

# NB Innovation Research Chair in Biosciences

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Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Université de Moncton

#### Research Themes

- Lipid metabolism
  - Discovery research on the control of cellular lipids
  - 2. Investigation and development of new sources of omega-3 fatty acids
  - 3. Development of new anti-inflammatory agents

### Theme 1

# Discovery Research on the Control of Cellular Lipids Funding sources: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

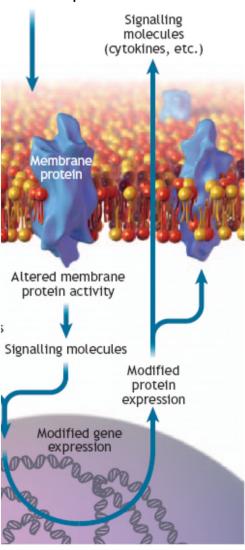
**Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF)** 

**NB Health Research Foundation (NBHRF)** 

Robichaud et al., *J Lipid Res*, 2013
Robichaud & Surette, *Current Opinion Endocrinol Diabetes Obes*, 2015

## Les lipides cellulaires

#### Influx of new lipids



### Theme 2

# Investigation and Development of New Sources of Omega-3 Fatty Acids

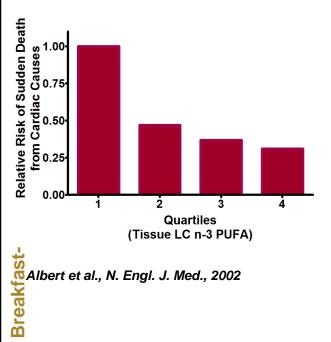
Funding sources: Atlantic Innovation Fund (AIF)

**NB Innovation Foundation (NBIF)** 

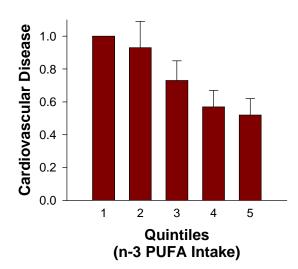
**Technology Crops International Inc.** 

# Omega-3 Fatty Acids and Cardiovascular Disease

**Risk of Sudden Cardiac** Death in Men

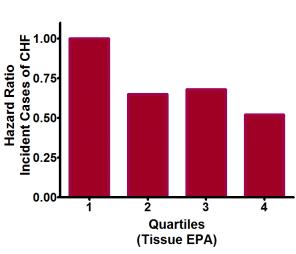


**Coronary Heart Disease in** Women (Nurse's Health Study, n=84,688)



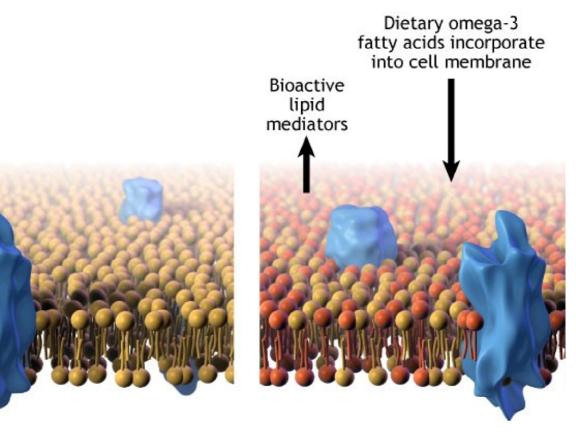
Hu et al., JAMA, 2002

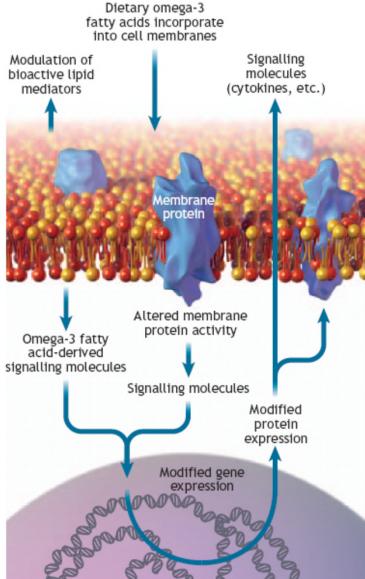
**Risk of Congestive Heart Failure in Older Adults** 



Mozaffarian et al., Ann Intern Med., 2013

## Les lipides cellulaires





Surette ME, Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2008

# Sources of omega-3 Fatty Acids

 Global demand for fish oils is expected to exceed supply – not a sustainable resource

 Agriculture may provide sustainable, effective and affordable alternatives

- Plant sources
  - Not the same omega-3 fatty acids as fish oils
  - Health benefits not as established as fish oils

