

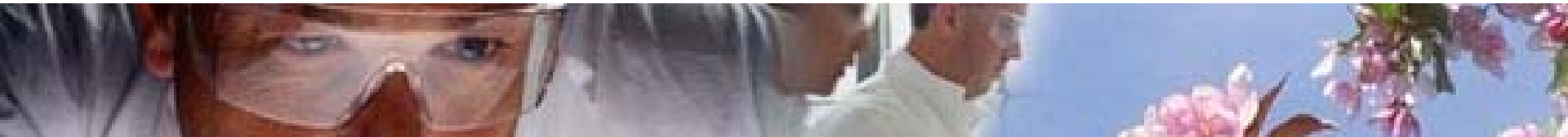


A Networking Success Story in the Making

**Judah A. Denburg, MD, FRCP(C)
Scientific Director & CEO**

February 15, 2009
Fairmont Chateau Laurier, Ottawa

Canada 





LEGEND

- ⊙ National capital
- Provincial or Territorial capital
- Other populated places
- International boundary
- - - Provincial or Territorial boundary
- ⋯ Exclusive 200 nautical mile Economic Zone (EEZ)

Scale



Six Key Accomplishments

- Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC)
- Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study
- Genomics and genetics research
- Food allergy research programme
- New training opportunities & partnerships
- International leadership (IPI programme)

...Making a Difference

Without AllerGen, there would be no:

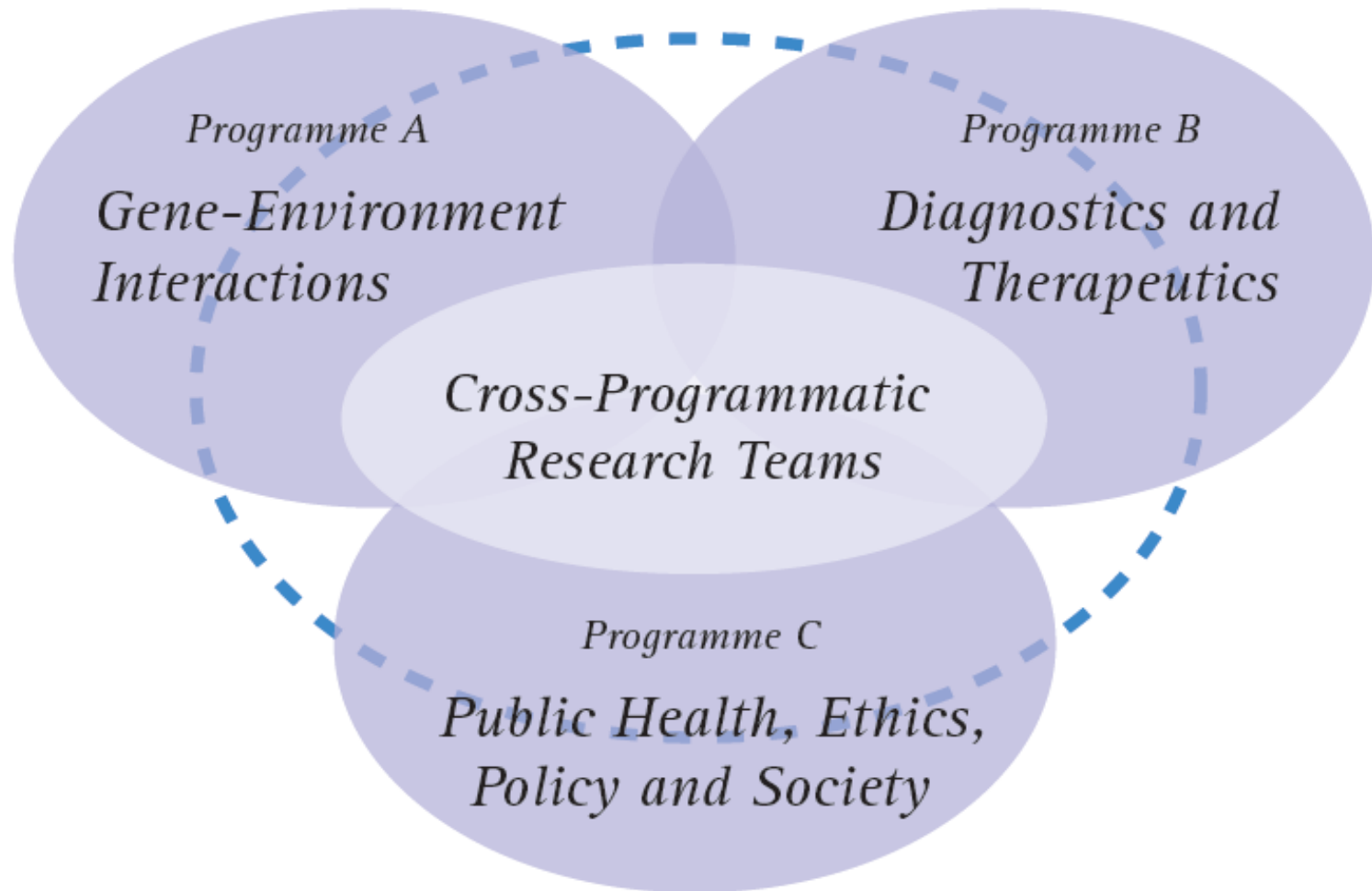
- Canadian focus on allergy and asthma research across disciplines
- Clinical Investigator Collaborative
- CHILD Study (national birth cohort)
- International collaboration on genetic association studies for allergy & asthma genes
- Canadian leadership in global respiratory health initiatives
- National food allergy research programme - bench to bedside to policy to community
- Specialized allergy research training and development opportunities for trainees, young professionals, physicians
- Partnerships with patient, professional and policy organizations linking allergy researchers with healthcare providers and disease management support groups

