all documents as well as the evaluations made by the committee *and* the Faculty funds available.

The completed Annual Report and the Financial Statement should be forwarded by email to:

Robin Jean (riac.med@mcgill.ca)
Faculty of Medicine Research Office
Phone: 514-398-5815

Annual Report for Faculty of Medicine Funded Centres, Core Facilities and Networks

The Annual Report should be set in the context of the Centre's, Core facility's and Network's overall goals and objectives, programs and research priorities, performance indicators outlined in the application (or subsequently developed), activities and strategies.

Please provide the following:

1. Name of Centre, Unit or Institute: **Centre for the Study of Reproduction**
2. Name and contact information of the Director and/or Administrative Assistant:
Director: Dr. Daniel Bernard, daniel.bernard@mcgill.ca, 514-398-2525
Executive Secretary: Charlotte McCaffrey, csr-cer@mcgill.ca, 514-207-9887
3. Is the centre recognized as an official Senate approved McGill Research Centre?

Yes X

4. The date the centre received Senate approval as an official McGill Research Centre **1982**
5. A summary of the overall goals and objectives, programs and research priorities and any changes to these that may have occurred during the past year. Please indicate the extent to which the objectives have been met. **(limit 200 words)**

The Centre for the Study of Reproduction (CSR) brings together 32 laboratories, located across McGill campuses and affiliated hospitals that actively conduct research in reproduction and development. With a new director and largely new executive committee (as of 1 July 2014), we updated and continued to focus on the Centre's four main objectives. First, we are strengthening research in reproductive and developmental biology across McGill by supporting new research collaborations through networking opportunities as well as Seed and Bridge Grants. Second, we are increasing the visibility of Centre members and activities through social media (FB, Twitter, LinkedIn) and our annual Research Day. Third, we are promoting interactions with local, regional, national, and international investigators and centres by actively participating in other networks (e.g., RQR, REDIH). Fourth, we are building future research capacity by providing training opportunities and support for graduate studies and post-doctoral fellows in reproductive and developmental biology through trainee fellowships and travel awards.

We have been extraordinarily successful in achieving these goals this year. Notably, 140 members from 30 different labs attended our Research Day 2015, including researchers from Université de Montréal, University of Ottawa, the Douglas Hospital and RQR. These numbers illustrate that the CSR serves the needs and is an important component of the research activity of our members and beyond.

6. Please document **the major achievements** resulting from the use of the Funds from the Faculty, including any advances in knowledge, relevant publications, or international collaboration. You may select from the menu of reporting items/performance indicators in appendix 1 that may be relevant, noting that the menu list is not exhaustive. (Please limit your response to a maximum of **1 page**)

1. We awarded 7 new fellowships (totaling \$40,000) to trainees from 6 member labs, following review of applications by CSR faculty members. We ensure that no reviewers have COI with applicants or their supervisors. In our experience, most recipients of CSR fellowships go on to compete successfully for provincial or federal fellowships, repaying many-fold the initial CSR investment.

2. We awarded 21 travel bursaries (total of \$9,970.50). These enable trainees to attend international scientific conferences (such as the annual meetings of the Endocrine Society, Society for the Study of Reproduction, and the American Society of Andrology) where they can receive critical feedback on their research, learn the latest research in the field, and build professional networks.

3. In addition to the travel bursaries, we awarded \$1,000 to a student to attend the Frontiers in Reproduction (FIR) course, an intensive 6 week laboratory and lecture course for reproductive scientists-in-training, in Woods Hole, MA.

4. Recognizing the difficulties imposed on our researchers by the current funding climate, we developed a new mechanism of support. Two “bridge grants” (totaling \$15,000) were awarded to Centre members with projects that were favorably reviewed in federal or provincial granting competitions or in peer-reviewed journals but required some additional experimentation for which funds were not available. These awards are enabling the crucial final work to be done.

5. At the same time, we maintained our popular collaborative seed grant program by funding two teams (totaling \$15,000) requiring support for projects in an early phase of development where preliminary results will greatly strengthen subsequent applications for external funding. Both the seed and bridge grant competitions followed a CIHR-type review by panels of three reviewers (including one external to the CSR). Again, no reviewers had COI with the applicants.

