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**IMAGINE Network's Mind And Gut Interactions Cohort
(MAGIC) Study:
A protocol for a prospective observational multi-centre
cohort study in Inflammatory Bowel Disease & Irritable
Bowel Syndrome**

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IMAGINE Network's Mind And Gut Interactions Cohort (MAGIC) Study:

A protocol for a prospective observational multicentre cohort study in
Inflammatory Bowel Disease & Irritable Bowel Syndrome

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Key Words:

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis,
prospective observational cohort, microbiome, diet, genetic, microbiome, metabolome

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03131414

ABSTRACT (reduce to 250 words)

Introduction: Gut microbiome and diet may be important in irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and comorbid psychiatric conditions but the mechanisms are unclear. We will create a large cohort of patients with IBS, IBD and healthy controls and follow them over time, collecting dietary and mental health information and biological samples, to assess their gastrointestinal (GI) and psychological symptoms in association with their diet, gut microbiome and metabolome.

Methods and Analysis: This five-year observational prospective cohort study is recruiting 8000 participants from 15 Canadian centers. Persons with IBS who are 13 years of age and older or IBD \geq 5 years will be recruited. Healthy controls will be recruited from the general public and from friends or relatives of those with IBD or IBS who do not have GI symptoms. Participants answer surveys and provide blood, urine, and stool samples annually. Surveys assess disease activity, quality of life, physical pain, lifestyle factors, psychological status, and diet. The main outcomes evaluated will be the association between the diet, inflammatory, genetic, microbiome and metabolomic profiles in those with IBD and IBS compared with healthy controls using multivariate logistic regression. We will also compare these profiles in those with active versus quiescent disease and those with and without psychological comorbidity.

Ethics and Dissemination: Approval has been obtained from the institutional review boards of all centres taking part in the study. We will develop evidence-based knowledge translation initiatives for patients, clinicians and policy-makers to disseminate results to relevant stakeholders.

Strengths and Limitations

- This is the largest observational study evaluating the microbiome in inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome.
- The patients' disease type and activity are well characterized with detailed information on diet and mental health.
- The degree of patient engagement is another strength of the study.
- The microbiome and diet assessment are conducted once per year and may not correlate with disease flare-ups.
- As with all observational studies, any association may not be causal and will need evaluation in randomized controlled trials.

INTRODUCTION

Two thirds of the population experience significant gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms at some point in their life (1). One of the most common GI disorders is irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), affecting up to 10% of persons worldwide, depending on the definition (2). Another GI disorder that is associated with significant health care resources is inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which affects approximately 0.3% of the world's industrialized population (3).

The cardinal features of IBS include chronic abdominal pain over 3 months per year related to a change in bowel habit and the disease can present at any age (2,4). IBD is a term encompassing two distinct but related diseases: ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn's disease (CD). The cardinal symptom of UC is bloody diarrhea whilst in CD abdominal pain is a more prominent symptom, but

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3 diarrhea is a feature as well (5). IBD has the highest incidence in second and third decades of life
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5 and are lifelong relapsing and remitting diseases. Growth impairment can be an issue in children
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7 with CD.
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11 Both IBS and IBD significantly impact quality of life (6, 7) and often surgery is needed in patients
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13 with IBD (8). IBS and IBD also account for significant health care spending in the developed world
14
15 with many countries spending billions of dollars per annum (9). Persons with IBS and IBD have
16
17 higher rates of anxiety and depression compared to the general population (10, 11) and those with
18
19 other chronic diseases (12). The corollary is also true; persons with anxiety and depression have
20
21 more GI symptoms compared to healthy controls (13). Therapy for IBS has traditionally focused on
22
23 drugs that alter motility or visceral sensitivity of the GI tract and although various interventions are
24
25 superior to placebo, the overall impact on symptoms is only modest (14). Therapy for IBD has
26
27 traditionally focused on drugs that inhibit the exaggerated pro-inflammatory immune response,
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29 however only 50% of the patients achieve clinical remission, whereas clinical relapses are common.
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38 There is evidence that the gut microbiome and diet are important in IBS (15), IBD (16), and
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40 comorbid psychiatric conditions (17). There is however a need for more longitudinal prospective
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42 data on this interaction in patients with IBD and IBS compared with healthy controls. We have
43
44 conducted systematic reviews in both IBS (18) and IBD (19); although there are numerous case
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46 control studies exploring the gut microbiome in these conditions, the median sample size is around
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48 20 per arm and in all cases the sample size was insufficient to deal with the multiple testing issues
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50 that relate to microbiome research in humans. In addition, inter-individual differences of the gut
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52 microbiome are large. Large sample sizes and longitudinal sampling within the same individuals
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3 over time are therefore needed to evaluate the interaction between diet, the microbiome, IBS, IBD
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5 and associated mental health issues.
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10 The Inflammation, Microbiome, and Alimentation: Gastro-Intestinal and Neuropsychiatric Effects
11 (IMAGINE) (20) (see appendix for members) Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR)
12 Network is conducting a five-year multicenter prospective observational cohort study, Mind And
13 Gut Interactions Cohort (MAGIC). It will explore the interaction between the diet, microbiome and
14
15 the host associated with IBS and IBD in order to better target treatment of IBD and IBS and the
16
17 psychiatric disorders associated and affecting these diseases. The overarching hypothesis of this
18
19 study is that IBS and IBD are driven by a perturbation of the gut microbiome and the associated host
20
21 immune response. Alterations in the gut microbiome may also drive anxiety and depression
22
23 associated with these GI disorders and these psychological factors may in turn influence gut
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25 symptoms and its microbiome. These mechanisms may also have a genetic predisposition.
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35 **Aims**

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37 The main aim of the MAGIC study conducted through the IMAGINE SPOR Network is to create a
38
39 large cohort of patients with IBS, IBD and healthy controls and follow these individuals over time,
40
41 assessing disease activity, diet, mental health and demographic information using validated
42
43 questionnaires and collecting annual stool, urine and blood samples, to correlate GI and
44
45 psychological symptoms with an individual's genetic variants, diet, and gut microbiome, as well
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47 host and microbiome metabolic products in stool, urine and serum.
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54 ***Primary aims for baseline data***

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- 3 1. We will compare the gut microbiome and metabolomic profile between CD, UC, IBS and healthy
- 4 controls. The main analyses will be between a specific disorder and healthy controls.
- 5
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- 7
- 8 2. We will compare the gut microbiome and metabolomics profile of participants with active versus
- 9 quiescent disease within CD, UC and IBS.
- 10
- 11
- 12 3. We will compare the gut microbiome and metabolomic profile of participants with and without
- 13 psychiatric co-morbidity for each of CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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Primary aims for longitudinal data

- 19
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- 21 1. Microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, inflammatory markers, dietary, disease phenotype, psychiatric
- 22 comorbidity and demographic predictors of failure of therapy for each of UC, CD, and IBS.
- 23
- 24 2. Comparison of microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in IBD of
- 25 participants who remain in clinical remission over 2 years versus those with recurrent active disease
- 26 (UC and CD analyzed separately).
- 27
- 28 3. Comparison of gut microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in
- 29 participants with IBS with mild/inactive disease (based on IBS-Symptom Severity Score (SSS))
- 30 compared with those with ongoing active disease. IBS will be evaluated overall and also within
- 31 subgroups independently.
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Secondary aims for baseline data

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- 46 1. To compare dietary patterns between patients with CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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- 48 2. To compare genetic risk factors between CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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- 51 3. To compare gut microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in
- 52 participants with IBD with quiescent inflammatory disease with and without concomitant IBS
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3 (defined by fecal calprotectin <50 and subthreshold IBD symptom activity score but who have
4 active IBS symptoms on IBS-SSS).
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8 4. To compare the prevalence of mood and anxiety disorders in participants with each disorder
9 against rates in healthy controls.
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12 5. To compare the dietary, gut microbiome and metabolomics profile between participants with or
13 without anxiety (CD, UC, IBS, healthy controls analyzed separately).
14

15
16 6. To compare the dietary, gut microbiome and metabolomics profiles between participants with and
17 without depression (CD, UC, IBS, healthy controls analyzed separately).
18

19
20 7. To determine whether high rates of early adverse experiences are associated with history of more
21 severe disease or treatment resistance in participants with CD, UC or IBS.
22

23
24 8. To examine the association between symptom severity and multiple domains of function in
25 participants with CD, UC or IBS.
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28 9. To develop models describing how factors such as microbiome, metabolome, diet, genes and
29 psychiatric symptoms interact in CD, UC, and IBS.
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38 ***Secondary aims for longitudinal data***

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40 1. To compare health care resource use between CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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42 2. To compare work productivity between CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
43

44 3. To compare baseline dietary and gut microbiome and urinary metabolome profiles and
45 inflammatory markers in participants that develop anxiety during follow up versus those who did not
46 have anxiety at any time (CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls analyzed separately).
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49 4. To compare baseline dietary and gut microbiome and urinary metabolome profiles in participants
50 that develop depression during follow up versus those that did not have depression at any time (CD,
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3 UC, IBS and healthy controls analyzed separately and if appropriate combined).

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5 7. To compare gut microbiome, urinary metabolome, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in
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7 IBS at baseline in those that change their IBS subtype during follow up and those that continue with
8
9 the same IBS subgroup.

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11 8. To compare which dietary, mental health, gut microbiome and metabolomics profiles precede a
12
13 clinical relapse in patients with IBD and how these parameters are different in patients with active
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15 disease versus those who remain in clinical remission.
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21 **METHODS**

22 **Design**

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25 The IMAGINE MAGIC study is a prospective observational cohort study that is recruiting 2000
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27 participants with each of CD, UC, and IBS and also 2000 healthy participants in 15 centers across
28
29 Canada. Assessment includes psychological status, dietary intake, gut microbiome, urinary
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31 metabolomic profile, inflammatory markers, genotype, health-related quality of life, and health care
32
33 resource use and associated costs. The cohort and healthy controls will be followed annually for up
34
35 to 4 years after the baseline study enrollment.
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42 At each visit, the participant provides blood, urine, and stool samples as well as complete
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44 questionnaires assessing disease activity, quality of life, physical pain, lifestyle factors,
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46 psychological status, and diet. Table 1 summarizes participant information collected at each visit.
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51 **Participants**

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3 A total of 8000 participants will be recruited, 2000 for each for healthy volunteers, IBS, UC and CD.
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5 Inclusion and exclusion criteria are outlined in Table 1.
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10 Healthy participants over the age of 4 will be recruited from the relatives, spouses and friends of IBS
11 and IBD cases taking part and also through advertisement for healthy volunteers.
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17 IBS: Persons who meet Rome IV criteria and are 13 years of age or older are enrolled (Table 1).
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19 Persons with IBS are categorized into diarrhea-predominant IBS (IBS-D), constipation-predominant
20 IBS (IBS-C), IBS with mixed bowel habits (IBS-M), or unclassified with IBS (IBS-U) (21). Patients
21 with IBS that also have celiac disease will be eligible provided they continue to have symptoms after
22 six months of a gluten free diet and their tissue transglutaminase antibody has returned to normal.
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30 IBD: Persons with either CD or UC over the age of 4 years are enrolled regardless of whether the
31 disease is active or in remission (Table 1). Persons with unclassified IBD (IBD-U) are included. The
32 Montreal Classification is used for adult CD and UC patients (22), and the Paris classification (23)
33 for pediatric IBD. The research coordinator conducts a chart review to confirm the date of diagnosis
34 and maximal phenotype at time of enrolment using the Montreal Classification.
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44 **Data Collection**