Priority Research Directions 2009 - 2012

- Build upon **nationally-networked research teams**
- Enhance and expand **programmatic projects**
- Invest in high priority, high potential **strategic initiatives** aligned with Allergen's programmatic goals

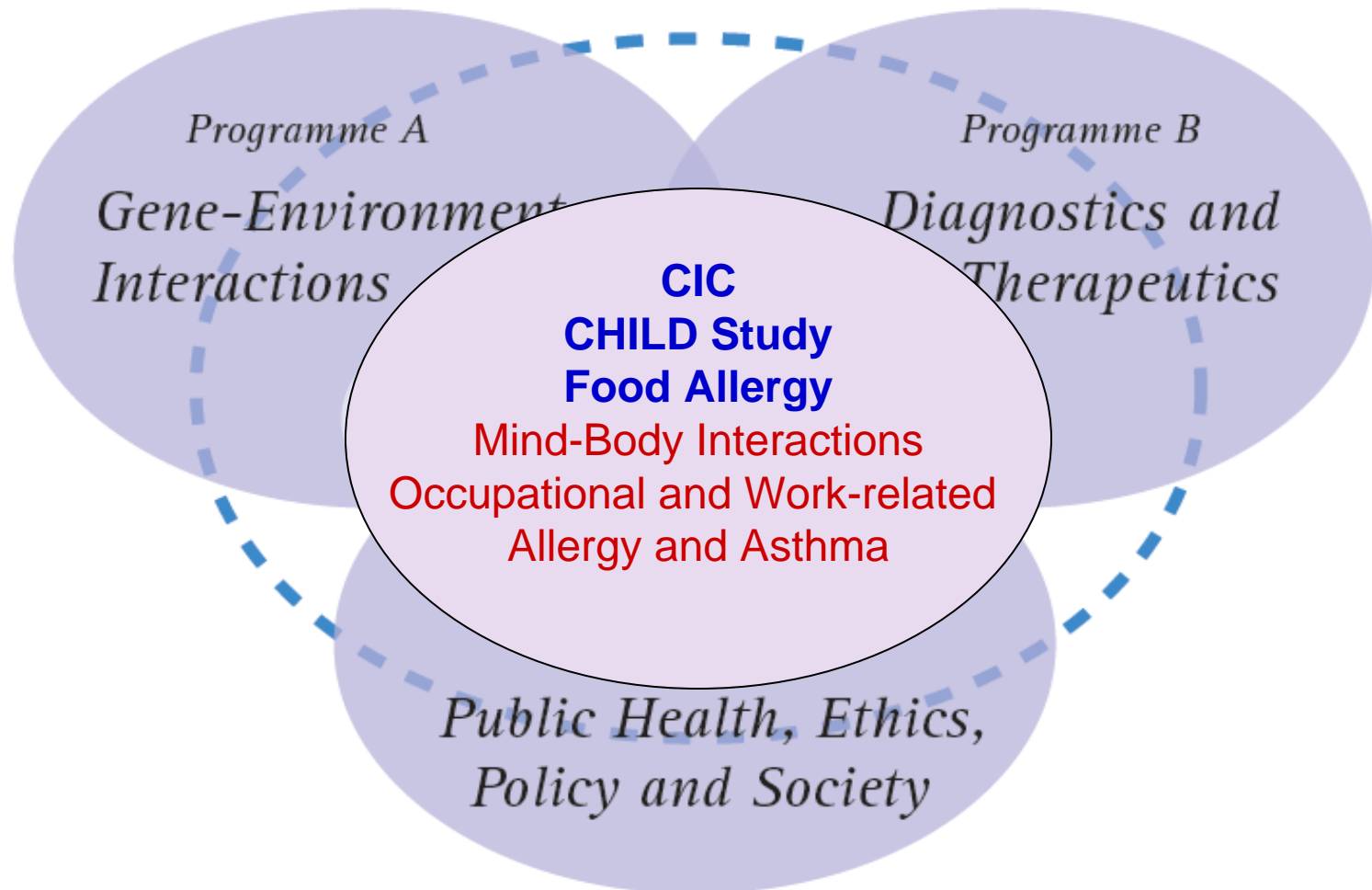
Integrated Programmatic Research Structure