6. We held our 7th Annual Research Day in May 2015. This year, we attracted 140 participants, including faculty, PDFs, graduate students, undergraduate students, and technical staff. Invited lectures were delivered by Dr. Thomas Duchaine, Department of Biochemistry, McGill University (not a current member of the CSR); Dr. Mellissa Mann, Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Biochemistry, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Western Ontario; and Dr. Jon Oatley, Director of the Center for Reproductive Biology, School of Molecular Biosciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University. Our trainees presented 6 talks and 36 posters. We awarded prizes for the highest rated MSc, PhD, and PDF posters (total of \$300) and for the highest rated oral presentation (\$250). Each competition was evaluated by a minimum of three judges. These judges were both faculty and PDFs in the Centre.

7. We introduced a 'Cinq à Sept' networking event in March that was well attended by PIs and trainees. Going forward we will host three such events annually.

8. We sponsor the monthly 'Hot Topics in Reproduction and Development,' a gathering of scientists from CSR member laboratories where, each month (except July and August), a different lab presents their latest research findings and the questions that they are pursuing in the fields of reproduction and development.

9. We revamped and continue to develop our website, adding regular updates of news, upcoming seminars and meetings, and a paper-of-the-month from a CSR lab.

10. We initiated a 'rebranding' process, which will include a new logo and new name to better reflect the scope of research conducted by members of the Centre: Centre for Research in Reproduction and Development. We are aware of and are navigating the normal process for implementing the name change. Note that this will reflect a change in name only, not in the research focus or mission of the Centre.

11. We expanded our presence on social media through Facebook, and Twitter

12. We initiated a process to track and keep in touch with past trainees through LinkedIn.

13. We published our first bi-annual Newsletter for Centre members, in April 2015.

7. Please provide a **List of Members** (Full, Associate, Trainee noting whether graduate student or post-doctoral fellow) **if not already on your website** and all institutional affiliations current up to the date of the Annual Report. Add rows as necessary.

Lists of members and trainees are available at <http://www.mcgill.ca/csr-cer/members>

8. Please describe how your activities align with the Academic or Research mission of the Faculty of Medicine and/or other Faculties at McGill focusing on the activities for the current year and strategic plans for the subsequent year (**limit 200 words**)

The stated mission of the McGill Faculty of Medicine is to break new ground in research and education, while shaping the future of healthcare. The CSR shares this mission, as reflected by our past accomplishments and future goals. In the next year, we plan to continue supporting research in reproduction and development by funding trainee fellowships and travel to international meetings, and by providing valuable seed or bridge grant funding to CSR faculty members. We will also sponsor workshops and lectures in reproductive and developmental biology and host our annual research day in May 2016. We will continue to increase visibility of the Centre by completing our 'rebranding' initiative, enhancing our web presence, and networking with past trainees (through our alumni outreach initiative) and with the community (through les Cafés Scientifiques and similar outreach efforts). Finally, we will be fundraising to establish an endowment for an annual lecture named for our McGill colleague and stem cell pioneer, Yves Clermont. The Clermont Memorial Lecture will become a staple of our research day, attracting world renowned scientists to speak at McGill on an annual basis.

9. Please provide the **URL of the Research Centre's, Core Facility's or Network's web site.**

Note: The Research Centre's, Core Facility's or Network's website should contain the following information:

- all sources of funding support,
- the List of Members and their institutional affiliation,
- the activities supported by the Research Centre, Core Facility or Network, and
- the Annual Report.

URL: <http://www.mcgill.ca/csr-cer/>

We can also be found on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Centre-for-the-Study-of-Reproduction/167749309937751> and **Twitter** <https://twitter.com/CSRMcGill>

10. Other information:

Please indicate how the Research Centre, Core Facility or Network has:

- Tackled or plans to tackle issues in a manner that may not otherwise have been achievable without the financial support of the Faculty of Medicine
- Increased or is planning to increase the scale and focus of research activities
- Facilitated multidisciplinary, multi-institutional or international collaborations
(Please limit response to **200 words**)

The financial support of McGill is essential to the CSR. The funding (\$55,000 annually; though reduced to \$45,000 in 2015-2016 because of provincial cuts to the FQRNT budget) provided to us by the RQR is contingent on the support provided by McGill. The formal commitment made by McGill is explicit in the application that was funded by FQRNT (March 2011 – March 2017). The funding provided by McGill, together with the funding from the RQR, enables the CSR to maintain our activities. Importantly, this funding structure means that every dollar invested by McGill is more than matched by a contribution from the RQR.

The original RQR and McGill funding of the CSR in 2008-2011 enabled the CSR to establish its core programs and activities. Our aims since that time have been to maintain these activities, while expanding into new areas.

