

**WOMEN'S HEALTH  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
AT BC WOMEN'S**



LEADING RESEARCH:  
BETTER HEALTH FOR WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

# Who We Are

The Women's Health Research Institute is devoted to improving the health and health care of girls and women through knowledge generation, to serve as a catalyst for research in women's health and to support an expanding provincial and national network of women's health researchers, policy makers, and healthcare providers.



We are a leading academic women's and newborn health research center embedded within the BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre.

The WHRI is a real and virtual organization designed to facilitate women's health research while providing a community for women's health researchers.

# Our investigators

124

members

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57

full

47

associate

20

affiliate

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WHRI members hold appointments across numerous UBC faculties and represent 11 other universities throughout Canada and the US.

### UBC Faculty Appointments

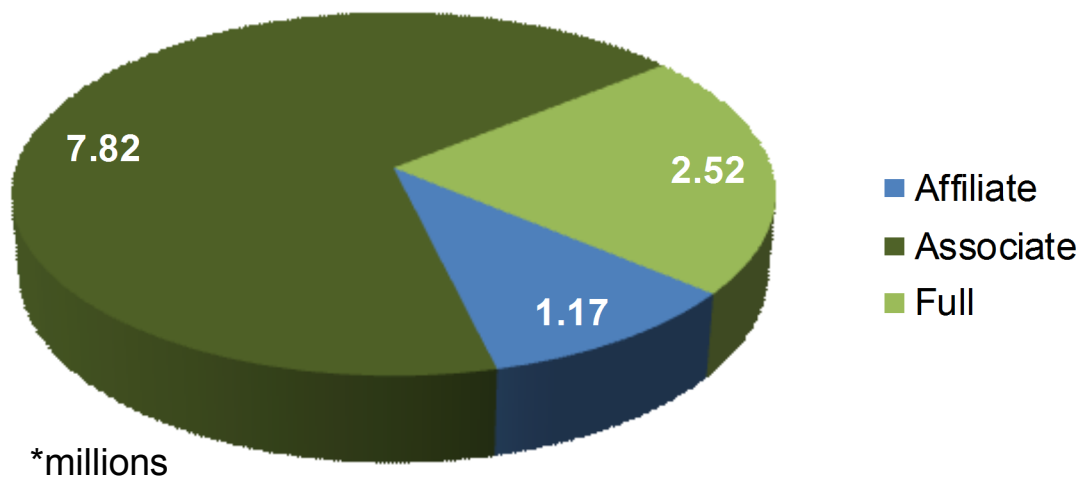
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	28
Population and Public Health	18
Family Practice	13
Pediatrics	8
Psychiatry	6
Medicine	6
Anesthesiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics	4
Pharmaceutical Sciences	2
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine	2
Psychology	2
Radiology	1
Nursing	1
Curriculum	1
Food, Nutrition, and Health	1
Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy	1
Medical Genetics	1
Physical Therapy	1
Microbiology & Immunology	1

\*includes cross-appointments

# Proof of Excellence: Funding

WHRI members received  
**11.5 million dollars** in funding last fiscal year (2014-15)

Members hold **7 Canada Research Chairs**  
and **1 CIHR Chair in Applied Public Health**



# Proof of Excellence: Publications

**271** articles in leading journals

**32** literature reviews and case reports

**17** book chapters

**14** clinical guidelines

**4** books

**2** government reports

**2** conference papers

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**342** new publications!

**WHRI members increased their publications in FY2014-2015  
by 9.3% over last fiscal year!**

# Investing in the Future



WHRI is committed to research excellence through the training and scholarship of new researchers and clinicians.

Last fiscal year (2014-2015),  
our members oversaw 148 research  
trainees including:

- 73 resident MDs
- 15 postdoctoral fellows
- 8 PhD students
- 14 Master's students
- 10 summer students
- 28 practicum, co-op, honours, and directed studies students.

# **Mission**

Creating new knowledge and evidence-based solutions that inform and transform the health and health care of women and their families.

# **Vision**

Leading research: Better health for women and their families.





# **Our Mandate**

- **To act as the research arm of BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre.**
- **To act as the face of women's health research for the Provincial Health Services Authority.**
- **To support research activities designed to improve the health and health care of women and their families throughout British Columbia and globally.**

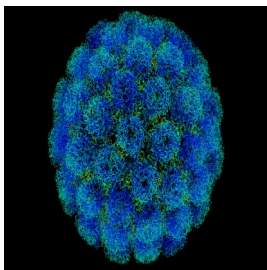
## **Goals**

- To discover new knowledge to improve the health of girls and women
- To create and promote a successful research enterprise
- To communicate research discoveries and successes to researchers, stakeholders, and the public

## **Values**

- To encourage excellence and innovative thinking in women-centred health research.
- To be ethical and transparent in our actions and activities
- To be equitable and inclusive in all we do
- To respect diversity and promote a sustainable environment for women's health research

Research at WHRI is centred around  
7 main research themes.



