



McGill

Faculty of
Medicine

Annual Reporting for Faculty Supported Research Centres and Networks

All Centres (provisional Centres; McGill Centres), Research groups 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/Proposed Budget

The Annual and End of Year Reports covering the period from the 1st May until the 30th April **are due by 4pm on May 27th 2016.** 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:

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

Annual Report for Faculty of Medicine Funded Centres 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 Research in Reproduction and Development (Formerly 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, crrd@mcgill.ca, 514-207-9887

3. Is the centre recognized as an official Senate approved McGill Research Centre?

Yes No

4. The date the centre received Senate approval as an official McGill Research Centre: **1982**

5. Please provide the **URL of the Research Centre's or Network's web site.**

Note: The Research Centre's or Network's website contains 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
- ✓ Annual Reports.

URL: www.mcgill.ca/crrd

6. A summary of the past year's 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 Executive Committee voted unanimously, in the fall of 2014, to change the Centre's name to the Centre for Research in Reproduction and Development (CRRD) to better reflect the scope of research conducted by our members. The name change request, submitted to the Faculty of Medicine in March 2015, navigated a series of approvals before gaining final endorsement by the McGill Board of Governors on October 8, 2015.

We also created a new logo, developed a promotional video, updated our website, and sold CRRD branded sweatshirts. Together, these initiatives will help increase the visibility of Centre members and activities, which is one of the Centre's main objectives. We believe this is

important, particularly in the current challenging funding climate, to convey the vitality of the CRRD.

In addition, we have continued to focus on the Centre's other objectives by supporting new research collaborations through networking opportunities, like our annual Research Day, as well as Research Grants; promoting interactions with local, regional, national, and international investigators and centres by actively participating in other networks (e.g., RQR, REDIH); and building future research capacity by providing training opportunities and support for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows through workshops, trainee fellowships, and travel awards.

7. 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 of prose**. Please include lists of publications, grants, activities as appendices.)
 1. We helped cover the travel costs to national and international conferences for 7 MSc students, 9 PhD students, and 5 Postdoctoral Fellows from 14 member labs (total \$10,010). CRRD Trainees hosted a bake sale and an ice cream sale bringing in \$420 for one extra Travel Stipend, above and beyond the 20 (\$10,000) we originally budgeted. We have an additional \$410 to award for travel to meetings this summer.
 2. We awarded 7 new fellowships to trainees from 7 member labs for a total of \$40,000. In our experience, most recipients of CRRD fellowships go on to compete successfully for provincial or federal fellowships, repaying many-fold the initial CRRD investment.
 3. We awarded 1 bridge grant (totaling \$10,000) to two members whose project was favorably reviewed in federal or provincial granting competitions or in peer-reviewed journals but required some additional experimentation for which funds were not available. This award is enabling the crucial final work to be done. The Research Grant Competition (held in the fall 2015) followed a CIHR-type review by panels of three reviewers (including one external to the CRRD).
 4. We held our 7th Annual Research Day in May 2015. 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 CRRD); 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.
 5. Our 8th Annual Research Day was held on May 31, 2016. Invited guest lecturers included Dr. Sally Camper, Department of Human Genetics, University of Michigan Medical School; Dr. Jodi Flaws, Department of Comparative Biosciences, University of Illinois; and Dr. Robert Viger, Centre Hospitalier de l'Université Laval (CHUL). We had 152 registrants, including not only CRRD Members but also researchers from Université de Montréal, University of

Ottawa, McMaster University, the Douglas Hospital and RQR. This meeting is becoming a vital component of the reproductive and developmental biology research community in Quebec. Our trainees presented 6 talks and 39 posters which were evaluated by three judges including faculty and PDFs from the Centre as well as external participants. We awarded four \$100 prizes for the highest rated posters (MSc, 2xPhD, PDF) and a \$250 prize for the highest rated oral presentation.