- 1. Our core activities are, and will continue to be, trainee fellowships and travel awards; investigator seed grants; and our annual research day (in May), which attracts 130+ researchers in reproduction and development.**
- 2. We will continue to offer technique-workshops, such as the highly popular Introduction to ICSI, bioinformatics (in collaboration with the RQR) and male germ-cell analysis. Going forward, we plan to implement more career development workshops, including mock grant-review and a career day. The latter will involve local CSR alumni, who are engaged in a variety of careers in academia, industry, and government.**
- 3. We will continue the guest-lecture program, which we initiated in 2014. Each spring and autumn, we will invite an internationally known scientist in the field of reproductive and developmental biology to speak at McGill and to network with staff and trainees. One of the guest speakers at our 2015 research day was Dr. Jon Oatley, the Director for the Study of Reproduction at Washington State University. During his visit, Dr. Oatley and Dr. Bernard laid the foundation for a formal exchange, allowing trainees to travel for short periods of time between the two Universities. Pending available funding, we hope that this will serve**

as a catalyst for similar exchanges with other reproductive biology centres in Canada, the US, and internationally.

4. In its review of our 2011 activities, the University suggested that we try to reduce our administrative costs. We now employ a part-time Executive Secretary, who is vital to the success of the Centre. Not only does she manage all of our competitions and research day, but she is spearheading our efforts to increase visibility to the Centre. This includes, but is not limited to, revamping our website, maintaining our Face Book page and Twitter feed, writing our biannual newsletter, managing our Wikipedia initiative, and producing short You Tube-like videos that feature the activities of Centre members.

The Year End Financial Report reports on:

- Expenditure of funding provided by the Faculty of Medicine and other sources, towards meeting the objectives of the Research Centre, Core Facility or Network; and
- Details of any in-kind contributions provided to the Centre, Core Facility or Network.
- See **Appendix 2** for the “Year End Financial Report” form to complete

Appendix 1

Menu of Performance Indicators

The following (non-exclusive) list contains possible activities on which Research Centres, Core Facilities or Networks might report.

Quantitative: Include, as appropriate

- Number of graduate and post-graduate students funded to do various activities;
In 2014, we funded scholarships for 3 graduate students and 1 postdoctoral fellow, with an additional 2 graduate students and 1 postdoctoral fellow being funded from the 2014 budget between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016. We also awarded travel bursaries to 21 students. These 28 students come from 14 different member laboratories.
- Number of proposals from participants to the Centre, Core Facility or Network and the number of activities funded;
Two new members joined CSR this year: Jessica Head and Indra Gupta. We received 2 bridge grant and 2 seed grant proposals in our November 2014 competition. Though we originally budgeted for three awards of \$10K each, all of the applications were highly rated. Therefore, we awarded \$10K grants to the highest rated application in each category and \$5K grants to the other applications. We funded an additional \$7.5K bridge grant in our March 2015 competition.
- Governance: provide details of management meetings. For example, membership, frequency, attendance, the nature of the meetings and the outcomes.
Governance of the CSR is overseen by an Executive Committee, comprising the Founding Director, Director, Associate Director, and Members-at-Large. Executive members are elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) for 3-year terms. In June 2014, Dr. Bernard, formerly Associate Director, was elected as Director (effective July 1, 2014); Sarah Kimmins, formerly Member-at-Large, was named Associate Director, and Drs. Ryan and Slim were named Members-at-Large. Cristian O'Flaherty, named Member-at-Large in June 2013, remains on the executive in the same capacity. Yining Li (PhD Student) became Trainee Representative, taking over from Gurpreet Manku, who graduated. In addition, Dr. Hébert was invited to serve as External Member to comply with University regulations regarding membership of Centre Boards or Executive Committees. Charlotte McCaffrey was hired as Executive Secretary in October 2014.

The Executive Committee met face-to-face twice during the 2014-2015 reporting period (November 2014 and April 2015). All meetings are minuted, and the minutes are examined and modified, if necessary, prior to approval at the subsequent meeting. Minutes of these meetings are appended to this report. All decisions taken by the Executive are publicized by emails to CSR members and on the CSR website. Deadline dates for all competitions are clearly posted on the CSR website and reminder emails are sent to all members. All fellowship and grant applications are reviewed and ranked by individuals, within or without CSR, having no potential conflict of interest. Blinded rankings are used by the Executive to set cut-offs in accordance with the availability of funds. The Executive Committee frequently conducts business via electronic media in addition to its face-to-face meetings.

