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des toxicomaniesInstitut de la nutrition,  
du métabolisme et du diabèteInstitut de la santé publique  
et des populations

15 October 2003

Mr. Papadopoulos  
Executive Director  
Association of Local Public Health Agencies  
425 University Avenue, Suite 502  
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1T6

Dear Mr. Papadopoulos:

I am writing to you on behalf of Dr. Alan Bernstein in response to your letter, dated September 8, 2003, regarding funding for gastric cancer prevention. I would like to direct your attention to our website where you will find all pertinent information on CIHR's funding guidelines and procedures: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/services>.

We are supportive of your cause to have more research funded in the area of screening and treatment protocol for stomach cancer. However, before any decision can be made in regards to such research funding, applications must first be prepared and sent to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) by the deadline date for open grant competitions as Canadian health researchers are invited to compete for funding in the research area of their choice. The applications that they submit to CIHR undergo a stringent peer review process to establish their scientific merit. Only then can CIHR's Governing Council approve the funding of meritorious applications on the basis of ranking and the availability of funds. Therefore, I suggest that you approach the research community to raise awareness for the need to conduct the research that you propose so that applications may be entered in one of our next open competition cycles and hence be considered for funding. These cycles begin on 1 March and 15 September of each year.

Researchers may also be encouraged to compete in one of our current strategic initiatives being launched by CIHR's Institutes. Of particular interest to your organization is CIHR-Institute of Cancer Research's initiative, *Cancer Screening from a Canadian Perspective*, whose deadline date for registration is 3 November 2003 (its announcement may be found at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/services/15877.shtml>). Should you wish to advocate for a more specific Institute strategic funding initiative, I suggest that you contact the Institute of Cancer Research, the Institute of Infection and Immunity as well as the Institute of Population and Public Health. You will find information on these CIHR Institutes as well as their contact details on our website.

Sincerely,

Jean-François St-Denis, Ph.D.  
Deputy Director, Knowledge Creation Programs Branch  
Research Portfolio  
Head, Molecular and Cellular Sciences Division

**Canadian Institutes of Health Research**

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