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46 All participants attend a baseline, 12, 24, 36 and 48-month visit. Sources of information for each
47 patient are blood, urine and stool samples, questionnaires, and chart review (Table 2).
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3 Participants complete a questionnaire to obtain age, sex, gender identity, education level attained,
4 ethnic heritage, smoking/alcohol/drug history, comorbidities, medication and therapies, menstrual
5 status at baseline. The study research coordinator records height, weight, BMI and disease-related
6 information (24). Participants answer a series of questionnaires to assess disease activity, quality of
7 life, physical pain, lifestyle factors, psychological status, and diet at each study visit. (Table 3).
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14 Healthcare resource use data and associated costs regarding physician visits, clinical procedures,
15 imaging procedures, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and medication use are collected by
16 linking the participants to provincial administrative data from the Canadian Gastro-Intestinal
17 Epidemiology Consortium (CanGIEC) (<https://cangiec.ca>).
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26 **Biosamples**

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28 A stool sample is collected for fecal microbiome and inflammatory markers, a urine sample is
29 collected for metabolomics, and blood samples are taken for DNA isolation as well as for serum for
30 inflammatory markers and metabolomics at each study visit. All biosamples are shipped to
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Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) for storing at -80 degrees Celsius.

40 **Data Management**

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Questionnaires are completed electronically using tablets during the clinic with the option to
complete the any questionnaires remaining after clinic visit at home on a computer using an e-mail
link. The user questionnaires are available in the REDCap platform stored at a central database
collection center, PHRI, at McMaster University. Study staff will review surveys within two weeks
of receipt and highlight any missing answers that suggests a problem in completing the survey.
These issues will be discussed with the PI, site lead and study team. The staff contact participants up

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3 to three times by phone e-mail or in person at a regular study visit to remind them to complete
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5 questionnaires and to acquire answers to missing items.
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10 **Patient and Public Involvement**

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12 The research proposed in IMAGINE was informed by patients. Patient perspectives were sought in
13
14 identifying priorities for strategic research funding opportunities. Diet, researching the gut
15
16 microbiome, and mental health were initially identified as key priorities through this process. Through
17
18 the Crohn's and Colitis Canada (CCC) "Gutsy Learning Series" these priorities were further defined
19
20 with 289 lay participants in-person and on-line with IBD who gave feedback on what they felt were
21
22 the most important research topics, identifying fecal transplants, diet and mental health as key
23
24 priorities. Furthermore, through a workshop organized by the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation
25
26 (CDHF) prior to this IMAGINE SPOR application, a key message was that IBS patients are concerned
27
28 about using current pharmacological therapies to relieve their symptoms and prefer approaches that
29
30 correct the imbalances they perceive to be the root cause of their disorder rather than taking drugs.
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32 Patients with IBS are concerned with the long-term use of powerful and sometimes expensive agents
33
34 and would like more exploration of the factors that are driving the disease. One of the major areas this
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36 patient group wanted more research on was the role of diet and also the role that gut bacteria (and
37
38 probiotics) play in driving IBS. There is remarkable congruence in the research priorities of the IBD
39
40 and IBS patient communities. The IMAGINE SPOR proposal was informed by these priorities and
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42 seeks to address them by exploring the diet-gut microbiome-relationship and how this influences GI
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44 and mental symptoms of IBS and IBD.
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3 IMAGINE Patient Research Partners were involved in the development of the MAGIC demographic
4 questionnaire. They also served to pilot test the online questionnaires and provide feedback on user
5 experience and feasibility.
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12 IMAGINE Patient Partners have been directly involved with study design and recruitment of subjects
13 in IMAGINE and will support capacity development for patient engagement more broadly. In person
14 interviews are being conducted by our Patient Partners to identify strategies to improve recruitment
15 and retention rates. Also, this network of patient-engaged researchers is communicating knowledge
16 derived from the study to healthcare professionals, policy makers, and other patients.
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26 A key component of the IMAGINE research program is developing capacity for patient engagement,
27 patient preferences for informing treatment choices and working with our Patient Partners to improve
28 our recruitment rates and long-term retention of IMAGINE participants. We have a unique opportunity
29 to integrate patient engagement as recommended by SPOR by leveraging our innovative Patient and
30 Community Engagement Research (PaCER) program based at the University of Calgary (25, 26).
31
32 PaCER is designed to promote new roles for patients and family members in health care and health
33 culture through engagement in research. PaCER provides opportunities for patients to be involved in
34 the development and conduct of research designed to affect the lives of patients living with IBD and
35 IBS. Involving patients and families in research is an opportunity to increase the capacity to anticipate
36 problems, manage their condition as a partner in their health care team, and to support other patients
37 and families.
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54 **DATA MONITORING AND ETHICS**

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3 This is an observational study with no intervention mandated by the protocol and so there is no
4 external data safety and monitoring board. Research ethics approval has been obtained for all 15
5 sites involved in the study. The protocol was approved on May 31, 2017 with an approval number
6 2017-3000-GRA with the last amendment to date being on June 25, 2019. The study was first
7 registered on April 27th 2017 (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03131414) and this was last
8 updated on March 7th 2019.
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19 **SAMPLE SIZE AND ANALYSES**

20 **Sample size**

21
22 UC, CD and IBS cases will be analyzed. A sample size of 2000 cases in each disease group and
23 2000 healthy controls will have 90% power to detect a probability of 0.547 that an observed
24 abundance in the disease group is more than the observed abundance in the control group using a
25 Wilcoxon (Mann-Whitney) rank-sum test with a 0.001 two-sided significance level (to adjust for
26 multiple testing). This sample size also assumes 20% data dropout. The probability of 0.547 was
27 derived from 75 IBD cases that we have obtained from pilot studies (27).
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40 **Analyses**

41
42 Primary and secondary aims will be evaluated through multivariate logistic regression with further
43 details regarding how diet, microbiome, metabolomics and genetics will be analysed below.
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49 ***Diet Analyses***

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51 We will use principal component analysis to derive dietary patterns from self-reported semi-
52 quantitative food-frequency questionnaires, and understand the differences in dietary patterns across
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3 participants with UC, CD, IBS, and healthy controls; and for active versus non-active disease within
4 each disease group, as outlined in the primary and secondary aims. Briefly, the purpose of PCA
5 and/or machine learning is to reduce large and complex high-dimensional data into fewer
6 dimensions — in this case comprehensive FFQ data (containing up to 150 items or more) is reduced
7 to 2 or 3 dietary patterns (i.e., foods commonly consumed together) that explain the greatest amount
8 of dietary variability within the reported eating habits of the cohort (28). The number of dietary
9 patterns to be retained for subsequent analysis will be based on visual inspection of Scree plots in
10 conjunction with eigenvalues, and principal component interpretability (29). To account for
11 differences in total energy intake between participants, dietary pattern scores will be adjusted to the
12 mean total population caloric intake using the residual method (28). Associations between a
13 participant's adherence to a specific PCA-derived dietary pattern (e.g., Western or plant-based) and
14 UC, CD, IBS and its disease activity will be quantified using logistic regression (case vs control)
15 with appropriate adjustment for covariates (e.g., BMI, age, sex, etc.). For machine learning, dietary
16 patterns will be derived using unsupervised methods that require little to no input or direction by the
17 researcher. The use of both PCA and unsupervised machine learning methods will allow for
18 validation of the derived diet patterns. Our experience suggests that the PCA and machine learning
19 derived patterns will be largely similar (30).

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21
22 In an exploratory analysis, of particular interest for the IBS group, we will collect data using a
23 supplementary fermentable oligo-di-monosaccharides and polyols (FODMAP) Questionnaire to
24 capture foods rich in: a) oligosaccharides, including fructans and galacto-oligosaccharides; b)
25 disaccharides, including lactose; c) monosaccharides, including fructose; d) polyols. These data will
26 be used to better understand “trigger foods” or dietary components that are likely to produce

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3 symptoms in participants with IBS.
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8 ***Microbiome Processing and Analyses***

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10 All stool samples will be processed in one lab for consistency. Frozen samples sent from each site
11 will be thawed on ice in an anaerobic environment, mixed thoroughly with a sterile spatula. Two
12 aliquots of 0.3g will be transferred to DNA extraction buffer for molecular analysis. Three aliquots
13 of 1.8 mL will be biobanked at -80°C. DNA will be extracted using established methods (31). Total
14 bacterial load will be measured by quantitative PCR of the 16S rRNA gene. Microbial community
15 profiling will be carried out by amplification and paired-end Illumina sequencing of the v3-v4 region
16 of the 16S rRNA gene for bacteria (31, 32) and the Internal Transcribed Region of the ribosomal
17 genes (ITS) for fungi (33). Microbiome profiles will be processed through in house bioinformatic
18 pipelines (34) incorporating dada2 (35) to generate amplicon sequence variants (ASVs). As
19 sequencing and library construction costs decrease, it will be feasible to carry out shotgun
20 metagenomics on a significant portion of the stool samples. Metagenomic sequencing libraries will
21 be constructed using NEBNext Ultra DNA Library kits with modifications to reduce reaction
22 volume. Libraries will be sequenced to ~15,000,000 reads per sample (150nt paired-end) on an
23 Illumina NovaSeq. After filtering and trimming for sequence quality and primer removal, DeconSeq
24 (36) will be performed on the remaining reads in order to remove reads of human DNA. Genes and
25 functional predictions and comparisons across sample groups will be computed using HUMAnN2
26 (37) and MetaPhlAn (38) for functional microbiome analysis.
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51 Microbiome analysis will include α -diversity metrics for each sample and β -diversity measures
52 (weighted and unweighted unifracs, Bray-Curtis, nonmetric multidimensional scaling) and other
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3 statistical analysis using PhyloSeq and R (39). Using generalized linear mixed models (GLMM), we
4 will identify microbial taxa and/or genes associated with disease phenotypes/progression, response
5 to treatment, genotype, diet and other measured parameters. The large number of samples will also
6 allow for application of machine learning methods such random forest and support vector machine
7 methods (40, 41).
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17 ***Metabolomics Processing and Analyses***