6. In anticipation of the Centre's name change and to continue our rebranding process, the Executive Committee worked with Douglas Robertson of Thesis Media to produce a promotional [video](#) and with McGill's graphic designer Lisa Kisiel to develop our new logo.



7. We participated in the Canada Wide Science Fair at McGill in May with an exhibit booth in the Discovery Zone outlining research in reproduction and development. Thirteen trainee volunteers, working in shifts, staffed the booth and several others acted as judges in the science fair.
 8. We continued to sponsor the monthly 'Hot Topics in Reproduction and Development,' a gathering of scientists from CRRD 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 hosted a "High Content Imaging and Analysis" workshop that was attended by 3 graduate students, a postdoc and a research assistant from 3 member labs.
 10. We co-hosted, with RQR, a Staging Spermatogenesis workshop entitled "Spermatogenesis And Staging The Cycle Of The Seminiferous Epithelium Of Mouse, Rat and Man." This was attended by 25 participants and received rave reviews. (evaluations attached)
 11. We published our second Newsletter for Centre members, in December 2015 (attached), and are working on a third one for June.
 12. We raised almost \$7000, since October 2015, from 19 donors for an endowment to host an annual lecture named for our late McGill colleague and stem cell pioneer, Yves Clermont.
8. Please provide a **List of New Members** who joined in the past year (Full, Associate, Trainee noting whether graduate student or post-doctoral fellow) and **institutional affiliations**. Please also indicate any members who have left the Centre or Network. Add rows as necessary.
- There are no new faculty members this year but some trainees have graduated and moved on while others have joined. Updated lists of members and trainees are available at <http://www.mcgill.ca/crrd/members>**
- Please indicate total number of members: **32 PIs (Note: All trainees and staff in PIs' labs are automatically members of CRRD. We currently have 58 grad students, 20 postdocs, 36 Research Assistants/Associates, 8 technicians, 8 undergraduate students, 1 clinical fellow, and 1 visiting professor.)**

Please indicate total number of McGill Faculty of Medicine members: **27 PIs**

9. 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 CRRD 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. We will also sponsor career development and technique-workshops and lectures in reproductive and developmental biology and host our annual research day in May 2017. In addition, we will continue fundraising to establish the Clermont endowment. We hope to have the inaugural annual Clermont Memorial Lecture at our 2017 Research Day.

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**)

McGill's financial support is essential to the CRRD. Indeed, RQR funding is contingent on matching funds from McGill, as spelled out in the FQRNT funded application (March 2011 – March 2017).

Despite a cut to RQR funding last year (from \$55,000 to \$45,000/year, due to FQRNT cuts), we still managed to continue our core activities of trainee fellowships and travel awards; investigator research grants; and our annual research day. We also offered two workshops, hosted guest lecturer Bluma Lesch (MIT), and participated in the Canada Wide Science Fair. None of this would have been possible without McGill's financial support.

Knowing that RQR funding is not guaranteed beyond March 2017, we convened a Finance Subcommittee to identify and pursue future funding sources. We are working directly with the RQR on a renewal application to FQRNT; we are actively seeking donations for the Clermont Memorial Endowment Fund for an annual lecture; we are looking into hosting a Charity event to raise funds; we are preparing a promotional pamphlet for potential donors; and our trainees initiated bake/ice cream sales. We need the continued financial support of McGill to pursue these fundraising goals while also maintaining our core activities.