AllerGen's Integrated Research Programme



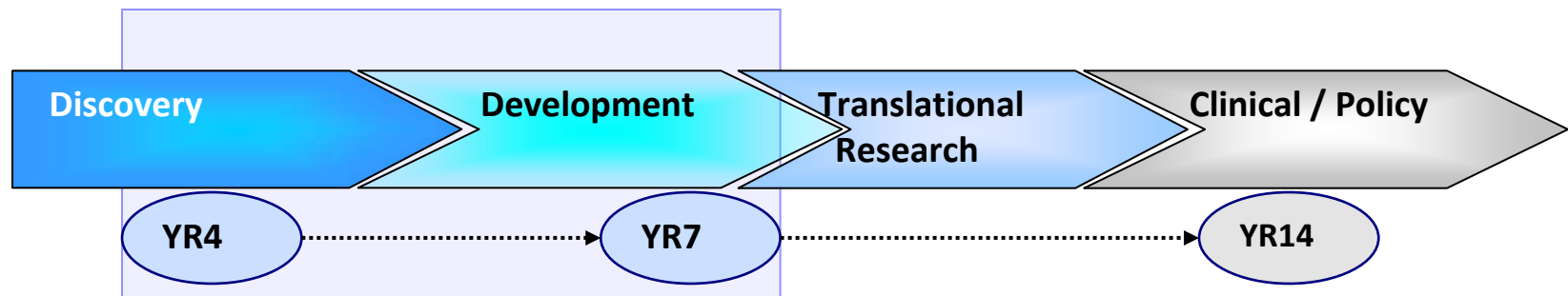
Integrated Programmatic Research Structure

AllerGen's Integrated Research Programme



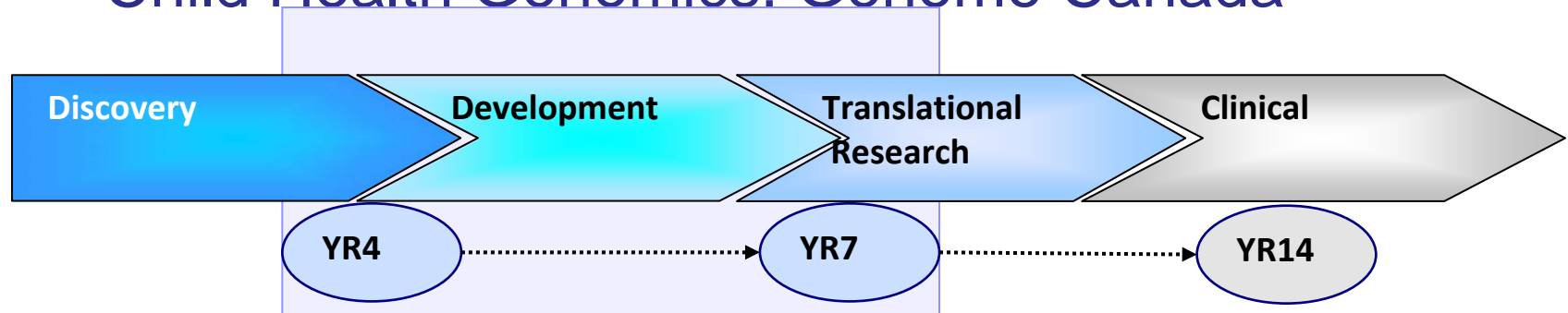
The Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study