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19 Urinary metabolomic profiles will be determined and analyzed together with microbial and dietary
20 profiles to identify relationships and associations with disease status and clinical
21 phenotypes/response to therapies. Urinary metabolic profiles will be analyzed by ¹H-NMR on a 4-
22 channel Varian INOVA 600 MHz NMR spectrometer. Assignment of endogenous urinary
23 metabolites will be done using Chenomx NMR Suite 8.5 (Chenomx Inc, Edmonton, Canada) and
24 online databases (HMDB) (42). Metabolite concentrations will be log₁₀ transformed to normalize
25 data prior to statistical analyses. Metabolome association study analyses will be done using multiple
26 linear regression models in the R Project for Statistical Computing (R program). Projection-based
27 principal component analysis (PCA), partial least-squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA),
28 orthogonal partial-least squares (OPLS) analysis will be performed using R program.
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45 ***Genetic Analyses***

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47 In terms of genetic analyses, genomic DNA samples will be tested using two different approaches:
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49 1) genome-wide genotyping to capture common genetic variation and enable genome-wide
50 association studies (GWAS) and 2) whole exome sequencing (WES) will primarily be used to
51 capture rare genetic variation and identify non-synonymous coding variants as potential causal
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3 variants. Both datasets will be used to identify genetic risk variants associated with disease status or
4 clinical phenotypes/outcomes detailed above (e.g. response to therapy); both as previously described
5 (43, 44, 45, 46). These data will also be used to impute the genetic variation at the highly
6 polymorphic Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA) and Killer cell Immunoglobulin-like Receptor
7 (KIR) genes (47, 48), as these are key determinants of the host's immune response and genetic risk
8 factors for many inflammatory diseases.
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11 For the statistical analyses, following rigorous quality control of the genotype/sequence data, whole
12 genome imputation of the dataset using a relevant public reference panel (e.g. 1000 Genomes,
13 Haplotype Reference Panel, TOPMed, etc.) (49, 50) will be performed followed by principal
14 components analysis (PCA). Principal components will be tested for phenotype association (using
15 logistic regression with study indicator variables included as covariates) and evaluated for their
16 impact on the genome-wide test statistics using λ (the genomic control inflation factor based on the
17 median χ^2) after genome-wide association of the specified principal component. Association testing
18 as well as binary and linear genotype–phenotype analyses will be done with PLINK and
19 multinomial and ordinal regression analyses with a custom program, Trinculo. Survival analysis and
20 risk prediction will be done with R using the packages “survival” and “Mangrove”, respectively. For
21 integrated biomarker discovery (51), this genetic data will also be integrated with other biomarker
22 data generated from the various IMAGINE platforms, in order to select those that estimate a large
23 association with clinical outcomes (e.g. response to therapy), in order to create the best subset of
24 predictors. Variable selection will be based on mathematical criteria for model selection, i.e., the
25 Bayesian Information Criteria (BIC), and expert a priori (e.g., clinical knowledge, preliminary
26 evidence). The selection of the model will be in the context of logistic regression, using the
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3 candidate biomarkers as covariates and drug response (positive or negative) as the outcome. The
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5 BIC has been proven to lead to less over-fitting of the model to data compared to other less
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7 conservative approaches (52). This will reduce type-I errors and lead to increased robustness of the
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9 results.
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11 12 13 *Subgroup Analyses* 14

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16 There are a number of subgroup analyses planned. In particular, we will analyze the primary and
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18 secondary outcomes by sex. We will strive to ensure representative enrollment of men and women
19
20 with a wide range of life experience and at different life stages. When women are surveyed or
21
22 otherwise evaluated, we will take note of past, anticipated and ongoing pregnancies, obtain a
23
24 menstrual history, and use instruments that are sensitive to the influence of gender on outcomes.
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29 The pediatric population (IBD cases aged 4-18 years of age) is also an important group to study. All
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31 the primary and secondary outcomes described above will also be evaluated specifically in the
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33 pediatric population. This includes predictors of success and failure of therapy for IBD. Children
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35 developing IBD are predominantly treated from the time of first presentation at academic centres
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37 rather than in community practice. Hence the pediatric collaborators in this proposal offer access to
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39 the broad spectrum of IBD, including prior to alteration of the microbiome by any therapy. We will
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41 evaluate predictors of success and failure of these therapies for IBD over time in the pediatric
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43 population.
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50 We will evaluate subtypes of IBS; constipation predominant, diarrhea predominant and mixed
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52 patterns. We will assess the microbiome, metabolomics, genetic, demographic and dietary predictors
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54 of response to therapies for IBS. Predictors of response to a low FODMAPs diet will help inform a
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3 RCT of low FODMAPs diet in IBS, and in particular we will evaluate whether responders are more
4 likely to initially be taking a diet that is very rich in FODMAPs and how this response relates to
5 their microbiome compositional and functional changes, affected by diets. A subgroup analysis will
6 be performed of those between the ages of 13 to 17 compared to adult patients. We will also
7 evaluate those with stable celiac disease and compare results to those without this disorder.
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17 **DISSEMINATION**

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19 Our approach to dissemination involves developing evidence-based knowledge translation initiatives
20 for research that is ready for prime time – for each of category of our three research partners
21 (patient, clinicians and policymakers). For patients, we plan to create a ‘white label’ version of the
22 McMaster Optimal Aging Portal (<https://www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org>) that focuses specifically
23 on supporting self-management and more generally informed decision-making for GI disease. This
24 involves 1) identifying existing Evidence Summaries and preparing new ones to provide patients
25 with the key messages from scientific research (typically high-quality systematic reviews) that's
26 ready to be acted on; 2) identifying existing Web Resource Ratings and preparing new ones to help
27 patients identify the free health resources on the internet that are based on scientific research; 3)
28 identifying existing Blog Posts and preparing new ones that provide commentaries for patients about
29 on what the scientific research on a topic actually means and on why good science matters; and 4)
30 identifying existing patient decision aids to help patients (and clinicians working with patients) to
31 engage in shared decision-making.
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51 We will work with network partners (e.g. CDHF and CCC) to determine the best online platform for
52 patient-focused products, to develop inclusion criteria, and to ensure that their online resources
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3 focused on GI disease meet the high standard necessary to be captured and ranked highly in the Web
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5 Resource Ratings. We plan to prepare 52 new Evidence Summaries, 24 Blog Posts, and 400 Web
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7 Resources Ratings for the 'white label' portal. We will also be working with network partners to
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9 ensure high rates of use of the white-label, GI disease-focused content site for patients.
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15 The patients, family members and caregivers who live with the chronic conditions covered by the
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17 IMAGINE Network will be able to use the portal to find information that aids them in managing
18
19 their conditions and making related health decisions. The content produced by the McMaster
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21 Optimal Aging Portal has been shown to be effective in informing health consumers of quality health
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23 information related to aging but not other domains. We plan to conduct a randomized controlled
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25 trial (which will be detailed in a separate protocol) to assess how the online resources for patients,
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27 provided through the white label website, changes patient behaviour in regards to using information
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29 and making evidence-informed health decisions.
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35 For clinicians, we will follow an approach that emerged from a comprehensive review of the
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37 literature on scaling up effective clinical interventions (summarized in an evidence brief) (53) and a
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39 stakeholder dialogue involving the key policymakers, stakeholders and researchers focused on
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41 supporting scale up of effective clinical practices in Ontario (summarized in a dialogue summary)
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43 (54): 1) supporting dynamic efforts to identify GI disease-related clinical practices to be optimized
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45 and the causes of underlying problems, using both empirical approaches like systematic reviews and
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47 theoretical approaches like the Behaviour Change Wheel and the Theoretical Domains Framework;
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49 2) using rigorous processes to select and implement approaches to optimizing clinical practices that
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51 address the underlying causes of problems (e.g., audit and feedback, financial incentives; and 3)
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3 monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the approaches selected to optimize clinical practices. We plan
4 to support two approaches: 1) prioritizing clinical interventions to be scaled up by engaging network
5 members using an explicit process; and 2) scaling up effective clinical interventions by developing
6 and executing a scale-up plan, both of which will build on what has been learned from related work
7 at the McMaster Health Forum, and will rely on the frequent engagement of key members of the
8 IMAGINE SPOR Network in doing so.
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19 For policymakers, we will use our tried and tested approach to supporting evidence-informed
20 policymaking, which means: 1) preparing an evidence brief on a pressing need for scale-up and the
21 factors hindering that achievement (e.g., nurses' scope of practice, existing financial incentives, lack
22 of multidisciplinary teams), options for scaling up, and key implementation considerations (which
23 includes an equity lens brought to bear on particularly vulnerable groups); 2) convening a
24 stakeholder dialogue that brings together key policymakers, patient and clinical leaders and
25 researchers who can consider the research evidence alongside the other factors that drive decision-
26 making; and 3) preparing a dialogue summary, disseminating the evidence brief and dialogue
27 summary, conducting personalized briefings to senior leaders in the system, and supporting their
28 efforts to act on what they learned.
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45 We will enhance this approach by convening [citizen panels](#) to capture the insights and values of a
46 diverse group of citizens, with different types of lived experience with the issue at hand, in a panel
47 summary, the key messages of which would be included in the evidence brief informing the
48 stakeholder dialogue. We plan to address two topics using this approach, one focused on reducing
49 emergency-department usage in people with IBD, and one focused on framing the work led by
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3 IMAGINE in the context of rapid learning health systems for specific conditions (including those
4 addressed by the IMAGINE Network). For each topic we will conduct consultations with a steering
5 committee and key informants to define the terms of reference for evidence briefs, identify
6 stakeholders and potential dialogue invitees, and review the outputs (briefs, summaries, and
7 evaluation reports).