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 or Network; and
- Details of any in-kind contributions provided to the Centre or Network.
- Please include a projected budget (including request from Faculty of Medicine) for the coming year
- 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 2015, we funded scholarships for 5 graduate students and 2 postdoctoral fellows. We also awarded travel bursaries to 21 students and will fund an additional bursary from the 2015 budget. The 28 trainees already funded come from 16 different member laboratories.
- Number of proposals from participants to the Centre, Core Facility or Network and the number of activities funded;
We received 3 research grant proposals in our November 2015 competition and awarded one bridge grant of \$10K to the highest rated application. Due to budget cuts from the FQRNT, we did not hold a spring competition this year.
- Governance: provide details of management meetings. For example, membership, frequency, attendance, the nature of the meetings and the outcomes.
Governance of the CRRD is overseen by an Executive Committee, comprising the Director (Dr. Bernard), Associate Director (Dr. Kimmins), and Members-at-Large (Drs. Slim, Ryan, and O'Flaherty), all of whom hold 3-year terms. As Cristian O'Flaherty's term ends in June 2016, we held an election in February and Makoto Nagano was named Member-at-Large starting July 1, 2016. At the same time, the membership voted to extend Dr. Bernard's term as Director beyond June 2017 for a maximum of 3 more years to see us through the RQR renewal process. Lundi Ly (PhD Student) became Trainee Representative in July 2015, taking over from Yining Li. In addition, Dr. Hébert continues to serve as External Member to comply with University regulations regarding membership on Centre Boards or Executive Committees. Charlotte McCaffrey remains as Executive Secretary.

The Executive Committee met face-to-face twice during the 2014-2015 reporting period (October 2015 and March 2016). 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 CRRD members and on the CRRD website. Deadline dates for all competitions are clearly posted on the CRRD website and reminder emails are sent to all members. All fellowship and grant applications are reviewed and ranked by individuals, within or without CRRD, having no real or perceived conflicts 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.

This year, we established two subcommittees to deal more directly with Finance and Awards issues. The Finance Subcommittee is comprised of 6 members (Sarah Kimmins (Chair), Dan Bernard, Hugh Clarke, Rima Slim, Charlotte McCaffrey, and student representative Lundi Ly) who met face-to-face three times throughout the year and conducted further business via e-mail. Their main goals are to work with RQR on the

FQRNT renewal application and to find ways to increase funding from additional sources. The Awards Subcommittee, made up of 5 members (Cristian O’Flaherty (Chair), Rima Slim, Raj Duggavathi, Anna Naumova, and Charlotte McCaffrey), met face-to-face once but conducted a lot of business via e-mail. Their mandate was to assess and amend (as needed) the various award mechanisms and their review processes. Their recommendations were reviewed and accepted by the Executive Committee. The Awards Subcommittee is now responsible for implementing the awards competitions. All minutes from the subcommittee meetings are appended to this report.

In addition, the CRRD 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. The 2015 AGM was held on 8 June; the 2016 AGM will be held 20 June.

The main goals of this year’s AGM will be to discuss fundraising initiatives and setting priorities for 2016-2017.

- 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);

Workshop: High Content Imaging and Analysis

13 January 2016 5 attendees

Workshop: Spermatogenesis and Staging the Cycle of the Seminiferous Epithelium of mouse, rat and man

15-16 March 2016 25 attendees

Seminar: Bluma Lesch

20 April 2016 20 attendees + 10 videoconf.

CRRD Research Day 2016

31 May 2016 143 attendees

Hot Topics in Reproduction and Development

10 times/year average 40-50 attendees

In addition, we actively advertise events that may be of interest to our members by email, website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/crrd/newsevents/scientific-meetings>), 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. Jodi Flaws
Dr. Sally Camper
Dr. Robert Viger
Dr. Bluma Lesch

- 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 CRRD 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 92 papers listed in PubMed since 2015-05-01. These have appeared in leading general and specialized journals, including Science, Neuroendocrinology, 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 (more than 18 awarded) enabled students to attend and present their research at international scientific conferences
 - Industry stakeholder interactions.
- Number of web hits and articles downloaded;
According to the ClustrMaps tracking system on the CRRD website, we have had 1445 visitors since October 2015. We are also getting more traffic on our Twitter and Facebook accounts with posts reaching more people all the time.
- 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 CRRD 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 as evidenced by the following list of successful new grants received by our members between May 1, 2015 and April 30, 2016.

