



NEWSLETTER

A **BIO**logic drug safety and effectiveness inter**National** pharmacoepidemiologic study in pregnant women with autoimmune disorders or asthma and their children (BIONIC).



NEWSFLASH

BIONIC Kick-Off Meeting

The BIONIC Kick-Off Meeting took place October 6th and was joined by:

- Co-Leads Dr. Sonia Grandi and Dr. Cristina Longo
- Site Principal Investigators (PI) from:
 - Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia
- 5 patient partners, representing lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and asthma

Key Takeaways and Next Steps:

- The project was funded by CIHR in Spring 2025
- This study will generate robust evidence to inform guidelines using novel methods
- Planning to apply for NIH funding
- Developing social media presence on LinkedIn and Instagram, along with a dedicated study website

BIONIC OBJECTIVES (EN)

In women with AD or asthma, who continue versus discontinue biologic use in pregnancy, compare the risks of:

- 1) Maternal complications in, and worsening of disease during, pregnancy.
- 2) Complications in their infants and children.

BIONIC OBJECTIFS (FR)

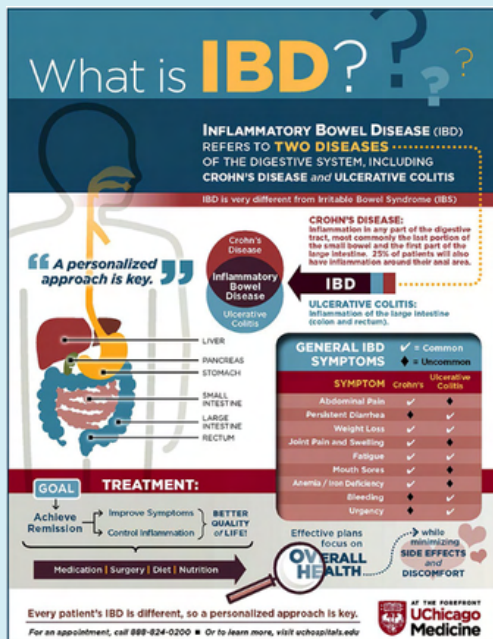
Chez les femmes atteintes de maladies auto-immunes ou d'asthme, qui poursuivent ou interrompent l'utilisation d'un agent biologique pendant la grossesse, comparer les risques suivant:

- 1) Les complications maternelles et l'aggravation de la maladie au cours de la grossesse.
- 2) Les complications chez leurs nourrissons et leurs enfants.

NOVEMBER IS CROHN'S AND COLITIS AWARENESS MONTH

What are Crohn's and Colitis?

Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are long-term conditions that make up inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). **Both Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis cause inflammation of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract**, which can interfere with the body's ability to properly digest food, absorb nutrients, and eliminate waste. IBD is a lifelong illness that typically alternates through cycles of active symptoms (called flare-ups) and remission, when symptoms improve or subside (1).



Source: [Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers](#) (5)

IBD can also affect pregnancies. Those who become pregnant while their disease is active are **more likely to have complications including preterm birth, low birth weight, and stillbirth**. However, most individuals with IBD who conceive during remission have positive pregnancy outcomes that resemble that of the general population. This highlights how the continuation of appropriate therapies and care both before and during pregnancy are key to optimizing maternal and fetal outcomes (1,4).

Quick Facts

6.8 million
people around the world are **living with IBD**, an approximate 85% increase since 1990.

Source: [IBD Social Circle](#) (3)

Most people are diagnosed by
age 30

Source: [Crohn's and Colitis Canada](#)

84%

of adults with IBD feel that there is perceived disease-related stigma against them.

Source: [IBD Social Circle](#) (3)

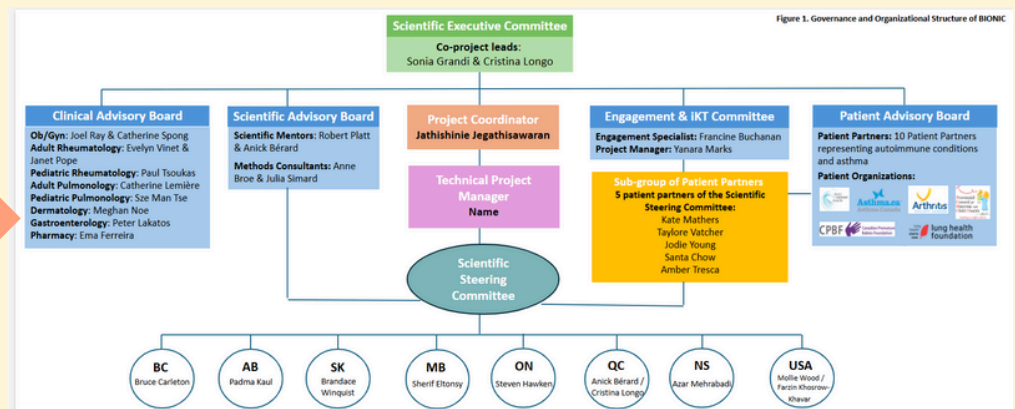
Jathishinie Jegathisawaran



Meet the newest member of our team, Jathishinie Jegathisawaran. She holds a degree in Master of Health Economics, a certificate in clinical research and a certificate in project management. Jathishinie joined the Grandi lab at SickKids as the project coordinator in September 2025 and is spearheading the BIONIC study. She has previously held diverse roles both internally and externally to SickKids in the space of health technology assessment and health economics, clinical research and project management. Having training and professional work experience in multiple jurisdictions, Jathishinie has co-authored multiple journal articles, industry and government reports and has presented and participated in various conferences.

Her professional experience working on projects involving biologics in psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis and rheumatoid arthritis provides a strong foundation for the significant contributions she will bring to the BIONIC study. Jathishinie has also worked on projects related to respiratory illnesses including COPD and COVID-19. Her passion for volunteer work and improving the quality of lives of women and child health, she finds, aligns well with the goals of the BIONIC study. Having first-hand experience working with patients and other persons with lived experiences, the BIONIC team looks forward to having Jathishinie on the team to successfully operationalize the study activities. In her spare time, she enjoys travelling, multi-cultural cuisines, and a variety of physical activities.

BIONIC Study Team Structure



Share Your Thoughts

Let us know what you think of the November BIONIC Newsletter, or tell us what you would like to hear about in the next edition [here](#).

How to get in touch with us

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