- National birth cohort study following 5,000 children from conception to age 5
- 54 investigators, collaborators, technicians
- 4 sites across Canada
- Comprehensive characterization of environmental factors
- Links to mini-CHILD & other birth cohort studies & networks



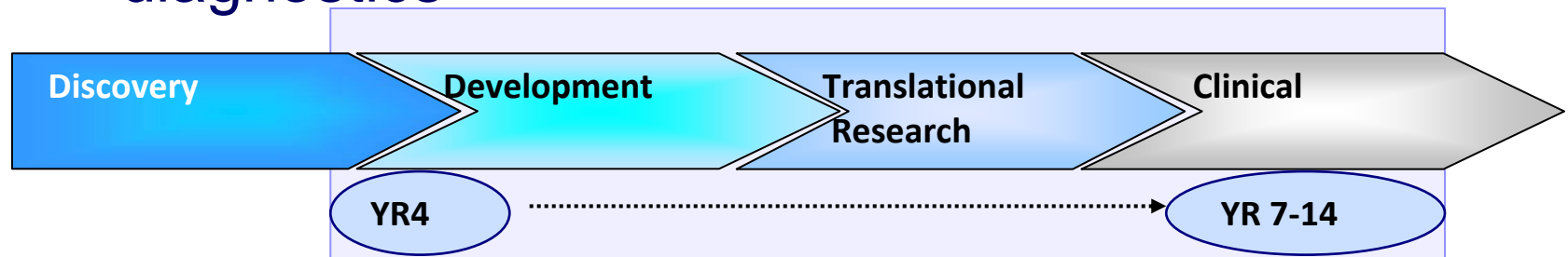
Genetics, Environment and Gene-Environment Interactions in Allergy & Asthma

- Application to Mini-Child and CHILD studies
- Environmental exposure assessments & models
- Genome-wide association studies (GABRIEL)
- New GxE diagnostics and therapeutics
- Patents and databases that inform clinical care and public health and environmental policy
- Child Health Genomics: Genome Canada



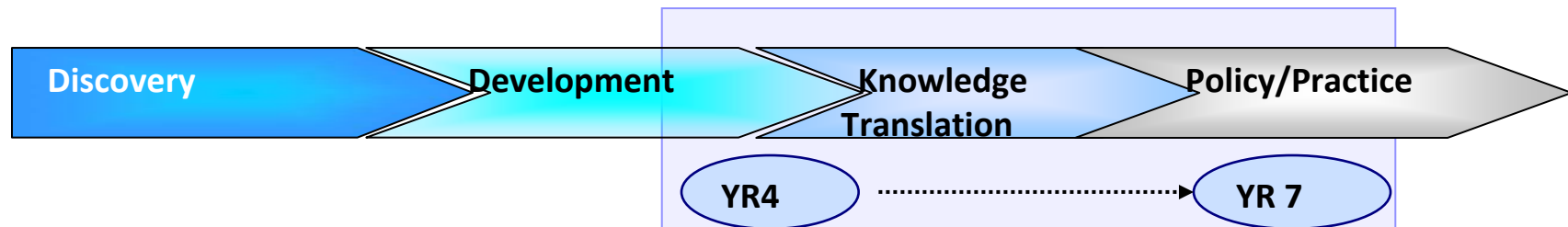
Clinical Investigator Collaborative (CIC)

- New biologics developed & discovered ('in-house' research: probiotics, vaccines)
- New disease areas, applications and protocols (rhinitis, food allergy, vaccine immunotherapy)
- International capacity building (Leiden, Karolinska, others)
- Links to genetics, biomarkers and other diagnostics