16 17 **ARTICLE SUMMARY**

18 19 **Strengths**

20
21 Studies that have evaluated the microbiome in IBS (18) and IBD (19) have been small and
22 underpowered. These studies usually did not evaluate disease phenotype in detail and have not
23 assessed diet (18, 19), which can be an important effect modifier (55). This will be the largest
24 observational study published to date that is sufficiently powered to evaluate the microbiome in IBS
25 and IBD. All relevant confounding factors and effect modifiers will be captured and followed over
26 time and longitudinally, which will allow a better understanding of what drives exacerbations of
27 both IBS and IBD given that these are chronic relapsing and remitting diseases. The other strength
28 of the study is the multidisciplinary team that makes up the IMAGINE Network. In particular, the
29 collaboration between psychiatry and gastroenterology allows a careful evaluation of gut brain
30 connections (17) and in particular how the gut microbiome (56) may impact on anxiety and
31 depression in patients with IBD and IBS. Another key component of the multidisciplinary team is
32 the level of patient engagement throughout the proposal. This is a Canadian Institute of Health
33 Research funded grant through the SPOR initiative mandating that priorities are set by patients and
34 they have input into study design. To date, we have 19 patient partners as part of the IMAGINE
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3 Network and many are involved in the MAGIC cohort study. This strengthens the research, making
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5 it more patient focused, and supports knowledge translation of the findings to patients.
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10 **Limitations**

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12 This study is observational so any associations found may not relate to the causes of IBS and IBD.
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14 We will rigorously control for confounding factors and but cannot control for unknown confounders
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16 and so cannot draw causal inferences from the data. The MAGIC study will therefore be hypothesis
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18 generating and any data relating to the microbiome or diet is likely to need confirmation in
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20 randomized controlled trials (RCTs). The IMAGINE Network is committed to develop RCTs to
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22 further investigate any promising findings from the MAGIC cohort study. This is the largest study
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24 evaluating IBS and IBD, but the data that will be collected is enormous and so any results related to
25
26 the secondary outcomes of the study need to be interpreted with caution. The adjustment for
27
28 multiple testing is for the primary outcomes only and given the number of other outcomes that can
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30 be evaluated with the data that is generated, it is important to realize that any positive results from
31
32 the secondary outcomes could be a chance finding related to multiple testing. We will highlight this
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34 when reporting the data of more exploratory outcomes being studied. Despite these caveats, the
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36 MAGIC study will provide valuable insight into the etiology of IBS and IBD as well as associated
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38 psychiatric disorders. Data from this study will also provide strategies for personalized medicine
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40 approaches to manage these diseases more effectively.
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52
53 MAGIC study. Her advice was invaluable throughout this project and she will be missed by all of
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3 us. We are grateful to all our patient partners and everyone within the IMAGINE Network (see
4
5 Appendix 1).
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11
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26 **DISCLOSURES**

27
28 Dr. Moayyedi holds the Audrey Campbell Chair in Ulcerative Colitis Research. Drs. Moayyedi,
29
30 Bercik and Aida Fernandes have no conflicts of interest.
31
32

33 Dr. Bernstein is supported in part by the Bingham Chair in Gastroenterology. He is on Advisory
34
35 Boards for AbbVie Canada, Janssen Canada, Takeda Canada, Pfizer Canada. He is a Consultant for
36
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38
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40
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43
44

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48
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Data Statement

Technical appendix, statistical code, and dataset will be available from a repository (e.g. Dryad data repository) once follow up is complete and main analyses have been published.

Author Statement & Contact Information

All authors have contributed to the conception and design of the protocol. Paul Moayyedi and Aida Fernandes constructed the first draft of the article which was significantly revised by all other authors. All authors have given final approval of the version submitted for publication. Paul Moayyedi acts as guarantor for the article.

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Table 1: Eligibility criteria

Type	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
IBD	Patients with documented CD, UC or IBD-U, >4 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subtotal colectomy and/or ileostomy patients • major comorbid condition where the projected survival is less than 5 years • difficulties with communication, including unable to communicate in English or French • diagnosis of schizophrenia • diagnosis of eating disorder
IBS	<p>Patients with IBS who have met Rome IV criteria, ≥13 years old</p> <p>IBS-D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal CBC • Negative tissue transglutaminase antibody if diarrhea the main symptom • Symptoms onset > 45 years old, then negative colonic biopsies for microscopic colitis <p>IBS-C, IBS-M & IBS-U</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative tissue transglutaminase antibody • Symptoms onset > 50 years age, with new symptoms < 1 year duration, then have a negative colonoscopy, CT colonography or Air Contrast Barium Enema. • Normal CBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major gastrointestinal surgery (Roux en y, bowel resection), • major comorbid condition, where the projected survival is less than 5 years • drug use that is the major cause of GI symptoms and/or undermines longitudinal compliance, including chronic antibiotic use, narcotic analgesics and substance abuse • narcotic analgesic use causing GI symptoms • difficulties with communication, including unable to communicate in English or French • diagnosis of schizophrenia • diagnosis of eating disorder • GI cancer within 5 years
Healthy Controls	No gastrointestinal symptoms using the ROME IV Questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major gastrointestinal surgery (Roux en y, bowel resection) • any major comorbid chronic condition • difficulties with communication, including unable to communicate in English or French • diagnosis of schizophrenia • diagnosis of eating disorder

Table 2: Participant Information Collection

Contact Purpose	Screening period	12-month visit	24-month visit	36-month visit	48-month visit
	Enrol in Study	Health status Biosamples Questionnaires	Health status Biosamples Questionnaires	Health status Biosamples, Questionnaires	Health status Biosamples Questionnaires
Information collected	Contact by telephone, email or clinic visit.	Signed consent	Medical history	Medical history	Medical history
	Explain project	Eligibility screening	Obtain urine, stool, blood	Obtain urine, stool, blood	Obtain urine, stool, blood
		Demographics	Questionnaires	Questionnaires	Questionnaires
	Set up study visit(s)	Medical history			
		Provide urine & stool kit			
	Obtain blood (+DNA)				
	Questionnaires				

Table 3: List of Patient-answered Questionnaires

SUBGROUP	ADULTS	PEDIATRICS
IBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics (exclusions apply)
	<i>Disease Specific</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBS Severity Score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBS Severity Score Rome IV Diagnostic Questionnaire
	<i>GI Symptoms</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS Scale 5a – (GI Belly Pain) PROMIS Scale 6a – (GI Diarrhea) PROMIS Scale 9a – (GI Constipation) PROMIS Scale 13a – (GI Gas & Bloating) Leeds Dyspepsia Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PedsQL GI Symptoms Scale- (stomach pain and hurt; discomfort when eating; heartburn & reflux; nausea & vomiting; gas & bloating; constipation; blood in BM; diarrhea; worry about stomach aches; worry about BM) - Age 5-17
	<i>General Quality of Life</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life Youth - Age 8-15 Euro Quality of Life 5 Level - Age 16 +
	<i>Psychological</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Health Questionnaire PROMIS-29 – (Physical Function, Anxiety, Depression, Fatigue, Sleep Disturbance, Pain Interference & Intensity) Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) Perceived Stress Scale Adverse Childhood Experiences Brief Resiliency Survey Pain Catastrophizing Scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS-25 - (Physical Function Mobility; Anxiety; Depressive Symptoms; Fatigue; Peer Relations; Pain Interference) - Age 5-17 Brief Resiliency Survey - Age 12-17 Pain Catastrophizing Scale - Age 8-17 Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale - Age 6-17
	<i>Productivity</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Productivity & Activity Index 	
	<i>Diet</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire
IBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics (exclusions apply)
	<i>Disease Specific</i>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short IBD Symptom Inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMPACT – III - Ages 9-17 PUCAI (UC); PCDAI (CD)
	GI Symptoms	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS Scale 5a – (GI Belly Pain) PROMIS Scale 6a – (GI Diarrhea) PROMIS Scale 9a – (GI Constipation) PROMIS Scale 13a – (GI Gas & Bloating) Leeds Dyspepsia Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PedsQL GI Symptoms Scale- (stomach pain and hurt; discomfort when eating; heartburn & reflux; nausea & vomiting; gas & bloating; constipation; blood in BM; diarrhea; worry about stomach aches; worry about BM) - Age 4-17
	General Quality of Life	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life Youth - Age 8-15
	Psychological	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Health Questionnaire PROMIS-29 – (Physical Function, Anxiety, Depression, Fatigue, Sleep Disturbance, Pain Interference & Intensity) Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) Perceived Stress Scale Adverse Childhood Experiences Brief Resiliency Survey Pain Catastrophizing Scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS-25 - (Physical Function Mobility; Anxiety; Depressive Symptoms; Fatigue; Peer Relations; Pain Interference) - Age 5-17 Brief Resiliency Survey - Age 12-17 Pain Catastrophizing Scale - Age 8-17 Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale - Age 6-17
	Productivity	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Productivity & Activity Index 	
	Diet	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire
Healthy controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics (exclusions apply)
	GI Symptoms	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS Scale 5a – (GI Belly Pain) PROMIS Scale 6a – (GI Diarrhea) PROMIS Scale 9a – (GI Constipation) PROMIS Scale 13a – (GI Gas & Bloating) Leeds Dyspepsia Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PedsQL GI Symptoms Scale- (stomach pain and hurt; discomfort when eating; heartburn & reflux; nausea & vomiting; gas & bloating; constipation; blood in BM; diarrhea; worry about stomach aches; worry about BM) Age 5-17
	General Quality of Life	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life Youth - Age 8-15 Euro Quality of Life 5 Level - Age 16 +

	<i>Psychological</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Health Questionnaire • PROMIS-29 – (Physical Function, Anxiety, Depression, Fatigue, Sleep Disturbance, Pain Interference & Intensity) • Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) • Perceived Stress Scale • Adverse Childhood Experiences • Brief Resiliency Survey • Pain Catastrophizing Scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROMIS-25 - (Physical Function Mobility; Anxiety; Depressive Symptoms; Fatigue; Peer Relations; Pain Interference) - Age 5-17 • Brief Resiliency Survey - Age 12-17 • Pain Catastrophizing Scale - Age 8-17 • Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale - Age 6-17
	<i>Productivity</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Productivity & Activity Index 	
	<i>Diet</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Frequency Questionnaire • FODMAP Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Frequency Questionnaire • FODMAP Questionnaire

APPENDIX 1: IMAGINE MEMBERS (alphabetically)**Hamilton:**

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BMJ Open

**IMAGINE Network's Mind And Gut Interactions Cohort
(MAGIC) Study:
A protocol for a prospective observational multi-centre
cohort study in Inflammatory Bowel Disease & Irritable
Bowel Syndrome**

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2020-041733.R1
Article Type:	Protocol
Date Submitted by the Author:	05-Sep-2020
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Secondary Subject Heading:	Genetics and genomics, Epidemiology, Mental health, Nutrition and metabolism, Immunology (including allergy)
Keywords:	Inflammatory bowel disease < GASTROENTEROLOGY, Functional bowel disorders < GASTROENTEROLOGY, Depression & mood disorders < PSYCHIATRY, Microbiology < NATURAL SCIENCE DISCIPLINES, Nutritional support < GASTROENTEROLOGY

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IMAGINE Network's Mind And Gut Interactions Cohort (MAGIC) Study:

A protocol for a prospective observational multicentre cohort study in
Inflammatory Bowel Disease & Irritable Bowel Syndrome

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ABSTRACT (reduce to 250 words)

Introduction: Gut microbiome and diet may be important in irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and comorbid psychiatric conditions but the mechanisms are unclear. We will create a large cohort of patients with IBS, IBD and healthy controls and follow them over time, collecting dietary and mental health information and biological samples, to assess their gastrointestinal (GI) and psychological symptoms in association with their diet, gut microbiome and metabolome.

Methods and Analysis: This five-year observational prospective cohort study is recruiting 8000 participants from 15 Canadian centers. Persons with IBS who are 13 years of age and older or IBD \geq 5 years will be recruited. Healthy controls will be recruited from the general public and from friends or relatives of those with IBD or IBS who do not have GI symptoms. Participants answer surveys and provide blood, urine, and stool samples annually. Surveys assess disease activity, quality of life, physical pain, lifestyle factors, psychological status, and diet. The main outcomes evaluated will be the association between the diet, inflammatory, genetic, microbiome and metabolomic profiles in those with IBD and IBS compared with healthy controls using multivariate logistic regression. We will also compare these profiles in those with active versus quiescent disease and those with and without psychological comorbidity.

