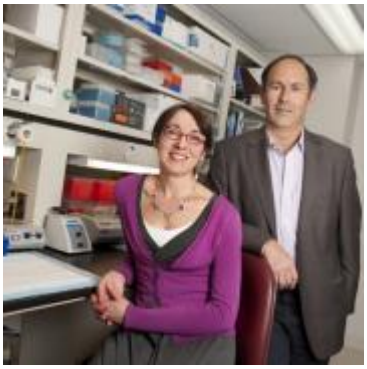
MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Health Complex
Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute

The principal investigator of the GEM Project, Dr. Ken Croitoru was highlighted by both the Mount Sinai Hospital and University of Toronto bulletins as one of the leads of the CFI funded Host Microbiome Network.



Dr. Dana Philpott (left) from the Immunology department at the University of Toronto and the GEM Project Principal Investigator Dr. Ken Croitoru (right) are leading this initiative.

To read more about the new unit and the Host-Microbiome Network, please visit the articles below:

http://medicine.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-and-mount-sinai-explore-impact-gut-bacteria-health-and-disease

http://research.lunenfeld.ca/rssnews/?page=1983&sign_on

Mount Sinai Hospital is set to open Canada's largest clinical IBC research unit to further explore the role of the microbiome in the development of inflammatory bowel disease. This new unit will be set up as part of the University of Toronto's Host-Microbiome Network, created to find the role of microorganisms in chronic disease development. The team is being headed by Dr. Croitoru , the principal investigator for the GEM project, and by Dr. Dana Philpott, an associate professor of Immunology at the University of Toronto.

This new unit will create better integration between clinical research and patient care. Through participation in research studies, patients will have access to intestinal imaging with state-of-the-art equipment allowing personalized microbial profiles to be generated. This profile will ensure that the patients will be able to receive the best possible treatments on an individual basis.

In regards to this new unit, Dr. Croitoru has said, "Today when you treat someone with inflammatory bowel disease, you use drugs that focus on decreasing inflammation. These drugs don't change the disease – in fact, drugs only treat 50 per cent of all patients. Whatever is perpetuating the inflammation is still there. So, the challenge is to change the underlying cause of the disease. Our goal is to study the disease in a way we weren't able to, even five years ago and to maximize our ability to help our patients and really alter the nature of the disease process."