**Reproductive  
Infectious  
Diseases**



**Women's  
Cancers**



**Maternal,  
Fetal, and  
Newborn  
Health**



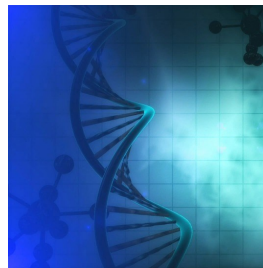
**Chronic  
Disease**



**Sexual and  
Reproductive  
Health**



**Global Health**



**Genomics  
and  
Personalized  
Health**



# Research Highlights: Reproductive Infectious Diseases



**Dr. Melanie Murray**  
**WHRI Member**

Dr. Melanie Murray, a physician at the Oak Tree Clinic at BC Women's Hospital, is the lead researcher on a new study investigating how text messaging can improve the health of people living with HIV. Weekly text messages from members of the health care team are used to create a sense of connectedness between patients and their care providers. Patients are asked to respond to the texts and if any concerns arise, the patient can then be connected to her doctor. It is expected that this sense of connectedness will help improve the overall health and well-being of study participants.

## Research Highlights: Women's Cancers



**Dr. Paula Gordon**  
**WHRI Member**

Dr. Paula Gordon is a radiologist and Medical Director of the Sadie Diamond Breast Program at BC Women's Hospital. Dr. Gordon and her team are early adopters in the field of digital breast tomosynthesis (DBT), a technology which takes images from multiple angles and then combines them for a three dimensional image of the breast. These images are better at detecting breast cancer than traditional mammograms and can lead to improved health outcomes through early detection. At the same time, they can reduce false positives at screening.

Dr. Gordon is leading the BC arm of a new multi-national trial to demonstrate the efficacy of this exciting, new procedure.

## Research Highlights: Maternal, Fetal, and Newborn Health

A 2.1 million dollar research grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the BC Knowledge Development Fund has been awarded to develop a new Perinatal Research IMaging Evaluation (PRIME) Center to train new specialists and conduct research in the use of ultrasound technology as a tool to advance maternal and fetal health. The new centre will be located at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre and will be led by WHRI member Dr. Denise Pugash.



**Dr. Denise Pugash**  
**WHRI Member**

In a recent article published by WHRI member **Dr. Leanne Dahlgren** in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, a 12-year study of first-time mothers in BC found that First Nations women were 7 times more likely to have a baby while in their teens and were more likely to have a pre-term delivery. The study also found higher infant mortality rates among First Nations populations as compared to non-First Nations populations in BC, and lower levels of obstetric care among First Nations women may be a contributing factor.

# Research Highlights: Sexual and Reproductive Health



A CIHR Operating Grant of \$282,868 was recently awarded to WHRI member Dr. Paul Yong, Research Director and Physician at the Chronic Pelvic Pain program at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre to research the etiology of dyspareunia in endometriosis.

**Dr. Paul Yong**  
**WHRI Member**

WHRI awarded the 2015 Nelly Auersperg Awards to **Dr. Mohamed Bedaiwy** and **Dr. Flora Teng**. Dr. Bedaiwy's research focuses on exploring the potential use of gonadotrophin releasing hormone (GnRH) antagonists for the treatment of ectopic pregnancy, as an alternative to medical therapy. The pilot work of this grant is accepted for publication in *Fertility and Sterility*:

Peng B, Klausen C, Campbell L, Leung PC, Horne AW, Bedaiwy MA. Gonadotropin-releasing hormone and gonadotropin-releasing hormone receptor are expressed at tubal ectopic pregnancy implantation sites. *Fertil Steril*. 2016 Feb 23. [Epub ahead of print]

Dr. Teng's research involves the development and pilot testing of a contraception decision tool for Canadians to generate evidence-based, women-centred recommendations tailored to individual preferences.



# Research Highlights: Sexual and Reproductive Health

Dr. Wendy Norman holds a CIHR PHAC Chair in Applied Public Health Research for her research in family planning. Earlier this year her work was recognized with the top international award for sexual and reproductive health research, the Guttmacher Institute's Darroch Award.

She is the Director of the Contraception Access Research Team, a national, interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral collaboration which aims to support equal access to family planning through health services and policies.

The CART team is involved in numerous research studies examining contraceptive use, pregnancy, and family planning, including The Canadian Sexual Health Survey, Canada's first contraception cost-effectiveness model which will support evidence-based policy for optimal health strategies.



**Dr. Wendy Norman**  
**WHRI Member**



# Research Highlights: Chronic Disease



**Dr. Hélène Côté**  
**WHRI Member**

Dr. Hélène Côté is an Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UBC. With a team of WHRI researchers, she is helping to lead a national study on the accelerated aging of women with HIV who take antiretroviral therapy. Long-term highly active antiretroviral therapy has been successful in treating the clinical symptoms of HIV but the drugs are associated with mitochondrial damage and serious side effects. In addition to studying these effects, Dr. Côté's lab also studies the implications of taking this medication during pregnancy on early fetal development, infancy, and childhood.