A Naumova, PI, NSERC, \$30,000/year for 3 years

A Ryan and I Gupta, Co-PIs, Kidney Foundation of Canada, 2015-2017, \$50,000/yr

B Hales, PI, NSERC, \$28,000/year for 5 years

B Hales, PI, CIHR, \$45,500 for one year

B Robaire, PI, 2016-2023 Office of the Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic), McGill University, \$15,000/year

C Morales, PI, FRNT Regroupement Stratégiques-RQR - New Collaborations, 2015-2016, \$5,000

C O'Flaherty, FRQS chercheur-boursier Junior 2, 2016-2017, Amount TBA

D Bernard, PI, CIHR Operating Grant, July 2015-June 2020, approximately \$160,000/yr

D Bernard, PI, NSERC Discovery Grant, April 2015-March 2020, \$28,000/year

H Clarke, PI, NIH - R21, approved for funding, period and amount TBA

J Head, PI, Fisheries and Oceans Canada – National Contaminants Advisory Group, \$140,000 over 19 months

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

J Trasler, co-applicant, CIHR CEEHRC (Epigenetics) Research Consortium Grant (PI: M. Hirst), 2015-2019, \$2,000,000

P Chan, Co-Investigator, CIHR Operating Grant, 2015-2020, \$610,694 for 5 yrs

P Chan, Co-Investigator, CIHR Operating Grant, 2015-2020, \$1,494,120 for 5 yrs

P Chan, Co-Investigator, CIHR Operating Grant, 2015-2020, \$1,265,478 for 5 yrs
 P Monnier, Mentor, RI-MUHC Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp, \$249,729 over two years
 P Monnier, Co-Investigator, CIHR Operating Grant, 2015-2020, \$2,799,384
 R Duggavathi, Co-PI, NSERC, RTI program 2015, \$125,635
 R Duggavathi, Co-PI, NSERC Research Tools, 2016, \$117,239
 S Kimmins, Principal applicant with 5 co-applicants, 2015-2020, CIHR Operating Grant, \$215,420/year
 S Kimmins, Principal Applicant with 18 co-applicants (international team with members from Africa, USA, Europe), CIHR Team Grant, \$1,500,000
 S Kimmins, Co-Applicant, CIHR Operating Grant, 2015-2021, \$1,015,518
 S Wing, PI, Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute Innovation Grant, Feb/15- Jan/18, \$199,989
 V Papadopoulos, PI, CFI Institutional Operating Funds, 2015-2020, \$15,000,000
 V Papadopoulos, PI, CIHR, 2015-2016, \$25,000
 V Papadopoulos, PI, 2016, IASO Biomed, \$100,000 USD

What/how much additional funding was generated that was directly attributable to activities of the Centre, Core Facility or Network;

\$45,000 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 grateful that McGill last year renewed this commitment of \$41,000.

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

Research Grants (Total \$10,000)

Simon Wing and Makoto Nagano \$10,000

Trainee Fellowships (Total \$40,000)

Deepak Saini, MSc	\$5,000
Fatima Tokhmafshan, MSc	\$5,000
Sophia Rahimi, MSc	\$5,000
Han (Aileen) Yan, PhD	\$5,000
Ngoc Minh Phuong Nguyen, PhD	\$5,000
Chirine Toufaily, PDF	\$7,500
Xueqing Liu, PDF	\$7,500

Travel Awards (Total \$10,420)

Aaron Kwong, MSc	\$500
Deepak Saini, MSc	\$500
Enrique Gamero, MSc	\$210
Fatima Tokhmafshan, MSc	\$500
Laura Whidden, MSc	\$500
Sunghoon Lee, MSc	\$500
Yassemine Khawajkie, MSc	\$500
Anne Marie Downey, PhD	\$500
Han (Aileen) Yan, PhD	\$300
Keith Siklenka, PhD	\$500
Nazem El Hussein, PhD	\$500
Omar Vieux, PhD	\$500
Rodrigo Bohrer, PhD	\$500
Steven Jones, PhD	\$500

Yasmin Schuermann, PhD	\$500
Yining Li, PhD	\$500
Enrico Campioli, PDF	\$500
Gurpreet Manku, PDF	\$500
Luisina Ongaro, PDF	\$500
Mahmoud Arabi , PDF	\$500
Oceane Albert, PDF	\$500
1 still to be awarded	\$410

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 CRRD, held each year since 2009, attended by 125-150 members and trainees of the CRRD. In both 2015 and 2016, 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 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.

