PhD Student or Postdoctoral Fellow Position

We are seeking a highly motivated student interested in pursuing graduate or postdoctoral training in the fields of developmental origins of health, maternal and child health, and the risk factors and prevention of childhood obesity and diabetes.

Supervising Investigators

- Luigi Bouchard – Université de Sherbrooke, Saguenay site
- Patrice Perron – Université de Sherbrooke, CR-CHUS, Faculty of Medicine, Sherbrooke
- Marie-France Hivert – Harvard Medical School, Boston
- Véronique Gingras – Université de Montréal, CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center, Montréal

Study Overview

The "Genetics of Glucose regulation in Gestation and Growth (Gen3G)" prospective cohort, composed of 1,024 pregnant women recruited during their first trimester between 2010 and 2013, is internationally recognized[1]. These women and their children have been followed up at five different time points since. Our research program integrates clinical, epidemiological, and molecular science approaches. The overarching aim of this large-scale study is to better understand predictors of gestational diabetes and its long-term impact on maternal and child health from a life course perspective.

In summer 2021, we initiated the third postnatal follow-up of the mother-child dyads, 10–12 years after delivery. The first two postnatal assessments occurred at 3 and 5 years of age[2]. This current follow-up aims to examine the effects of fetal exposure to maternal hyperglycemia on body composition, appetite regulation, and eating behaviors to better understand the mechanisms underlying the development of overweight and obesity in preadolescents.

Specific objectives of this third follow-up include:

1. Identify prenatal metabolic determinants of adiposity in preadolescents.

2. Identify prenatal and early-life determinants of obesogenic eating behaviors in preadolescents.

3. Investigate endogenous and exogenous regulators of obesogenic eating behaviors and adiposity.

This project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for the 2023–2029 period.

1. Guillemette L, et al. Genetics of Glucose regulation in Gestation and Growth (Gen3G): a prospective prebirth cohort of mother–child pairs in Sherbrooke, Canada. BMJ Open 2016;6(2):e010031. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2015-010031.
2. Taschereau A, et al. Cohort profile: The Genetics of Glucose regulation in Gestation and Growth (Gen3G)-a prospective prebirth cohort of mother–child pairs in Sherbrooke, Canada, 3- and 5-year post-partum follow-ups. BMJ Open 2025 Mar 22;15(3):e093434. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2024-093434

Required Qualifications

• Background in health sciences or a related fundamental science discipline (e.g., biochemistry, cell biology, genetics/genomics, microbiology, physiology, etc.)
• Strong oral and written communication skills in both French and English
• Knowledge of diabetes and/or experience in clinical or epidemiological research is an asset
• Experience with biostatistical analyses is an asset
• Prior experience in scientific publishing is an asset

An internal scholarship is available, but the student will be expected to prepare and submit applications for external funding (fellowship competitions typically open in early fall).

Work Environment

In collaboration with the Department of Endocrinology and the Department of Biochemistry and Functional Genomics at Université de Sherbrooke and the CHUS Research Centre (Fleurimont site), the student will join a dynamic, multidisciplinary, and experienced research team (including research assistants, dietitians, nurses, a biostatistician, and Master's students) that values excellence, equity, and diversity in training. There is also the possibility of completing the training at the CIUSSS Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean Research and Innovation Centre or at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center – Université de Montréal (Dr. Véronique Gingras; veronique.gingras@umontreal.ca).

The preferred start date is January 2026.

To apply, please send the following documents to Ms. Myriam Doyon at: myriam.doyon@usherbrooke.ca

• Curriculum vitae
• Cover letter
• Two letters of reference (if possible)
• Academic transcripts

Application deadline: Sunday, August 3, 2025

1. Guillemette L, et al. Genetics of Glucose regulation in Gestation and Growth (Gen3G): a prospective prebirth cohort of mother–child pairs in Sherbrooke, Canada. BMJ Open 2016;6(2):e010031. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2015-010031.
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