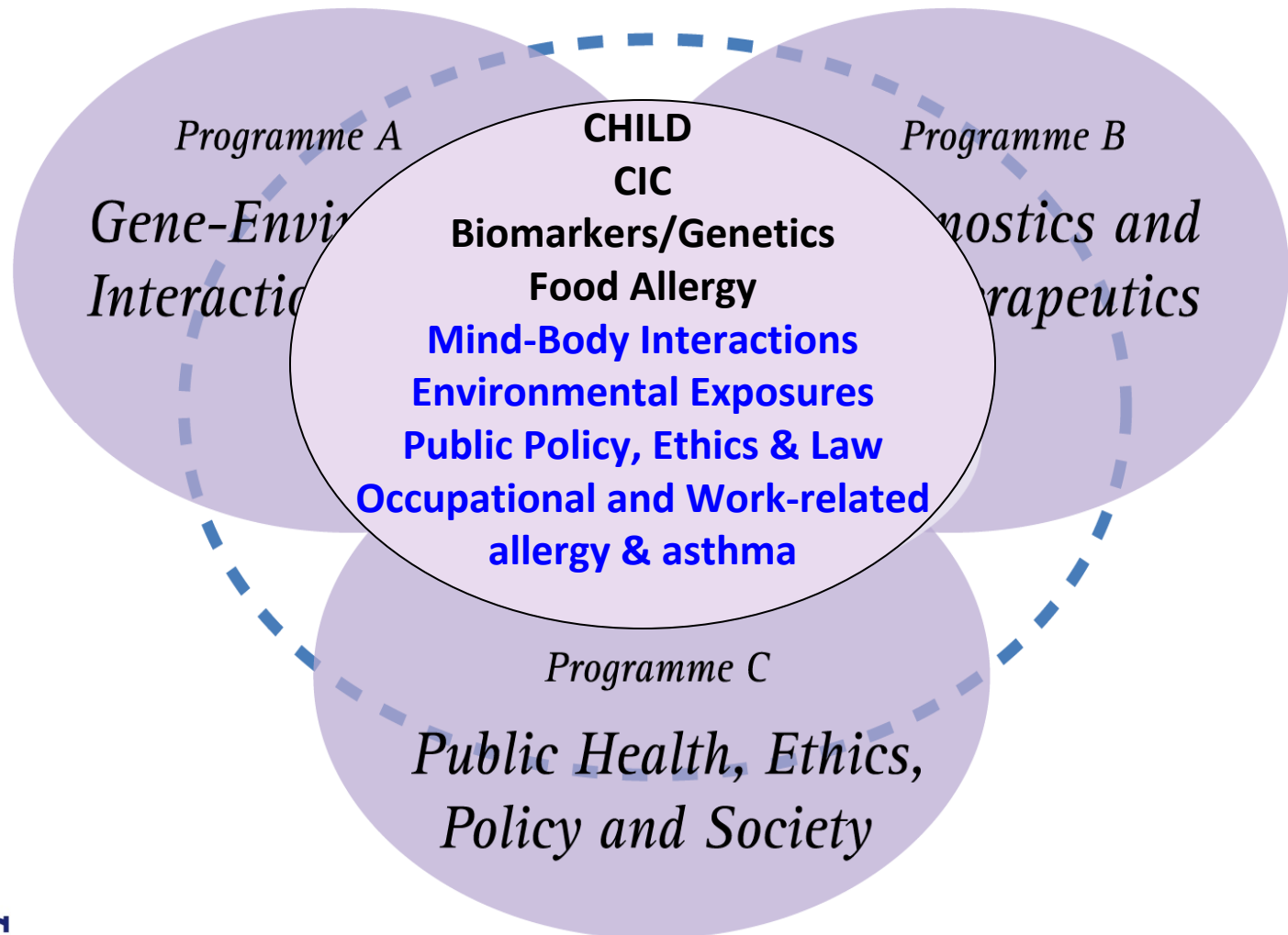
Food Allergy/Anaphylaxis Research

- CanGoFAR: Bench/biology
- Clinical studies: Diagnostics/algorithms
- Awareness, education, risk, public health & policy: SCAAALAR, Sabrina's Law, Puff, Taking Control of Asthma