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

CRRD exhibit booth at the Canada Wide Science Fair attracted thousands of visitors including 500 high school science fair finalists from across Canada.

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

McGill CRRD researchers Sarah Kimmins (PI), Dan Bernard, Jacquetta Trasler, and Romain Lambrot, along with other Canadian and South African researchers, received a 5-year, \$1.5 million team grant from CIHR to determine how environmental factors can alter the preconception health of men.

In addition, our monthly "Hot Topics in Reproduction and Development" group meetings and annual Research Day enable members to share data and network on a consistent basis throughout the year.

Effectiveness of governance processes in place;

Our competitions draw large numbers of applications and our Research Day attracts nearly 150 enthusiastic participants every year. These numbers testify to the effectiveness of the CRRD 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 have supported trainees from most member laboratories. Members also appreciate the transparency with which the Executive Committee operates.

Different kinds of research generated – research building capacity, or removing impediments to research;

Our Fellowship, Research 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);
An NSERC CREATE LOI was one of 6 from McGill chosen to be submitted to NSERC by May 20th. CRRD member Vilceu Bordignon is the lead PI on this LOI with strong support from the Faculty of Medicine, FAES, Laval, U Montreal and from partners such as Jackson labs and IGBMC of the University of Strasbourg France.
- 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);

Workshop: High Content Imaging and Analysis

13 January 2016

5 attendees

Workshop: Spermatogenesis and Staging the Cycle of the Seminiferous Epithelium of mouse, rat and man

15-16 March 2016

25 attendees

CSR Research Day 2015

19 May 2015

140 attendees

CRRD Research Day 2016

31 May 2016

In addition to our own meetings, the CRRD co-hosted the RQR Symposium in Montreal on November 17 and 18, 2015 with 230 registrations. The event included 66 posters presentations in addition to the presentations by 3 guest speakers and 14 oral presentations by students.

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 featured publication by a CRRD member lab.

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 2nd bi-annual newsletter in October which was emailed to all members. Our 3rd newsletter is in production and is due come out in June.

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 CRRD members and trainees. This enables our members to make new contacts and offers opportunities for new collaborations and research initiatives.

We also encourage members to let us know when they have an internationally recognized scientist visiting and offer to host a seminar and meetings, as with Bluma Lesch.

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

We completed our rebranding process, changing our name, producing a new Logo and a promotional video, and updating all correspondence accordingly.

We started an endowment fund for the Clermont Lecture.

We hosted two workshops for trainees.

We were once again 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:

- **were unable to host more seminars by guest lecturers;**
- **had insufficient funds to support more of our highly talented graduate students and post-docs, or to provide more research grants; and**
- **were unable to organize a Soup & Science type event, as planned**
- **were unable to get CRRD on Wikipedia.**

How new skills have been acquired as a result of research technology;

New skills were acquired through our High Content Imaging and Staging Spermatogenesis workshops. This is in addition to new skills learned by all trainees in CRRD Members Labs (value added by support through the CRRD).

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.

Participants of the Spermatogenesis workshop were also encouraged to fill out evaluation forms. The feedback was very positive!

- 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 co-hosted the RQR Research Day in November 2015. We will co-host the RQR research day in November 2016 in Quebec City. We are also putting in a renewal application to FQRNT with the RQR. We submitted a CREATE LOI in collaboration with researchers at Université de Montreal, Université Laval and Ottawa Hospital Research Institute.
- Linkages with international Research Networks;
- Development of tools, software, databases; and
- How the networks between researchers are being strengthened as a result of using web-based and other technologies.