Ethics and Dissemination: Approval has been obtained from the institutional review boards of all centres taking part in the study. We will develop evidence-based knowledge translation initiatives for patients, clinicians and policy-makers to disseminate results to relevant stakeholders.

Strengths and Limitations

- This is the largest observational study evaluating the microbiome in inflammatory bowel disease and irritable bowel syndrome.
- The patients' disease type and activity are well characterized with detailed information on diet and mental health.
- The degree of patient engagement is another strength of the study.
- The microbiome and diet assessment are conducted once per year and may not correlate with disease flare-ups.
- As with all observational studies, any association may not be causal and will need evaluation in randomized controlled trials.

INTRODUCTION

Two thirds of the population experience significant gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms at some point in their life (1). One of the most common GI disorders is irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), affecting up to 10% of persons worldwide, depending on the definition (2). Another GI disorder that is associated with significant health care resources is inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which affects approximately 0.3% of the world's industrialized population (3).

The cardinal features of IBS include chronic abdominal pain over 3 months per year related to a change in bowel habit and the disease can present at any age (2,4). IBD is a term encompassing two distinct but related diseases: ulcerative colitis (UC) and Crohn's disease (CD). The cardinal symptom of UC is bloody diarrhea whilst in CD abdominal pain is a more prominent symptom, but

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3 diarrhea is a feature as well (5). IBD has the highest incidence in second and third decades of life
4 and are lifelong relapsing and remitting diseases. Growth impairment can be an issue in children
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6 with CD.
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12 Both IBS and IBD significantly impact quality of life (6, 7) and often surgery is needed in patients
13 with IBD (8). IBS and IBD also account for significant health care spending in the developed world
14 with many countries spending billions of dollars per annum (9). Persons with IBS and IBD have
15 higher rates of anxiety and depression compared to the general population (10, 11) and those with
16 other chronic diseases (12). The corollary is also true; persons with anxiety and depression have
17 more GI symptoms compared to healthy controls (13). Therapy for IBS has traditionally focused on
18 drugs that alter motility or visceral sensitivity of the GI tract and although various interventions are
19 superior to placebo, the overall impact on symptoms is only modest (14). Therapy for IBD has
20 traditionally focused on drugs that inhibit the exaggerated pro-inflammatory immune response,
21 however only 50% of the patients achieve clinical remission, whereas clinical relapses are common.
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38 There is evidence that the gut microbiome and diet are important in IBS (15), IBD (16), and
39 comorbid psychiatric conditions (17). There is however a need for more longitudinal prospective
40 data on this interaction in patients with IBD and IBS compared with healthy controls. We have
41 conducted systematic reviews in both IBS (18) and IBD (19); although there are numerous case
42 control studies exploring the gut microbiome in these conditions, the median sample size is around
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44 20 per arm and in all cases the sample size was insufficient to deal with the multiple testing issues
45 that relate to microbiome research in humans. In addition, inter-individual differences of the gut
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3 over time are therefore needed to evaluate the interaction between diet, the microbiome, IBS, IBD
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5 and associated mental health issues.
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10 The Inflammation, Microbiome, and Alimentation: Gastro-Intestinal and Neuropsychiatric Effects
11 (IMAGINE) (20) (see Appendix 1) Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) Network is
12
13 conducting a five-year multicenter prospective observational cohort study, Mind And Gut
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15 Interactions Cohort (MAGIC). It will explore the interaction between the diet, microbiome and the
16
17 host associated with IBS and IBD in order to better target treatment of IBD and IBS and the
18
19 psychiatric disorders associated and affecting these diseases. The overarching hypothesis of this
20
21 study is that IBS and IBD are driven by a perturbation of the gut microbiome and the associated host
22
23 immune response. Alterations in the gut microbiome may also drive anxiety and depression
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25 associated with these GI disorders and these psychological factors may in turn influence gut
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27 symptoms and its microbiome. These mechanisms may also have a genetic predisposition.
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35 **Aims**

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37 The main aim of the MAGIC study conducted through the IMAGINE SPOR Network is to create a
38
39 large cohort of patients with IBS, IBD and healthy controls and follow these individuals over time,
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41 assessing disease activity, diet, mental health and demographic information using validated
42
43 questionnaires and collecting annual stool, urine and blood samples, to correlate GI and
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45 psychological symptoms with an individual's genetic variants, diet, and gut microbiome, as well
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47 host and microbiome metabolic products in stool, urine and serum.
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3 ***Primary aims for baseline data***
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- 7 1. We will compare the gut microbiome and metabolomic profile between CD, UC, IBS and healthy
8 controls. The main analyses will be between a specific disorder and healthy controls.
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10 2. We will compare the gut microbiome and metabolomics profile of participants with active versus
11 quiescent disease within CD, UC and IBS.
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13 3. We will compare the gut microbiome and metabolomic profile of participants with and without
14 psychiatric co-morbidity for each of CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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23 ***Primary aims for longitudinal data***
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- 25 1. Microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, inflammatory markers, dietary, disease phenotype, psychiatric
26 comorbidity and demographic predictors of failure of therapy for each of UC, CD, and IBS.
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28 2. Comparison of microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in IBD of
29 participants who remain in clinical remission over 2 years versus those with recurrent active disease
30 (UC and CD analyzed separately).
31
32 3. Comparison of gut microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in
33 participants with IBS with mild/inactive disease (based on IBS-Symptom Severity Score (SSS))
34 compared with those with ongoing active disease. IBS will be evaluated overall and also within
35 subgroups independently.
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48 ***Secondary aims for baseline data***
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- 50 1. To compare dietary patterns between patients with CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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52 2. To compare genetic risk factors between CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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54 3. To compare gut microbiome, metabolomic, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in
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3 participants with IBD with quiescent inflammatory disease with and without concomitant IBS
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5 (defined by fecal calprotectin <50 mcg/g and subthreshold IBD symptom activity score but who
6
7 have active IBS symptoms on IBS-SSS).
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10 4. To compare the prevalence of mood and anxiety disorders in participants with each disorder
11
12 against rates in healthy controls.
13

14 5. To compare the dietary, gut microbiome and metabolomics profile between participants with or
15
16 without anxiety (CD, UC, IBS, healthy controls analyzed separately).
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19 6. To compare the dietary, gut microbiome and metabolomics profiles between participants with and
20
21 without depression (CD, UC, IBS, healthy controls analyzed separately).
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24 7. To determine whether high rates of early adverse experiences are associated with history of more
25
26 severe disease or treatment resistance in participants with CD, UC or IBS.
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29 8. To examine the association between symptom severity and multiple domains of function in
30
31 participants with CD, UC or IBS.
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33 9. To develop models describing how factors such as microbiome, metabolome, diet, genes and
34
35 psychiatric symptoms interact in CD, UC, and IBS.
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38 39 40 ***Secondary aims for longitudinal data***

41 1. To compare health care resource use between CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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44 2. To compare work productivity between CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls.
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47 3. To compare baseline dietary and gut microbiome and urinary metabolome profiles and
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49 inflammatory markers in participants that develop anxiety during follow up versus those who did not
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51 have anxiety at any time (CD, UC, IBS and healthy controls analyzed separately).
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54 4. To compare baseline dietary and gut microbiome and urinary metabolome profiles in participants
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3 that develop depression during follow up versus those that did not have depression at any time (CD,
4 UC, IBS and healthy controls analyzed separately and if appropriate combined).
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8 7. To compare gut microbiome, urinary metabolome, genetic, dietary and demographic factors in
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10 IBS at baseline in those that change their IBS subtype during follow up and those that continue with
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12 the same IBS subgroup.
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15 8. To compare which dietary, mental health, gut microbiome and metabolomics profiles precede a
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17 clinical relapse in patients with IBD and how these parameters are different in patients with active
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19 disease versus those who remain in clinical remission.
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24 **METHODS**

25 **Design**

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28 The IMAGINE MAGIC study is a prospective observational cohort study that is recruiting 2000
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30 participants with each of CD, UC, and IBS and also 2000 healthy participants in 15 centers across
31
32 Canada. Assessment includes psychological status, dietary intake, gut microbiome, urinary
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34 metabolomic profile, inflammatory markers, genotype, health-related quality of life, and health care
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36 resource use and associated costs. The cohort and healthy controls will be followed annually for up
37
38 to 4 years after the baseline study enrollment.
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45 At each visit, the participant provides blood, urine, and stool samples as well as complete
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47 questionnaires assessing disease activity, quality of life, physical pain, lifestyle factors,
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49 psychological status, and diet. Table 1 summarizes participant information collected at each visit.
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Participants

A total of 8000 participants will be recruited, 2000 for each for healthy volunteers, IBS, UC and CD.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria are outlined in Table 1.

Healthy participants over the age of 4 will be recruited from the relatives, spouses and friends of IBS and IBD cases taking part and also through advertisement for healthy volunteers. IBS and IBD patients will primarily be recruited from gastroenterology clinics at participating centres.

IBS: Persons who meet Rome IV criteria and are 13 years of age or older are enrolled (Table 1).

Persons with IBS are categorized into diarrhea-predominant IBS (IBS-D), constipation-predominant IBS (IBS-C), IBS with mixed bowel habits (IBS-M), or unclassified with IBS (IBS-U) (21). Patients with IBS that also have celiac disease will be eligible provided they continue to have symptoms after six months of a gluten free diet and their tissue transglutaminase antibody has returned to normal.

IBD: Persons with either CD or UC over the age of 4 years are enrolled regardless of whether the disease is active or in remission (Table 1). Persons with unclassified IBD (IBD-U) are included. The Montreal Classification is used for adult CD and UC patients (22), and the Paris classification (23) for pediatric IBD. The research coordinator conducts a chart review to confirm the date of diagnosis and maximal phenotype at time of enrolment using the Montreal Classification.

Data Collection

All participants attend a baseline, 12, 24, 36 and 48-month visit. Sources of information for each patient are blood, urine and stool samples, questionnaires, and chart review (Table 2).