# Omega-3 Fatty Acids

```
Flax, canola,
        α-Linolenic Acid
              (18:3)
                                     soya
∆6-desaturase
        Stearidonic Acid
              (18:4)
elongase
               20:4
∆5-desaturase
        Eicosapentaenoic Acid
                                       Fish oil
              (20:5)
elongase
                                       Fish oil
         Docosapentaenoic Acid
              (22:5)
elongase
∆6-desaturase
               24:6
β-oxidation
        Docosahexaenoic Acid
                                       Fish oil
              (22:6)
```

# Innovative omega-3 vegetable oils: A concerted research-driven strategy to develop and commercialize plant-derived oils with unique polyunsaturated fatty acid profiles

A partnership with Nature's Crops International

#### Buglossoides arvensis (Ahiflower™)

- Corn Gromwell
- Family: Boraginaceae





#### Clinical Trial 1

- Single center
- Double-blind
- Comparator-controlled
- Randomized

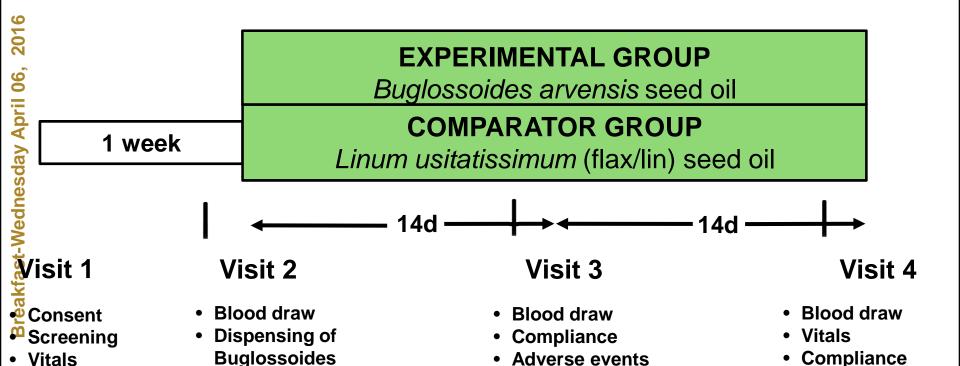
Blood draw

(safety)

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02226354

or flaxseed oil

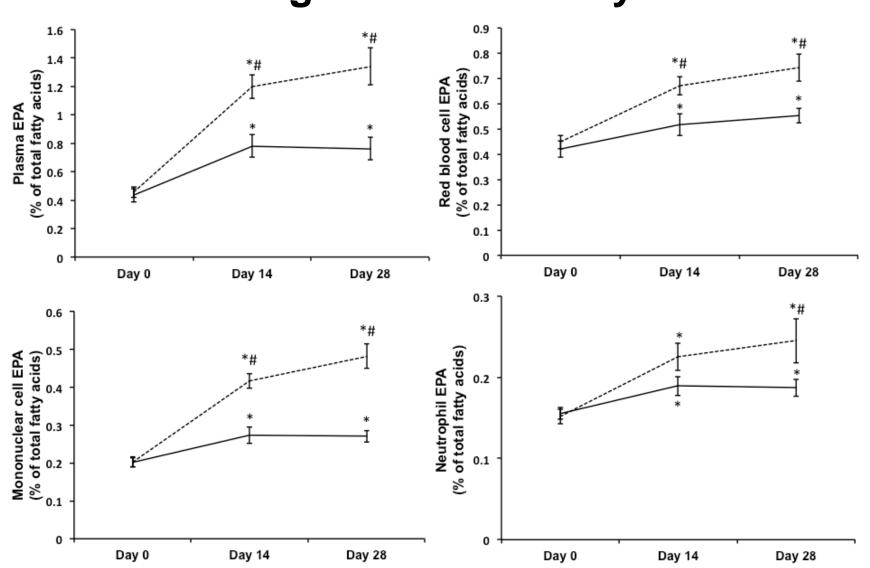
Health Canada: HC-NHPD-196699



Lefort et al., Journal of Nutritional Sciences, 2016

**Adverse events** 

# Ahiflower Oil Augments EPA in Plasma and Circulating Cells of Healthy Humans



2016

Breakfast-Wednesday April 06.