The CSR holds an Annual General Meeting (AGM) to which all members are invited. Strategic directions and priorities are discussed at these meetings, after which the Executive carries out the mandate conferred by the membership. Nominations and elections for new members of the Executive are also held at the AGM. The 2014 AGM was held on 27 June; the 2015 AGM is scheduled for June 8th.

The main goals of this year's AGM will be to discuss the bylaws, which have not been formally updated since the Centre's inception, the rebranding activity, and setting priorities for 2015-2016.

- Number of workshops, conferences or seminars conducted and the number of attendees (include the number of early career researchers, graduate and/or post-graduate students attending);

Seminar: Bernard Jégou 21 January 2015 40 attendees

CSR Research Day 2015 19 May 2015 140 attendees

Cinq à Sept Réunion 30 March 2015 35 attendees

Hot Topics in Reproduction and Development

10 times/year average 40-50 attendees

While we were unable to directly conduct any other workshops or seminars this year, we actively advertise events that may be of interest to our members by email, website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/csr-cer/newsevents/events>), and social media.

- Number of visits, both by members to National or International destinations, events, and short and long term visits by visiting scientists to McGill;

Our members are frequently invited to speak at national and international conferences.

We also host visiting scientists to McGill, such as the guest speakers for our annual Research Day and guest lecturers:

Dr. Mellissa Mann

Dr. John Oatley

Dr. Bernard Jégou

- Number of outreach activities including public lectures (or other forms of engagement with people outside the research community including schools, industry and government agencies);

Café Scientifique hosted by CSR Members Bernard Robaire, Barbara Hales and Peter Chan, is an informal event, open to the public, where discussion leads to learning about the latest ideas and issues in science and technology.

- Number of publications produced, and their impact factors (only identify those publications that are directly related to the research centre, core facility or network activity);

Our members have published 104 papers listed in PubMed since 2014-05-01. These have appeared in leading general and specialized journals, including Cell Stem Cell, PNAS,

Genetics, Endocrinology, FASEB Journal, Reproduction, and PLoS One.

A list of the publications is appended.

- Number of targeted activities:
 - involving research interaction for graduate and postgraduate students
Annual Research Day
 - **Our travel bursaries (21 awarded) enabled students to attend and present their research at international scientific conferences**
 - Industry stakeholder interactions
- Number of web hits and articles downloaded;
- Survey of Centre, Core Facility or Network participants to ascertain usefulness and user-friendliness of web site;
- Number of Federal and Provincial grant proposals and number of successful proposals as a result of membership in the Centre, Core Facility or Network;

The CSR provides our members with easy access to a network of collaborators, who can review and critique grant applications and provide complementary expertise to build new projects. This has once again paid off, despite the decrease in the number of CIHR competitions over the past year, as evidenced by the following list of successful grants.

B Hales, PI, NSERC, \$28K/year for five years

B Robaire, PI, 2014-2019 CIHR Team Grant, \$298,824/year

B Robaire, 2014 CIHR/Mount Sinai Hospital Grant to support End-of-Grant Meeting on “Impact of Exposure to Phthalates, their Metabolites and “Green” Plasticizers on Male Reproductive Health” (PI: B. Robaire) and “The Effects of Brominated Flame Retardants on Reproductive Health: Animal, Human, Ethical, Legal and Social Studies” (PI: C. Goodyer with B. Hales), \$10,000

C Morales, PI, NSERC, \$35,000/year for 5 years

C O’Flaherty, 2014-2018 CIHR Operating Grant, \$117,922/year

D Bernard, PI, 2015-2020 NSERC, \$28K/year

J Trasler, Co-PI, 2014-2019 CIHR, \$936,703

J Trasler and S Kimmins, Co-PIs, 2014-2019 CIHR Team Grant, \$1,494,000

J Trasler, 2014 NIH Grant to support XXIIIrd North American Testis Workshop, \$11,000

J Head, 2015-2020 NSERC Discovery grant, \$33K/ year

L Jerome-Majewska, PI, NSERC, \$32,000/year for 5 years

M Nagano, PI (with A Ryan and P Chan), 2014-2017 CIHR Operating Grant, \$373,386

R Duggavathi, PI, 2015-2020 NSERC, \$29K/year

S Wing, PI, Cdn Cancer Society Research Institute, \$66,000/year for 3 years

S Wing, PI (with M Nagano), 2014-2015 RQR – New Collaborative Project, \$5,000

V Bordignon, PI, 2015-2017 NSERC CRDPJ, \$105,000/year

V Bordignon, PI, 2015 NSERC EGP2, \$25,000 total

Y Yamanaka, PI, CIHR (till Mar 2016), \$144,000/year for 5 years

Y Yamanaka, PI, NSERC (till Aug 2017), \$30,000/year for 5 years

Please note that this is not a comprehensive list as we were unable to collect all of the information in advance of the filing of the annual report.