Integrated Programmatic Research Structure

2007-2012 Allergen's Integrated Research Programme



AllerGen is Multi-Disciplinary and Inclusive

- Special initiatives to reach and develop teams of social science, occupational and health economics researchers
- 30-40% additional researchers and groups responded to our first national Call for Proposals
- >20 new researchers, across many disciplines, approved as members

Plasticity and adaptability lead to innovation

HQP

- **~300 trainees** in a unique, multidisciplinary and multi-sectoral environment: **CAIDATI**
- **AllerGen Students and New Professionals Network (ASNPN)**
- **Workshop and training opportunities**
- **Networking opportunities enhanced**
- **National and international collaborations**
- **Graduates obtaining positions across sectors** (government, industry, university, professional specialisation)

HQP Tactics

- New and Partnered Fellowships
- Specialized Workshops
- Professional Development Opportunities
- Accelerate Canada/MITACS NCE
- New Faculty Positions
- National and International Exchanges

International Partnership Initiatives

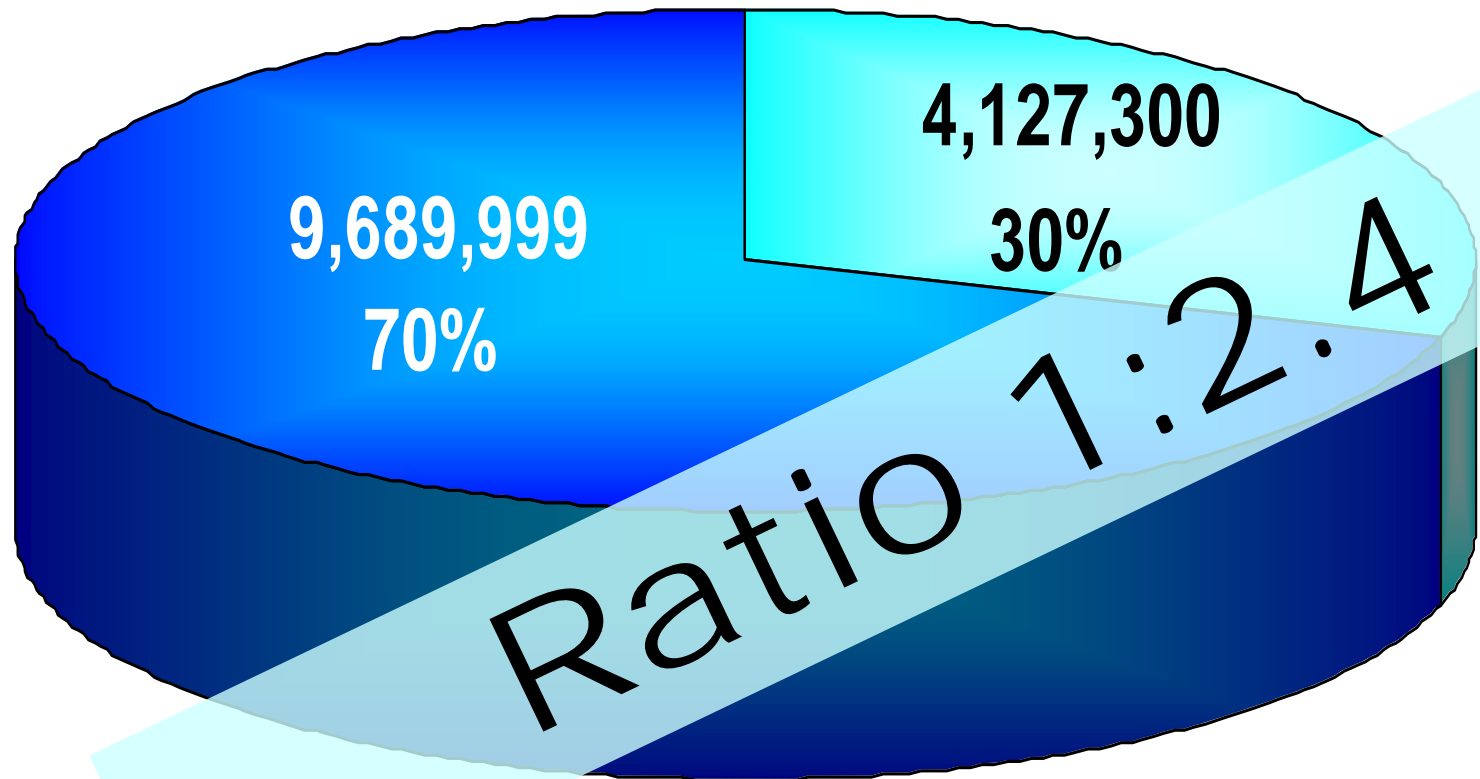
- **5 new international partnerships facilitated by an NCE/IDRC pilot grant 2007-9**
 - GA²LEN (Belgium/EU)
 - IUALTD (France/ El Salvador/Mexico)
 - Karolinska Institute (Sweden)
 - St. John's Institute (India)
 - WHO/GARD/ARIA (Montpelier/Geneva)
- New, emerging international collaborations: GABRIEL, Humboldt/Helmholtz (Germany), Taiwan, China, Israel, USA