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5 Participants complete a questionnaire to obtain age, sex, gender identity, education level attained,
6 ethnic heritage, smoking/alcohol/drug history, comorbidities, medication and therapies, menstrual
7 status at baseline. The study research coordinator records height, weight, BMI and disease-related
8 information (24). Participants answer a series of validated questionnaires to assess disease activity,
9
10 quality of life, physical pain, lifestyle factors, psychological status, and diet at each study visit.
11
12 (Table 3). Questionnaires measuring anxiety, depression, generalized anxiety disorder, sleep
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14 disturbance, generalized anxiety disorder, perceived stress, adverse childhood experiences,
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16 resiliency, and pain catastrophizing in both adults and children are outlined in Table 3.
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26 Healthcare resource use data and associated costs regarding physician visits, clinical procedures,
27 imaging procedures, hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and medication use are collected by
28 linking the participants to provincial administrative data from the Canadian Gastro-Intestinal
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30 Epidemiology Consortium (CanGIEC) (<https://cangiec.ca>).
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37 **Biosamples**

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39 A stool sample is collected for fecal microbiome, inflammatory markers and short chain fatty acids.
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41 A urine sample is collected for metabolomics, and blood samples are taken for DNA isolation as
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43 well as for serum for inflammatory markers (ie cytokines, chemokines, hsCRP, lipopolysaccharide)
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45 and metabolomic profile (e.g. tryptophan metabolites, growth factors such as brain-derived
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47 neurotrophic factor, neurotransmitters such as GABA and serotonin, and stress hormones such as
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49 cortisol) at each study visit. All biosamples are shipped to Population Health Research Institute
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51 (PHRI) for storing at -80 degrees Celsius.
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Data Management

Questionnaires are completed electronically using tablets during the clinic with the option to complete the any questionnaires remaining after clinic visit at home on a computer using an e-mail link. The user questionnaires are available in the REDCap platform stored at a central database collection center, PHRI, at McMaster University. Study staff will review surveys within two weeks of receipt and highlight any missing answers that suggests a problem in completing the survey. These issues will be discussed with the PI, site lead and study team. The staff contact participants up to three times by phone e-mail or in person at a regular study visit to remind them to complete questionnaires and to acquire answers to missing items.

Patient and Public Involvement

The research proposed in IMAGINE was informed by patients. Patient perspectives were sought in identifying priorities for strategic research funding opportunities. Diet, researching the gut microbiome, and mental health were initially identified as key priorities through this process. Through the Crohn's and Colitis Canada (CCC) "Gutsy Learning Series" these priorities were further defined with 289 lay participants in-person and on-line with IBD who gave feedback on what they felt were the most important research topics, identifying fecal transplants, diet and mental health as key priorities. Furthermore, through a workshop organized by the Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF) prior to this IMAGINE SPOR application, a key message was that IBS patients are concerned about using current pharmacological therapies to relieve their symptoms and prefer approaches that correct the imbalances they perceive to be the root cause of their disorder rather than taking drugs. Patients with IBS are concerned with the long-term use of powerful and sometimes expensive agents and would like more exploration of the factors that are driving the disease. One of the major areas this

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3 patient group wanted more research on was the role of diet and also the role that gut bacteria (and
4 probiotics) play in driving IBS. There is remarkable congruence in the research priorities of the IBD
5 and IBS patient communities. The IMAGINE SPOR proposal was informed by these priorities and
6 seeks to address them by exploring the diet-gut microbiome-relationship and how this influences GI
7 and mental symptoms of IBS and IBD.
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17 IMAGINE Patient Research Partners were involved in the development of the MAGIC demographic
18 questionnaire. They also served to pilot test the online questionnaires and provide feedback on user
19 experience and feasibility.
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26 IMAGINE Patient Partners have been directly involved with study design and recruitment of subjects
27 in IMAGINE and will support capacity development for patient engagement more broadly. In person
28 interviews are being conducted by our Patient Partners to identify strategies to improve recruitment
29 and retention rates. Also, this network of patient-engaged researchers is communicating knowledge
30 derived from the study to healthcare professionals, policy makers, and other patients.
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40 A key component of the IMAGINE research program is developing capacity for patient engagement,
41 patient preferences for informing treatment choices and working with our Patient Partners to improve
42 our recruitment rates and long-term retention of IMAGINE participants. We have a unique opportunity
43 to integrate patient engagement as recommended by SPOR by leveraging our innovative Patient and
44 Community Engagement Research (PaCER) program based at the University of Calgary (25, 26).
45 PaCER is designed to promote new roles for patients and family members in health care and health
46 culture through engagement in research. PaCER provides opportunities for patients to be involved in
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3 the development and conduct of research designed to affect the lives of patients living with IBD and
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5 IBS. Involving patients and families in research is an opportunity to increase the capacity to anticipate
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7 problems, manage their condition as a partner in their health care team, and to support other patients
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9 and families.
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14 **DATA MONITORING AND ETHICS**

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17 This is an observational study with no intervention mandated by the protocol and so there is no
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19 external data safety and monitoring board. Research ethics approval has been obtained for all 15
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21 sites involved in the study. The protocol was approved on May 31, 2017 with an approval number
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23 2017-3000-GRA with the last amendment to date being on June 25, 2019. The study was
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25 prospectively registered on April 27th 2017 (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03131414) and this
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27 was last updated on March 7th 2019. Recruitment commenced in October 2017.
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33 **SAMPLE SIZE AND ANALYSES**

34 **Sample size**

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37 UC, CD and IBS cases will be analyzed. A sample size of 2000 cases in each disease group and
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39 2000 healthy controls will have 90% power to detect a probability of 0.547 that an observed
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41 abundance in the disease group is more than the observed abundance in the control group using a
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43 Wilcoxon (Mann-Whitney) rank-sum test with a 0.001 two-sided significance level (to adjust for
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45 multiple testing). This sample size also assumes 20% data dropout. The probability of 0.547 was
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47 derived from 75 IBD cases that we have obtained from pilot studies (27).
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Analyses

Primary and secondary aims will be evaluated through multivariate logistic regression with further details regarding how diet, microbiome, metabolomics and genetics will be analysed below.

Diet Analyses

We will use principal component analysis to derive dietary patterns from self-reported semi-quantitative food-frequency questionnaires, and understand the differences in dietary patterns across participants with UC, CD, IBS, and healthy controls; and for active versus non-active disease within each disease group, as outlined in the primary and secondary aims. Briefly, the purpose of PCA and/or machine learning is to reduce large and complex high-dimensional data into fewer dimensions — in this case comprehensive FFQ data (containing up to 150 items or more) is reduced to 2 or 3 dietary patterns (i.e., foods commonly consumed together) that explain the greatest amount of dietary variability within the reported eating habits of the cohort (28). The number of dietary patterns to be retained for subsequent analysis will be based on visual inspection of Scree plots in conjunction with eigenvalues, and principal component interpretability (29). To account for differences in total energy intake between participants, dietary pattern scores will be adjusted to the mean total population caloric intake using the residual method (28). Associations between a participant's adherence to a specific PCA-derived dietary pattern (e.g., Western or plant-based) and UC, CD, IBS and its disease activity will be quantified using logistic regression (case vs control) with appropriate adjustment for covariates (e.g., BMI, age, sex, etc.). For machine learning, dietary patterns will be derived using unsupervised methods that require little to no input or direction by the researcher. The use of both PCA and unsupervised machine learning methods will allow for validation of the derived diet patterns. Our experience suggests that the PCA and machine learning

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3 derided patterns will be largely similar (30).
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8 In an exploratory analysis, of particular interest for the IBS group, we will collect data using a
9
10 supplementary fermentable oligo-di-monosaccharides and polyols (FODMAP) Questionnaire to
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12 capture foods rich in: a) oligosaccharides, including fructans and galacto-oligosaccharides; b)
13
14 disaccharides, including lactose; c) monosaccharides, including fructose; d) polyols. These data will
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16 be used to better understand “trigger foods” or dietary components that are likely to produce
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18 symptoms in participants with IBS.
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24 ***Microbiome Processing and Analyses***

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26 All stool samples will be processed in one lab for consistency. Frozen samples sent from each site
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28 will be thawed on ice in an anaerobic environment, mixed thoroughly with a sterile spatula. Two
29
30 aliquots of 0.3g will be transferred to DNA extraction buffer for molecular analysis. Three aliquots
31
32 of 1.8 mL will be biobanked at -80°C. DNA will be extracted using established methods (31). Total
33
34 bacterial load will be measured by quantitative PCR of the 16S rRNA gene. Microbial community
35
36 profiling will be carried out by amplification and paired-end Illumina sequencing of the v3-v4 region
37
38 of the 16S rRNA gene for bacteria (31, 32) and the Internal Transcribed Region of the ribosomal
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40 genes (ITS) for fungi (33). Microbiome profiles will be processed through in house bioinformatic
41
42 pipelines (34) incorporating dada2 (35) to generate amplicon sequence variants (ASVs). As
43
44 sequencing and library construction costs decrease, it will be feasible to carry out shotgun
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46 metagenomics on a significant portion of the stool samples. We aim to reduce costs so it is possible
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48 to perform this on all samples but if this is not possible, we will perform shotgun metagenomics on
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50 at least 20% of randomly selected samples from each group. Metagenomic sequencing libraries will
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3 be constructed using NEBNext Ultra DNA Library kits with modifications to reduce reaction
4 volume. Libraries will be sequenced to ~15,000,000 reads per sample (150nt paired-end) on an
5 Illumina NovaSeq. After filtering and trimming for sequence quality and primer removal, DeconSeq
6 (36) will be performed on the remaining reads in order to remove reads of human DNA. Genes and
7 functional predictions and comparisons across sample groups will be computed using HUMAnN2
8 (37) and MetaPhlAn (38) for functional microbiome analysis.

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19 Microbiome analysis will include α -diversity metrics for each sample (observed species, chao1,
20 Shannon diversity) and β -diversity measures will be used to compare diversity between samples.
21 For the latter, centered log-ratio transformation of the read count data will be carried out to account
22 for the compositional nature of microbiome data (39) and visualized using Aitchison principal-
23 component analysis (40). Statistical analyses will be carried out in R using PhyloSeq (41), and
24 ALDEx2 (42) in R. Using generalized linear mixed models (GLMM), we will identify microbial
25 taxa and/or genes associated with disease phenotypes/progression, response to treatment, genotype,
26 diet and other measured parameters. The large number of samples will also allow for application of
27 machine learning methods such random forest and support vector machine methods (43, 44).