- What/how much additional funding was generated that was directly attributable to activities of the Centre, Core Facility or Network;
\$55,000 awarded by the Réseau Québécois en Reproduction (RQR). The RQR includes many members from McGill and is supported (2011-2017) by the FRQ. This funding is contingent upon McGill maintaining its commitment, specified in the application to the FRQ submitted in 2010. We are enormously grateful that McGill last year renewed this commitment of \$41,000.

It should be noted that, as reviewers of this report will no doubt be aware, the Provincial Government cut support to its research funding agencies in April 2015. As a result, the FQRNT applied 20% cuts across the board, including their funding to RQR. This will be reflected by a \$10,000 cut in the CSR budget (from \$55,000 to \$45,000) from RQR. Unfortunately, this cut in funding will result in cuts to the scale of research activities we, at the Centre, will be able to fund, making the contribution from the faculty even more vital. It is imperative that the Faculty maintain its commitment, even though the FQRNT did not.

- Prizes, special awards to member(s) as a result of Centre, Core Facility or Network activities.

Seed Grants

Jessica Head and Aimee Ryan	\$10,000
Hugh Clarke and David Dankort	\$5,000

Bridge Grants

Sarah Kimmins	\$10,000
Anna Naumova	\$5,000
Rima Slim	\$7,500

Trainee Fellowships

Luisina Ongaro, PDF	\$7,500
Anne-Marie Downey, PhD	\$5,000
Sathvika Jagannathan, PhD	\$5,000
Yassemine Khawajkie, MSc	\$5,000
Ching-Wen Chang, PDF	\$7,500
Sunghoon Lee, MSc	\$5,000
Laleh Abbassi, PhD	\$5,000

Travel Awards

Cecile Adam, PhD	\$500.00
Phuong Nguyen, PhD	\$337.00
Yassemine Khawajkie, MSc	\$500.00
Amanda Baumholtz, PhD	\$500.00
Enrico Campioli, PDF	\$500.00
Yasaman Aghazadeh, PDF	\$500.00
Gurpreet Manku, PDF	\$500.00
Mahmoud Aarabi, PDF	\$500.00
Oceane Albert, PDF	\$500.00
Lundi Ly, PhD	\$500.00
Gauthier Schang, PhD	\$500.00
Steven Jones, PhD	\$500.00
Anne Marie Downey, PhD	\$500.00
Rodrigo C. Bohrer, PhD	\$500.00
Stephany El-Hayek, PhD	\$500.00

Yining Li, PhD	\$500.00
Flavia Lorena Carvelli, PDF	\$500.00
Laleh Abbassi, PhD	\$500.00
Chirine Toufaily, PDF	\$500.00
Naomi Dicks, PhD	\$500.00
Dominic Hou, PhD	\$133.49

Qualitative: Describe, as appropriate, aspects of:

- Identify those activities/outcomes which may not have occurred without the formation of the Centre, Core Facility or Network.

Annual Research Day sponsored by the CSR, held each year since 2009, attended by 125-150 members and trainees of the CSR. In 2015, over 30 different labs were represented at the meeting.

Fellowship awards ease the financial burden on supervisors' operating grants, allowing more students to be supported or more resources to be allocated to research. They also add weight to our trainees CV's when they apply for subsequent external funding.

Travel bursaries to graduate students and post-docs enable them to attend conferences where they can make their work better known to national and international colleagues and establish and strengthen contacts for their professional development.

Support of seed grants enable new collaborations.

Bridge funding to allow for additional experimentation on projects that were favorably reviewed but for which funds were not available to enable the final work.

- What sort of different sharing /collaboration (research ideas, facilities, etc) arose because of the Centre, Core Facility or Network;

Seed Grants allowed new collaboration between Jessica Head and Aimee Ryan as well as Hugh Clarke and David Dankort (not a CSR Member)

Our networking events (Cinq a Sept, Research Day) also allow members to share and collaborate on research ideas.