Lefort et al., Journal of Nutritional Sciences, 2016

## **Implications**

- Ahiflower oil is a safe and effective source of dietary omega-3 PUFA
- Health outcomes associated with fish and fish oil consumption may be attainable with a plantderived dietary oil
- Sustainable alternative to fish oils for enrichment of tissues with long chain omega-3 fatty acids

## Key Accomplishments

- NCI established a presence in Canada
  - Oil extraction & processing facility constructed in PEI,
     30+ employees (HQP), contracts for farmers
- Clinical trials
  - Two clinical studies completed
- Regulatory dossiers
  - Regulatory approval by FDA in United States (Jan 2015)
  - Novel Food approval in Europe (July 2015)
  - Approval pending with Health Canada, other jurisdictions
- Identification of novel bioactive compounds with potential pharmaceutical applications

### Theme 3

#### Development of New Anti-Inflammatory Agents

Funding sources: Natural Sciences and Engineering Research

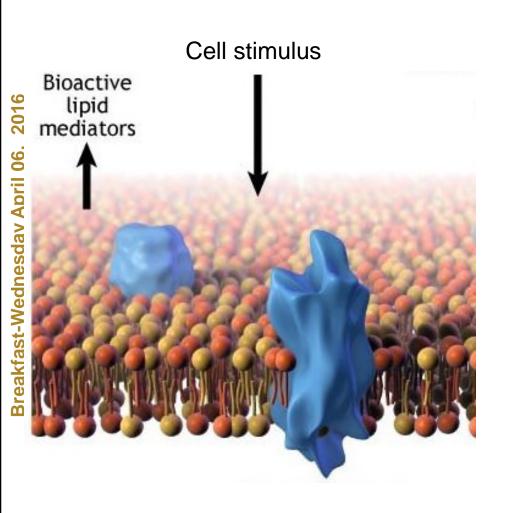
**Council of Canada (NSERC)** 

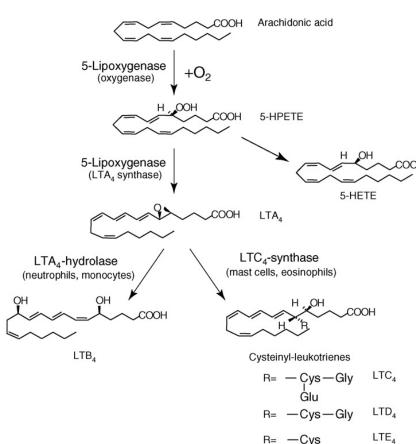
**NB Health Research Foundation (NBHRF)** 

**NB Innovation Foundation (NBIF)** 

**Springboard Atlantic** 

## Lipid Mediators of Inflammation

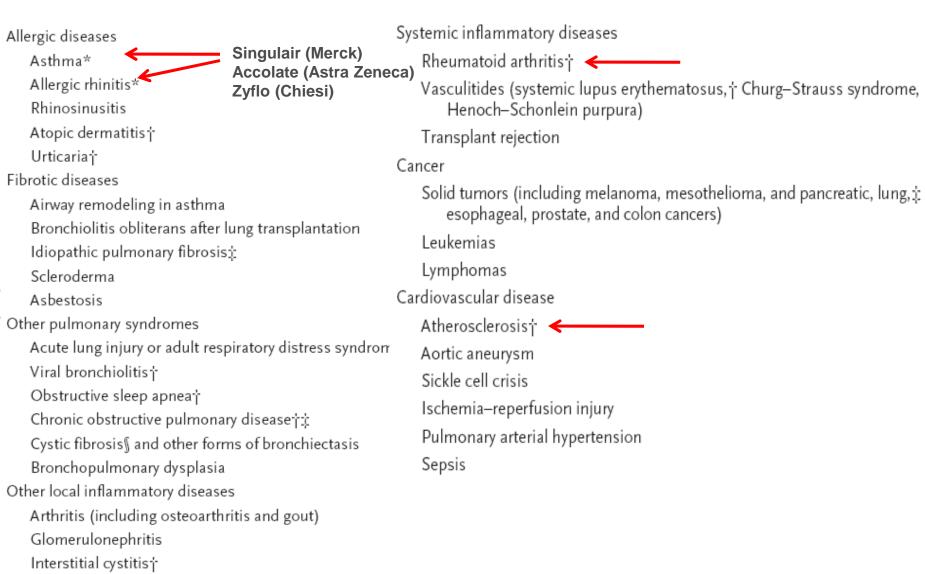




Psoriasis

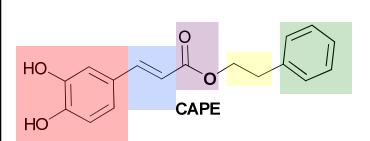
Inflammatory bowel disease¶

#### Leukotrienes and disease



Peters-Golden and Henderson, N Engl J Med. 2007

#### **Development of Leukotriene Synthesis Inhibitors**

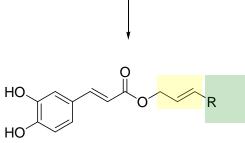


Caffeic acid phenethyl

Pester

**Propolis** 

**Breakfast-Wednesda** 



R = PhMe (4-Me)