41 42 ***Metabolomics Processing and Analyses***

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44 Urinary metabolomic profiles will be determined and analyzed together with microbial and dietary
45 profiles to identify relationships and associations with disease status and clinical
46 phenotypes/response to therapies. Urinary metabolic profiles will be analyzed by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ on a 4-
47 channel Varian INOVA 600 MHz NMR spectrometer. Assignment of endogenous urinary
48 metabolites will be done using Chenomx NMR Suite 8.5 (Chenomx Inc, Edmonton, Canada) and

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3 online databases (HMDB) (45). Metabolite concentrations will be \log_{10} transformed to normalize
4 data prior to statistical analyses. Metabolome association study analyses will be done using multiple
5 linear regression models in the R Project for Statistical Computing (R program). Projection-based
6 principal component analysis (PCA), partial least-squares discriminant analysis (PLS-DA),
7 orthogonal partial-least squares (OPLS) analysis will be performed using R program.
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16 *Genetic Analyses*

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18 In terms of genetic analyses, genomic DNA samples will be tested using two different approaches:
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20 1) genome-wide genotyping to capture common genetic variation and enable genome-wide
21 association studies (GWAS) and 2) whole exome sequencing (WES) will primarily be used to
22 capture rare genetic variation and identify non-synonymous coding variants as potential causal
23 variants. Both datasets will be used to identify genetic risk variants associated with disease status or
24 clinical phenotypes/outcomes detailed above (e.g. response to therapy); both as previously described
25 (46-49). These data will also be used to impute the genetic variation at the highly polymorphic
26 Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA) and Killer cell Immunoglobulin-like Receptor (KIR) genes (50,
27 51), as these are key determinants of the host's immune response and genetic risk factors for many
28 inflammatory diseases.
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45 For the statistical analyses, following rigorous quality control of the genotype/sequence data, whole
46 genome imputation of the dataset using a relevant public reference panel (e.g. 1000 Genomes,
47 Haplotype Reference Panel, TOPMed, etc.) (52, 53) will be performed followed by principal
48 components analysis (PCA). Principal components will be tested for phenotype association (using
49 logistic regression with study indicator variables included as covariates) and evaluated for their
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3 impact on the genome-wide test statistics using λ (the genomic control inflation factor based on the
4 median χ^2) after genome-wide association of the specified principal component. Association testing
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6 as well as binary and linear genotype– phenotype analyses will be done with PLINK and
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8 multinomial and ordinal regression analyses with a custom program, Trinculo. Survival analysis and
9
10 risk prediction will be done with R using the packages “survival” and “Mangrove”, respectively. For
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12 integrated biomarker discovery (54), this genetic data will also be integrated with other biomarker
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14 data generated from the various IMAGINE platforms, in order to select those that estimate a large
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16 association with clinical outcomes (e.g. response to therapy), in order to create the best subset of
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18 predictors. Variable selection will be based on mathematical criteria for model selection, i.e., the
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20 Bayesian Information Criteria (BIC), and expert a priori (e.g., clinical knowledge, preliminary
21
22 evidence). The selection of the model will be in the context of logistic regression, using the
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24 candidate biomarkers as covariates and drug response (positive or negative) as the outcome. The
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26 BIC has been proven to lead to less over-fitting of the model to data compared to other less
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28 conservative approaches (55). This will reduce type-I errors and lead to increased robustness of the
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30 results.
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38 ***Subgroup Analyses***

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41 There are a number of subgroup analyses planned. In particular, we will analyze the primary and
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43 secondary outcomes by sex. We will strive to ensure representative enrollment of men and women
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45 with a wide range of life experience and at different life stages. When women are surveyed or
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47 otherwise evaluated, we will take note of past, anticipated and ongoing pregnancies, obtain a
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49 menstrual history, and use instruments that are sensitive to the influence of gender on outcomes.
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55 The pediatric population (IBD cases aged 4-18 years of age) is also an important group to study. All
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3 the primary and secondary outcomes described above will also be evaluated specifically in the
4 pediatric population. This includes predictors of success and failure of therapy for IBD. Children
5 developing IBD are predominantly treated from the time of first presentation at academic centres
6 rather than in community practice. Hence the pediatric collaborators in this proposal offer access to
7 the broad spectrum of IBD, including prior to alteration of the microbiome by any therapy. We will
8 evaluate predictors of success and failure of these therapies for IBD over time in the pediatric
9 population.
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21 We will evaluate subtypes of IBS; constipation predominant, diarrhea predominant and mixed
22 patterns. We will assess the microbiome, metabolomics, genetic, demographic and dietary predictors
23 of response to therapies for IBS. Predictors of response to a low FODMAPs diet will help inform a
24 RCT of low FODMAPs diet in IBS, and in particular we will evaluate whether responders are more
25 likely to initially be taking a diet that is very rich in FODMAPs and how this response relates to
26 their microbiome compositional and functional changes, affected by diets. A subgroup analysis will
27 be performed of those between the ages of 13 to 17 compared to adult patients. We will also
28 evaluate those with stable celiac disease and compare results to those without this disorder.
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42 **DISSEMINATION**

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44 Our approach to dissemination involves developing evidence-based knowledge translation initiatives
45 for research that is ready for prime time – for each of category of our three research partners
46 (patient, clinicians and policymakers). For patients, we plan to create a ‘white label’ version of the
47 McMaster Optimal Aging Portal (<https://www.mcmasteroptimalaging.org>) that focuses specifically
48 on supporting self-management and more generally informed decision-making for GI disease. This
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3 involves 1) identifying existing Evidence Summaries and preparing new ones to provide patients
4 with the key messages from scientific research (typically high-quality systematic reviews) that's
5 ready to be acted on; 2) identifying existing Web Resource Ratings and preparing new ones to help
6 patients identify the free health resources on the internet that are based on scientific research; 3)
7 identifying existing Blog Posts and preparing new ones that provide commentaries for patients about
8 on what the scientific research on a topic actually means and on why good science matters; and 4)
9 identifying existing patient decision aids to help patients (and clinicians working with patients) to
10 engage in shared decision-making.
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24 We will work with network partners (e.g. CDHF and CCC) to determine the best online platform for
25 patient-focused products, to develop inclusion criteria, and to ensure that their online resources
26 focused on GI disease meet the high standard necessary to be captured and ranked highly in the Web
27 Resource Ratings. We plan to prepare 52 new Evidence Summaries, 24 Blog Posts, and 400 Web
28 Resources Ratings for the 'white label' portal. We will also be working with network partners to
29 ensure high rates of use of the white-label, GI disease-focused content site for patients.
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40 The patients, family members and caregivers who live with the chronic conditions covered by the
41 IMAGINE Network will be able to use the portal to find information that aids them in managing
42 their conditions and making related health decisions. The content produced by the McMaster
43 Optimal Aging Portal has been shown to be effective in informing health consumers of quality health
44 information related to aging but not in other domains. We plan to conduct a randomized controlled
45 trial (which will be detailed in a separate protocol) to assess how the online resources for patients,
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3 provided through the white label website, changes patient behaviour in regards to using information
4 and making evidence-informed health decisions.
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10 For clinicians, we will follow an approach that emerged from a comprehensive review of the
11 literature on scaling up effective clinical interventions (summarized in an evidence brief) (56) and a
12 stakeholder dialogue involving the key policymakers, stakeholders and researchers focused on
13 supporting scale up of effective clinical practices in Ontario (summarized in a dialogue summary)
14 (57): 1) supporting dynamic efforts to identify GI disease-related clinical practices to be optimized
15 and the causes of underlying problems, using both empirical approaches like systematic reviews and
16 theoretical approaches like the Behaviour Change Wheel and the Theoretical Domains Framework;
17 2) using rigorous processes to select and implement approaches to optimizing clinical practices that
18 address the underlying causes of problems (e.g., audit and feedback, financial incentives; and 3)
19 monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the approaches selected to optimize clinical practices. We plan
20 to support two approaches: 1) prioritizing clinical interventions to be scaled up by engaging network
21 members using an explicit process; and 2) scaling up effective clinical interventions by developing
22 and executing a scale-up plan, both of which will build on what has been learned from related work
23 at the McMaster Health Forum, and will rely on the frequent engagement of key members of the
24 IMAGINE SPOR Network in doing so.
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47 For policymakers, we will use our tried and tested approach to supporting evidence-informed
48 policymaking, which means: 1) preparing an evidence brief on a pressing need for scale-up and the
49 factors hindering that achievement (e.g., nurses' scope of practice, existing financial incentives, lack
50 of multidisciplinary teams), options for scaling up, and key implementation considerations (which
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3 includes an equity lens brought to bear on particularly vulnerable groups); 2) convening a
4 stakeholder dialogue that brings together key policymakers, patient and clinical leaders and
5 researchers who can consider the research evidence alongside the other factors that drive decision-
6 making; and 3) preparing a dialogue summary, disseminating the evidence brief and dialogue
7 summary, conducting personalized briefings to senior leaders in the system, and supporting their
8 efforts to act on what they learned.
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10 We will enhance this approach by convening citizen panels to capture the insights and values of a
11 diverse group of citizens, with different types of lived experience with the issue at hand, in a panel
12 summary, the key messages of which would be included in the evidence brief informing the
13 stakeholder dialogue. We plan to address two topics using this approach, one focused on reducing
14 emergency-department usage in people with IBD, and one focused on framing the work led by
15 IMAGINE in the context of rapid learning health systems for specific conditions (including those
16 addressed by the IMAGINE Network). For each topic we will conduct consultations with a steering
17 committee and key informants to define the terms of reference for evidence briefs, identify
18 stakeholders and potential dialogue invitees, and review the outputs (briefs, summaries, and
19 evaluation reports).
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44 **ARTICLE SUMMARY**

45 **Strengths**

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47 Studies that have evaluated the microbiome in IBS (18) and IBD (19) have been small and
48 underpowered. These studies usually did not evaluate disease phenotype in detail and have not
49 assessed diet (18, 19), which can be an important effect modifier (58). This will be the largest
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3 observational study published to date that is sufficiently powered to evaluate the microbiome in IBS
4 and IBD. All relevant confounding factors and effect modifiers will be captured and followed over
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6 time and longitudinally, which will allow a better understanding of what drives exacerbations of
7
8 both IBS and IBD given that these are chronic relapsing and remitting diseases. There is also the
9
10 possibility of pooling data with similar cohorts to provide more robust data on microbiome changes
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12 over time in these diseases (59). The other strength of the study is the multidisciplinary team that
13
14 makes up the IMAGINE Network. In particular, the collaboration between psychiatry and
15
16 gastroenterology allows a careful evaluation of gut brain connections (17) and in particular how the
17
18 gut microbiome (60) may impact on anxiety and depression in patients with IBD and IBS. Another
19
20 key component of the multidisciplinary team is the level of patient engagement throughout the
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22 proposal. This is a Canadian Institute of Health Research funded grant through the SPOR initiative
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24 mandating that priorities are set by patients and they have input into study design. To date, we have
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26 19 patient partners as part of the IMAGINE Network and many are involved in the MAGIC cohort
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28 study. This strengthens the research, making it more patient focused, and supports knowledge
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30 translation of the findings to patients.
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40 **Limitations**

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42 This study is observational so any associations found may not relate to the causes of IBS and IBD.
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44 We will rigorously control for confounding factors and but cannot control for unknown confounders
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46 and so cannot draw causal inferences from the data. The MAGIC study will therefore be hypothesis
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48 generating and any data relating to the microbiome or diet is likely to need confirmation in
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50 randomized controlled trials (RCTs). The IMAGINE Network is committed to develop RCTs to
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52 further investigate any promising findings from the MAGIC cohort study. This is the largest study
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3 evaluating IBS and IBD, but the data that will be collected is enormous and so any results related to
4 the secondary outcomes of the study need to be interpreted with caution. The adjustment for
5 multiple testing is for the primary outcomes only and given the number of other outcomes that can
6 be evaluated with the data that is generated, it is important to realize that any positive results from
7 the secondary outcomes could be a chance finding related to multiple testing. We will highlight this
8 when reporting the data of more exploratory outcomes being studied. Despite these caveats, the
9 MAGIC study will provide valuable insight into the etiology of IBS and IBD as well as associated
10 psychiatric disorders. Data from this study will also provide strategies for personalized medicine
11 approaches to manage these diseases more effectively.
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DISCLOSURES

Dr. Moayyedi holds the Audrey Campbell Chair in Ulcerative Colitis Research. Drs. Moayyedi, Bercik and Aida Fernandes have no conflicts of interest.