- Effectiveness of governance processes in place;
Our competitions draw large numbers of applications and our Research Day attracts 125-150 enthusiastic participants every year. These numbers testify to the effectiveness of the CSR as a community-building organization for reproductive and developmental biologists at McGill and to their satisfaction with the manner in which the Centre operates. We further note that our programs support trainees from many, if not most, member laboratories.
- Different kinds of research generated – research building capacity, or removing impediments to research;
Our Fellowship, Seed and Bridge Grant, and Travel Bursary programs all build research capacity.
- Breadth of Centre, Core Facility or Network - qualitative aspects;
We have 32 faculty members, whose research interests span a wide range of questions in reproductive and developmental biology, and who are physically located throughout main campus, the McGill Hospitals, the MacDonald campus and at INRS-Institut Armand-

Frappier.

- Multi-disciplinary collaboration
- Increased or new collaboration and partnerships as a result of Centre, Core Facility or Network activities, and with different types of end users (e.g. industry, government and community groups);
- What workshops and similar meetings the Centre, Core Facility or Network provided financial support to – number, the level of engagement, the purpose and the outcomes (including the number of opportunities for inter-disciplinary research);

CSR Research Day 2015 19 May 2015 140 attendees

Cinq à Sept Réunion 30 March 2015 35 attendees

In addition to our own meetings, the CSR co-hosted the RQR Symposium on November 11 and 12, 2014 with 174 participants

- What mechanisms are in place for communication within the Centre, Core Facility or Network membership (e.g. email, newsletters, website, etc);
We host a McGill based website that is regularly updated with news, announcements of upcoming competitions, seminars and meetings, and a paper-of-the-month published by a CSR member lab. We extensively redesigned our website this year to give it a more modern, attractive and user-friendly interface.

All competitions, seminars, and meetings are also advertised to all members and trainees through multiple emails as well as via social media (Facebook and Twitter).

In addition, we published our first bi-annual newsletter in April which was emailed to all members.

- National, International activities and/or visitor programs - information about the level of engagement at seminars and workshops (e.g. number of participants) and how these events have contributed or are likely to contribute to the strategic goals of the Centre, Core Facility or Network;
We invite internationally recognized speakers to participate in our annual Research Day. These speakers also meet individually with CSR members and trainees. This enables our members to make new contacts and offers opportunities for new collaborations and research initiatives.

Bernard Robaire, Barbara Hales and Peter Chan participated in a Café Scientifique entitled HIDDEN CHEMICALS in HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS, Balancing benefits with risks to you and your children.

- What exceptional successes, if any, have occurred during the reporting period;

We continue to be able to attract exceptional scientists from outside McGill to participate in our Research Day.

- What disappointments, if any, occurred during the reporting period;

We regret that we:

- had a slow start to the year because the previous executive secretary left the Centre in April 2014 and was not replaced until October 2014 and there was a transition from the previous Director to a new Director;
 - had insufficient funds to support more of our highly talented graduate students and post-docs, or to provide larger grants through our seed/bridge grant programs; and
 - were unable to host any workshops this year.
-
- How new skills have been acquired as a result of research technology;
CSR support to attend FIR allowed for the acquisition of new techniques, including transfections of mammalian cells, characterization of signal transduction pathways, transcriptional regulation techniques such as real-time PCR and chromatin immunoprecipitation, oocyte maturation, confocal imaging, meiosis, germ cell transplantation, microarrays, bioinformatics, IVF, ICSI, FISH, nuclear transfer, embryo manipulations, one cell embryo and ES cell microinjection, tissue recombination, implantation, analysis of mutant mice, and genotyping.
This is in addition to new skills learned by all trainees in CSR Members Labs (value added by support through the CSR).

 - Any surveys carried out of members to ascertain any benefits gained from membership of the Centre, Core Facility or Network;
All participants at Research Day are requested to fill out evaluation forms. We are always pleased by the high response rate (as well as by the positive feedback) and use the responses to improve our programs.

 - Outreach activities and how these may have been reported by the media;
 - Collaborations between other Centre, Core Facility or Networks at McGill;
We work closely with the Réseau Québécois en Reproduction (RQR) and the CIHR Training Program in Reproduction, Early Development and the Impact on Health (REDIH). We hosted a CIHR-REDIH meeting in June 2014 and the RQR Research Day in November 2014. We will co-host the RQR research day in November 2015 in Montreal.

 - Linkages with international Research Networks;
 - Development of tools, software, databases; and
We contacted past members through LinkedIn and are in the process of creating a database to track and keep in touch with CSR Alumni.

 - How the networks between researchers are being strengthened as a result of using web-based and other technologies.