# Research Highlights: Global Health

A CIHR Foundation Grant of \$2,714,493 was recently awarded to WHRI member Dr. Gina Ogilvie, Assistant Director of WHRI and Senior Advisor, Research at BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre. The grant provides funds for research on the Integrated Global Control of HPV Related Diseases and Cancer and through research in Canada and internationally, policy will be developed to guide implementation of prevention strategies for HPV related cancers.



**Dr. Gina Ogilvie**  
**WHRI Member**

# Research Highlights: Genomics and Personalized Health

Dr. Deborah Money, Executive Vice-Dean, Faculty of Medicine and previously the inaugural Executive Director of WHRI, leads a reproductive infectious diseases research program holding over \$5.8M as a principal investigator. Specifically in the area of genomics and personalized health, she is the lead investigator of the Canadian, multicenter, multidisciplinary



**Dr. Deborah Money**  
**WHRI Member**

VOGUE research program (Vaginal Microbiome Group Initiative).

Supported by a \$2.4M Emerging Team Grant from CIHR and Genome BC, the VOGUE team is using cutting-edge metagenomic technology to investigate the complex vaginal microbial ecosystem (“microbiome”) in varying states of health and disease: healthy pregnant and non-pregnant women, pregnant women at high risk of preterm birth, women living with HIV/AIDS, and women who suffer from chronic, recurrent, vulvovaginal infections.

The goal is the development of novel diagnostic tools and interventions to prevent preterm birth, serious post surgical infections, and eliminate recurrent infections through personalized medicine.

# Our members

Ron Abrahams  
Ariane Alimenti  
Catherine Allaire  
Jehannine Austin  
Isabelle Baribeau  
Mohamed Bedaiwy  
Suze Berkhout  
Alison Bested  
Julie Bettinger  
Joan Bottorff  
Lori Brotto  
Karen Buhler  
David Burdge  
Blair Butler  
Kirstin Campbell  
Eliana Castillo  
Wee-Shian Chan  
Alexander Chapman  
Julian Christians  
Andrew Coldman  
Ruth Comfort  
Darrel Cook  
Helene Côté  
Valorie Crooks  
Geoffrey Cundiff  
Leanne Dahlgren  
Cheryl Davies  
Marie-France Delisle  
Simon Dobson  
Joanne Douglas  
Sandra Dunn  
Amanda Easton  
Rajavel Elango  
Lehe Elarar  
Mary Ensom  
Brian Fitzsimmons  
Nichole Fairbrother  
Alain Gagnon  
Liisa Galea  
Soren Gantt  
M. Anne George  
Ruby Gidda

Kathy Gregg  
Ruth Grunau  
Vit Gunka  
Kerstin Gustafson  
Jon Havelock  
Dawn Hemingway  
Janet Hill  
Catriona Hippman  
Christine Hitchcock  
Zoë Hodgson  
Liisa Holsti  
Karin Humphries  
Georgia Hunt  
Patricia Janssen  
Stephanie Johnson  
Nane Jordan  
Angela Kaida  
Janusz Kazorowski  
Michael C. Klein  
Sharon Koehn  
Mel Krajden  
Cheryl Krasnick-Warsh  
Janice Kwon  
Yvonne Lamers  
Marette Lee  
Vivian Leung  
Sarka Lisonkova  
Robert Liston  
Elisa Lloyd-Smith  
Heather Loane  
Nadine Lusney  
Karen MacKinnon  
Kara Malcolm  
Indrani Margolin  
Ruth E. Martin  
Douglas Matsell  
Christopher Maxwell  
Chantal Mayer  
Jessica McAlpine  
Shaila Misri  
Sheona Mitchell

Deborah Money  
Melanie Murray  
Pablo Nepomnaschy  
Wendy V. Norman  
Kieran O'Doherty  
Gina Ogilvie  
Horacio Osioovich  
Becky Palmer  
Sarah Partridge  
Bernie Pauly  
Elizabeth Peter  
Rachel Philips  
Neora Pick  
Roanne Preston  
Jerilynn Prior  
Denise Pugash  
Pratibha Reebye  
Debbie Reid  
Gregor Reid  
Valencia Remple  
Lenore Riddell  
Jeffrey Roberts  
Martha Roberts  
Amy Salmon  
Lee Saxell  
Ken Seethram  
Kate Shannon  
Farah Shroff  
Judith Soon  
Mary Stephenson  
Gavin Stuart  
Patrick Thornton  
Darci Tomlinson  
Karen Tulloch  
Julie van Schalkwyk  
Saraswathi Vedam  
Sydney Weaver  
Glenys Webster  
Ellen Wiebe  
David Wilkie  
Paul Yong

Many thanks to our partners!  
Your support helps us help improve the lives of  
women, girls, and their families, across  
British Columbia.



**BC WOMEN'S  
HOSPITAL+**  
HEALTH CENTRE