R = PhOMe (4-OMe)

 $R = Ph (4-NO_2)$ 

R = PhF (4-F) $R = Naph (1^{-})$ 

R = PhPh

 $R = 4^{-}(CH=CHCH_{2}Caffeoyl)-Ph$ 

R = Ph

R = PhMe (4-Me)

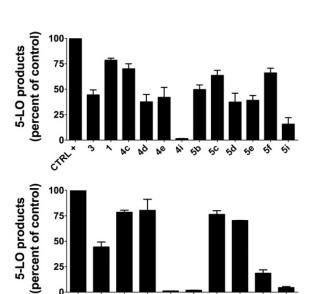
R = PhOMe (4-OMe)

 $R = Ph (4-NO_2)$ 

R = PhF (4-F)R = Naph (1)

R = PhPh

 $R = 4^{-}(CCCH_2Caffeoyl)-Ph$ 



6 18 10 80 80

#### Modulators of Lipoxygenase and Cyclooxygenase Enzyme Activity.

US Patent application no. 62303120

Mohamed Touaibia and Marc Surette, filed March 3, 2016.

Will continue development of most promising drug candidates and seek a commercial development partner.

# Biomedical Research in South-East New Brunswick

#### 16 Senior Biomedical Sciences Investigators at Université de Moncton and at the Atlantic Cancer Research Institute

Fields of Research:
Cancer Biology
Chronic Diseases
Molecular Diagnostics

Marc E. Surette, PhD (Cornell Univ), Postdoc (Wake Forest Univ)
NB Innovation Research Chair, UdeM

Rodney Ouellette, MD/PhD (Univ Laval) President and Scientific Director, ACRI

Sandra Turcotte, PhD (UQAM), Postdoc (Stanford Univ)
Canadian Cancer Society Research Chair, UdeM

Stephen Lewis, PhD (Dalhousie Univ), Postdoc (Univ Ottawa) Assistant Scientific Director, ACRI

Alain Simard, PhD (Univ Laval), Postdoc (Univ Arizona) Assistant professor, UdeM

Nicolas Pichaud, PhD (Univ du Québec), Postdoc (Univ of Gothenburg) Assistant professor, UdeM.

David Barnett, PhD (U. Alberta) Senior Scientist at ACRI

Gilles Robichaud, PhD (Univ Laval), Postdoc (Sherbrooke) Associate professor, UdeM

Etienne Hébert-Chatelain, PhD (Univ du Québec), Postdoc (Univ Bordeaux) Assistant professor, UdeM

Pier Morin, PhD (Carleton Univ), Postdoc (Miescher Inst Biomed Res, Basel, Switzerland) Associate professor, UdeM

Nicolas Crapoulet, PhD (Univ Marseille) Senior Scientist, ACRI

Mohamed Touaibia PhD (Univ de Paris), Postdoc (UQAM) Associate professor, UdeM

Jocelyn Paré, PhD (Carleton Univ) NB Innovation Research Chair, ACRI

Luc Boudreau, PhD (Univ Laval), Postdoc (CHUL) Assistant professor, UdeM

Luc Martin, PhD (Univ Laval) Associate professor, UdeM

Anirban Ghosh, PhD (Jawaharlal Nehru Univ), Postdoc (Univ Alberta) Senior Scientist at ACRI





Canada Research Chairs

Chaires de recherche du Canada









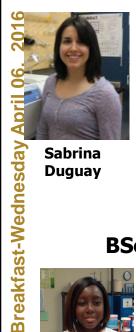






Fondation des maladies du cœur Programmes de recherche du CANADA

#### **MSc Students**



**Sabrina Duguay** 



**Yasmina** Néchadi



Marco **Doucet** 

#### **PhD Students**



**Philippe-Pierre Robichaud** 



Samuel **Poirier** 

#### **Post-Doc**



**Natalie Lefort, PhD** 

#### **Research Assistant**





**Christy Gnabo** 



**Kristine** Gagnon



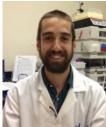
Sébastien **Blanchard** 



**Anissa Belkaïd** 



Marwa **Mbarik** 



Jérémie Doiron, MSc