Networking and Partnerships Progress

- **>250 partner organizations**
- **AllerGen leveraging of partner cash and in-kind contributions exceeds 1:1 target by >100%** (2008)

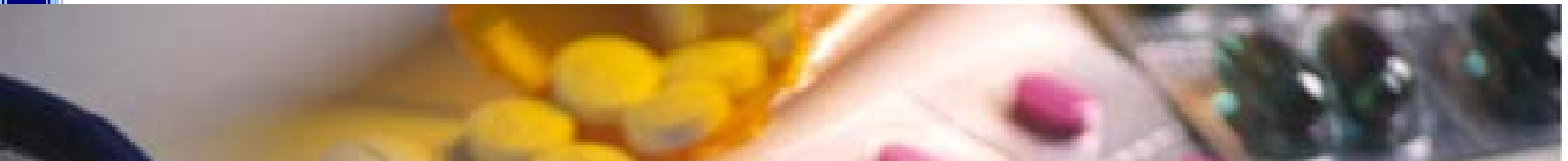
AllerGen Research Funding Ratio NCE: Non-NCE 2008 (N=1:2.4)

- NCE Funding
- NON-NCE Funding



Knowledge & Technology Exchange & Exploitation (KTEE)

- New research platforms – e.g., CHILD, genetics, biomarkers
- Tools – web-based datasets, on-line peer mentoring
- Processes – CIC SOPs
- Products and services arising from discoveries – diagnostic algorithms; ‘personalised’ medicine; immune, genetic and epigenetic biomarkers
- Public policy impact - housing, healthcare delivery & health promotion