Dr. Bernstein is supported in part by the Bingham Chair in Gastroenterology. He is on Advisory Boards for AbbVie Canada, Janssen Canada, Takeda Canada, Pfizer Canada. He is a Consultant for Mylan Pharmaceuticals. He is receiving educational grants from AbbVie Canada, Pfizer Canada, Shire Canada, Takeda Canada, Janssen Canada. Speaker's panel for AbbVie Canada, Janssen Canada, Takeda Canada, and Medtronic Canada. Received research funding from AbbVie Canada.

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Data Statement

Technical appendix, statistical code, and dataset will be available from a repository (e.g. Dryad data repository) once follow up is complete and main analyses have been published.

Author Contributions

PM, GM, CNB, SV, PB, KLM, MGS, JDR, LAD, EFV, RDS, AO, LT, JL, JC, DM, SZ and AF have contributed to the conception and design of the protocol and obtained funding. PM, MGS, JDR, KLM and RDS provided statistical support. JDR led the genetic, MGS the microbiome, KLM the metabolomic, GM the psychiatric, CNB the inflammatory bowel disease, PB and SV the irritable bowel syndrome, LAD, EFV and RDS the diet, AO the pediatric, JL the knowledge translation, DM and SV the patient engagement and JC the data management portions of the protocol. PM and AF constructed the first draft of the article which was significantly revised by all other authors. CNB, SV, PB, KLM, MGS, JDR, LAD, EFV, RDS, AO, LT, JL, JC, DM and SZ have provided informatics support, given critical revisions to the manuscript and approved the final version of the manuscript submitted for publication. PM acts as guarantor for the article.

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Competing Interests

There are no competing interests for any author.

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Table 1: Eligibility criteria

Type	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
IBD	Patients with documented CD, UC or IBD-U, >4 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subtotal colectomy and/or ileostomy patients • major comorbid condition where the projected survival is less than 5 years • difficulties with communication, including unable to communicate in English or French • diagnosis of schizophrenia • diagnosis of eating disorder
IBS	<p>Patients with IBS who have met Rome IV criteria, ≥13 years old</p> <p>IBS-D</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal CBC • Negative tissue transglutaminase antibody if diarrhea the main symptom • Symptoms onset > 45 years old, then negative colonic biopsies for microscopic colitis <p>IBS-C, IBS-M & IBS-U</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative tissue transglutaminase antibody • Symptoms onset > 50 years age, with new symptoms < 1 year duration, then have a negative colonoscopy, CT colonography or Air Contrast Barium Enema. • Normal CBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major gastrointestinal surgery (Roux en y, bowel resection), • major comorbid condition, where the projected survival is less than 5 years • drug use that is the major cause of GI symptoms and/or undermines longitudinal compliance, including chronic antibiotic use, narcotic analgesics and substance abuse • narcotic analgesic use causing GI symptoms • difficulties with communication, including unable to communicate in English or French • diagnosis of schizophrenia • diagnosis of eating disorder • GI cancer within 5 years
Healthy Controls	No gastrointestinal symptoms using the ROME IV Questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • major gastrointestinal surgery (Roux en y, bowel resection) • any major comorbid chronic condition • difficulties with communication, including unable to communicate in English or French • diagnosis of schizophrenia • diagnosis of eating disorder

Table 2: Participant Information Collection

Contact	Screening period		12-month visit	24-month visit	36-month visit	48-month visit
Purpose	Enrol in Study		Health status Biosamples Questionnaires	Health status Biosamples Questionnaires	Health status Biosamples, Questionnaires	Health status Biosamples Questionnaires
Information collected	Contact by telephone, email or clinic visit.	Signed consent	Medical history	Medical history	Medical history	Medical history
		Eligibility screening	Obtain urine, stool, blood	Obtain urine, stool, blood	Obtain urine, stool, blood	Obtain urine, stool, blood
	Explain project	Demographics	Questionnaires	Questionnaires	Questionnaires	Questionnaires
		Medical history				
	Set up study visit(s)	Provide urine & stool kit				
		Obtain blood (+DNA)				
		Questionnaires				

Table 3: List of Patient-answered Questionnaires

SUBGROUP	ADULTS	PEDIATRICS
IBS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics (exclusions apply)
	<i>Disease Specific</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBS Severity Score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IBS Severity Score Rome IV Diagnostic Questionnaire
	<i>GI Symptoms</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS Scale 5a – (GI Belly Pain) PROMIS Scale 6a – (GI Diarrhea) PROMIS Scale 9a – (GI Constipation) PROMIS Scale 13a – (GI Gas & Bloating) Leeds Dyspepsia Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PedsQL GI Symptoms Scale- (stomach pain and hurt; discomfort when eating; heartburn & reflux; nausea & vomiting; gas & bloating; constipation; blood in BM; diarrhea; worry about stomach aches; worry about BM) - Age 5-17
	<i>General Quality of Life</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life Youth - Age 8-15 Euro Quality of Life 5 Level - Age 16 +
	<i>Psychological</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Health Questionnaire PROMIS-29 – (Physical Function, Anxiety, Depression, Fatigue, Sleep Disturbance, Pain Interference & Intensity) Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) Perceived Stress Scale Adverse Childhood Experiences Brief Resiliency Survey Pain Catastrophizing Scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS-25 - (Physical Function Mobility; Anxiety; Depressive Symptoms; Fatigue; Peer Relations; Pain Interference) - Age 5-17 Brief Resiliency Survey - Age 12-17 Pain Catastrophizing Scale - Age 8-17 Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale - Age 6-17
	<i>Productivity</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Productivity & Activity Index 	
	<i>Diet</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire
IBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics (exclusions apply)
	<i>Disease Specific</i>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short IBD Symptom Inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMPACT – III - Ages 9-17 PUCAI (UC); PCDAI (CD)
	GI Symptoms	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS Scale 5a – (GI Belly Pain) PROMIS Scale 6a – (GI Diarrhea) PROMIS Scale 9a – (GI Constipation) PROMIS Scale 13a – (GI Gas & Bloating) Leeds Dyspepsia Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PedsQL GI Symptoms Scale- (stomach pain and hurt; discomfort when eating; heartburn & reflux; nausea & vomiting; gas & bloating; constipation; blood in BM; diarrhea; worry about stomach aches; worry about BM) - Age 4-17
	General Quality of Life	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life Youth - Age 8-15
	Psychological	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Health Questionnaire PROMIS-29 – (Physical Function, Anxiety, Depression, Fatigue, Sleep Disturbance, Pain Interference & Intensity) Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) Perceived Stress Scale Adverse Childhood Experiences Brief Resiliency Survey Pain Catastrophizing Scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS-25 - (Physical Function Mobility; Anxiety; Depressive Symptoms; Fatigue; Peer Relations; Pain Interference) - Age 5-17 Brief Resiliency Survey - Age 12-17 Pain Catastrophizing Scale - Age 8-17 Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale - Age 6-17
	Productivity	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Productivity & Activity Index 	
	Diet	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Frequency Questionnaire FODMAP Questionnaire
Healthy controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographic Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demographics (exclusions apply)
	GI Symptoms	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROMIS Scale 5a – (GI Belly Pain) PROMIS Scale 6a – (GI Diarrhea) PROMIS Scale 9a – (GI Constipation) PROMIS Scale 13a – (GI Gas & Bloating) Leeds Dyspepsia Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PedsQL GI Symptoms Scale- (stomach pain and hurt; discomfort when eating; heartburn & reflux; nausea & vomiting; gas & bloating; constipation; blood in BM; diarrhea; worry about stomach aches; worry about BM) Age 5-17
	General Quality of Life	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Euro Quality of Life Youth - Age 8-15 Euro Quality of Life 5 Level - Age 16 +

	<i>Psychological</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Health Questionnaire • PROMIS-29 – (Physical Function, Anxiety, Depression, Fatigue, Sleep Disturbance, Pain Interference & Intensity) • Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) • Perceived Stress Scale • Adverse Childhood Experiences • Brief Resiliency Survey • Pain Catastrophizing Scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROMIS-25 - (Physical Function Mobility; Anxiety; Depressive Symptoms; Fatigue; Peer Relations; Pain Interference) - Age 5-17 • Brief Resiliency Survey - Age 12-17 • Pain Catastrophizing Scale - Age 8-17 • Revised Child Anxiety and Depression Scale - Age 6-17
	<i>Productivity</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Productivity & Activity Index 	
	<i>Diet</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Frequency Questionnaire • FODMAP Questionnaire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Frequency Questionnaire • FODMAP Questionnaire

APPENDIX 1: IMAGINE MEMBERS (alphabetically)**Hamilton:**

Premysl Bercik
John Bienenstock
Stephen Collins
Russel de Souza
Aida Fernandes (Executive Director)
Benicio Frey
Khurram Khan
John Lavis
Paul Moayyedi (PI)
Nikil Pai
Mary Sherlock
Mike Surette
Elena Verdu

Calgary:

Christopher Andrews
Paul Beck
Humberto Jijon
Gilaad G. Kaplan
Glenda MacQueen (post-humous)
Deborah Marshall
Yasmin Nasser
Remo Panaccione
Cynthia Seow
Valerie Taylor

Winnipeg:

Charles Bernstein
Wael El-Matary
Patricia Furer
Jean-Eric Ghia
Lesley Graff
Harminder Singh
John Walker (post-humous)

Edmonton:

Leo Dieleman
Richard Fedorak (post-humous)
Hien Huynh
Dina Kao
Karen Madsen

1
2
3 Puneeta Tandon
4 Eytan Wine
5

6
7 Kingston:
8 David Reed
9 Dean Tripp
10 Stephen Vanner
11

12
13 Halifax:
14 Jennifer Jones
15 Anthony Otley
16 Johan Van Limbergen
17

18
19 Montreal:
20 Alain Bitton
21 Justin Cote-Daigneault
22 Christophe Faure
23 Peter Lakatos
24 John Rioux
25 Sacha Sidani
26
27

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29 Toronto:
30 Ken Croitoru
31 Louis Liu
32 Jeff Meyer
33 Geoffrey Nguyen
34 Laura Targownik
35
36

37 Ottawa:
38 Eric Benchimol
39 Sanjay Murthy
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42 St John's:
43 Mark Borgaonkar
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45

46 Vancouver:
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49 **Patient Research Partners:**

50 Gail Bellissimo
51 Sara Blake
52 Kim Daley
53 Alysia DeNino
54 Anny Fernandez
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3 Shauna Jones
4 Ellen Keunzig
5 Sophie LeBlanc
6 Nadine Mackay
7 Lisa MacNeil
8 Megan Marsiglio
9 Kate Mason
10 Adhiyat Najam
11 Emma Neary
12 Shawn Reynolds
13 Perry Steckly
14 Amy Van Engelen
15 Karthika Yogaratnam
16 Sandra Zelinsky
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