Strategic Positioning of Network Investments

Stage of Knowledge Creation

BASIC RESEARCH

TRANSLATIONAL GAP

CLINICAL APPLICATIONS
POLICY
PRACTICE

**AllerGen**

GOVERNMENT /
NGO SECTOR

Programme A
Gene-Environment
Interactions

Programme B
Diagnostics and
Therapeutics

Programmatic Projects
+ Strategic Initiatives

Programme C
Public Health, Ethics,
Policy and Society

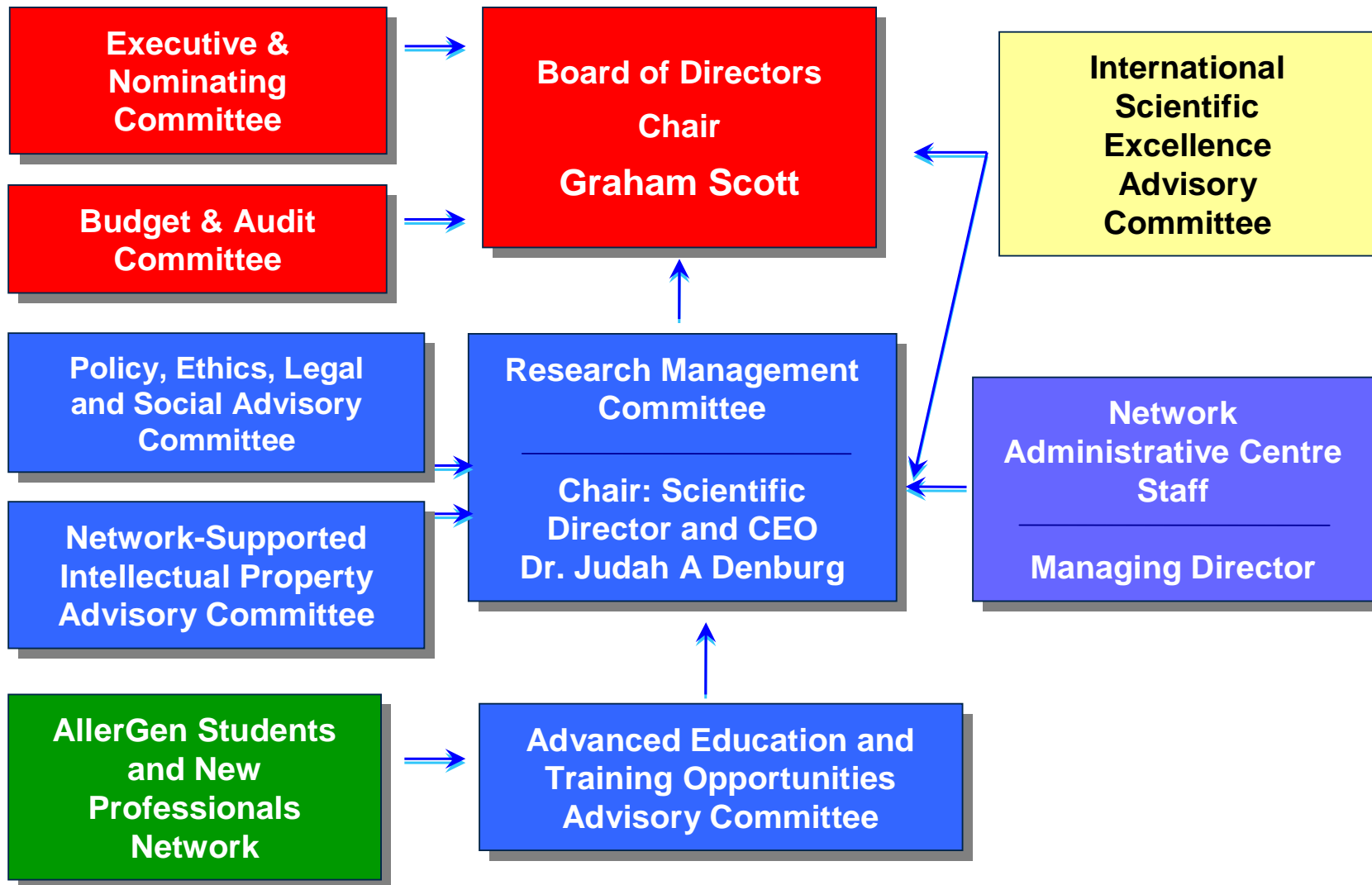
INDUSTRY /
PRIVATE SECTOR

Stage of Investment

Drafts/Copyrights



AllerGen Governance and Management Structure (2009)



Management

- Strong and cohesive management team
- Well-functioning Board and associated committees
- Administrative Centre outreach into society, nationally and internationally
- Expertise in many areas of management & governance

Management (cont'd)

- Best practices and procedures for Board/management developed
- Web-enabled research, HQEP and KTEE data collection
- 92 media reports identified
- Tailored communications
- Packages, newsletters
- 103 meetings/workshops with potential stakeholders

AllerGen Mid-term Review: A Success!

- October 23, 2008, Hamilton, ON
- Expert Panel impressed with progress to date
- Supports strategic plan
- Unanimously recommended continuation of funding
- \$5,216,500 per year
- **\$15,649,500 2009-2012**

Legacy Initiatives: The Vision

- Major legacy initiatives (e.g., CHILD, CIC, food allergy, public health and disease surveillance, disease management tool development, international collaborations) will have been catalyzed and continue to develop
- Trainees will take the benefit of their Allergan experiences and network contacts with them into future careers
- Allergan will place ever greater emphasis on investing in the 8th – 14th year on translation and commercialization of research results from 2005 – 2012
- International interactions between Allergan researchers and international research teams will continue

AllerGen:

A spirit of cooperation

- Further develop treatments/preventions
- Mobilize knowledge
- Limit duplicative research
- Continue cutting edge accomplishments

Let's continue to develop
this network...



WHERE THE **WILD THINGS** ARE



...and let the wild rumpus
begin!



AllerGen

Allergy, Genes and Environment Network
Le réseau des allergies, des gènes et de l'environnement