

## Weekly WHRI Community Update – June 12, 2020

*Sent on behalf of Dr. Lori Brotto, Executive Director, WHRI*

Dear WHRI Community,

For 13 weeks now, we have been physically distant and this has impacted nearly all parts of our work within the women's health research community. I truly miss being in large lecture halls, in small face to face working groups, and bumping into summer students throughout the WHRI. For me, however, there has also been a powerful new connection that transcends face to face proximity. I have seen teams put their heads together online to capitalize on unique opportunities for online workshops. I have seen the numbers of attendees at our now virtual rounds increase week by week. I have also experienced (and seen) newer and deepened collaborations with our colleagues across the C&W campus as we work to resume onsite research activity. The incredible efforts led by the Return to Onsite Research Working Group have been collaborative through and through, and the plans that will guide us back to onsite research have the health and safety of our entire community in mind. I'll mention a particular thank you to Dr. Wyeth Wasserman (Associate Dean, Research, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute) and Dr. Jehannine Austin (Executive Director, BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services Research Institute) for their steadfast collaboration as well as support.

This week, our campus put out a call for resumption proposals and over 120 were received. The approval of those applications meeting resumption criteria will see a small group of researchers, staff and trainees who cannot complete their work remotely return to the C&W campus. The types of high priority research being considered for this first stage of resumption include:

- COVID-19 research
- Current research activities that were granted an exemption to continue during the research curtailment period
- Critical clinical research concurrent with clinical care
- Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who need to be onsite to complete work for graduation or career advancement
- Core research facilities staff who are essential for approved onsite research
- Upcoming time-sensitive activities that cannot be done remotely and require onsite research access
- Equity considerations for those that cannot work from home due to personal reasons

As many of our WHRI researchers are engaged in clinical research activities, I know that you are keen to hear how those return to onsite research plans are aligning with BCWH Safety Plans and policies. Rest assured that our C&W medical and operations leaders recognize that as an academic health centre, there is a high priority to resume clinical research, and as such, the research working group will be working closely with the clinical and operations teams to identify the best and most efficient processes for how clinical research can resume within programs. Although the precise details are being finalized, we believe that those approvals for resumption of clinical research will take place within the next two weeks.

I remain, as always, open to hearing your thoughts, comments, and suggestions,

Sincerely,  
Lori Brotto

Sincerely,

Lori A Brotto PHD, R PSYCH  
Executive Director, WHRI  
Professor | Department of OBGYN, UBC  
Canada Research Chair | Women's Sexual Health

## Updates from Jun 6<sup>th</sup> – Jun 12<sup>th</sup>

### RESUMPTION OF RESEARCH GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FROM THE C&W REB

The UBC C&W Research Ethics Board has put together a document that should help guide researchers through the process of research resumption:

<http://www.phsa.ca/researcher/Documents/CW%20Guidance%20for%20Resumption%20of%20Research.docx>

You can find it on our website (<http://www.phsa.ca/researcher/ethics-approvals/research-ethics-approval/ubc-bc-childrens-and-womens-research-ethics-board>) in the COVID-19 drop down tab.

---

### TRAINEE SURVEY – A REMINDER

Dr. Lori Brotto and Dr. Angela Kaida have launched a survey to **understand the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on women's health research trainees**. The survey will close on June 30, 2020.

We are offering TEN \$100 gift card random draw prizes to WHRI trainees who complete the survey. Only trainees who are members of WHRI or whose supervisors/primary mentors are members of WHRI are eligible for this prize.

Please share this link with students and trainees on your teams:  
<https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=NMCFP4WCCF>

For more information: <http://whri.org/our-research/covid19-trainee-survey/>

## FUNDING AGENCY UPDATES and OPPORTUNITIES

**New and updated COVID-19 WHRI Funding Updates**

Follow our webpage for all the latest news, COVID-19 funding opportunities, latest updates for deadlines and official statements from funding agencies regarding grant programs.

For updated list of funding opportunities and deadline changes, click [here](#)  
For any questions regarding grant applications or grant writing assistance, reach out to Eric Lussier, [eric.ducharmelussier@cw.bc.ca](mailto:eric.ducharmelussier@cw.bc.ca).

---

## NEWS

### Important information for Spring 2020 Project Grant applicants

As everyone knows CIHR recently announced that it will reinstate the Spring 2020 Project Grant competition with adjudication over the summer (June-August peer review process). CIHR made has made an additional announcement which may be relevant to Spring 2020 applicants. All applications previously submitted to the Spring Project Grant competition will proceed to peer review, with only the following exceptions:

- Nominated Principal Applicants (NPAs) who were **offered a financial extension linked to their Investigator-Initiated research (IIR) grant or bridge grant** will need to take extra steps to keep their application in the Spring 2020 competition (please see the details below).
- For all other NPAs, **if you wish to withdraw your application** from the competition, please notify CIHR by [sending an e-mail to the Contact Centre](#) no later than **June 12, 2020**.
- CIHR Fall 2020 Project Grant competition: CIHR has committed to completing the full Spring competition process before the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition begins. The Fall 2020 competition is expected to launch in early July.

For full message and details click the link above.

### MSFHR announces 10 BC research teams undertaking critical COVID-19 research

**Congratulations** to [WHRI members](#): **Valerie Crooks** (A Spatial Approach to Exploring Vulnerability in the Context of COVID-19 in British Columbia), and **Sarka Lisonkova** (All-Cause and Cause-Specific Mortality and Acute Morbidity Attributable to COVID-19 and Medical History Associated with Severe COVID-19 Infection in BC) and **Yuk Joseph Ting** (Study of Early Health Outcomes in Neonates Exposed to COVID-19 in British Columbia (SHiNE-BC)), **Manish Sadarangani** (COVID-19 in Children and Young Adults in BC – Evaluation of Public Health Measures and Epidemiologic Support for Decision-Makers) for being awarded the MSFHR COVID-19 Rapid Response study grants from MSFHR!

### CFI Exceptional Opportunities Fund (EOF) Competition launched

The Exceptional Opportunity Fund – COVID-19 has been launched. Through this Exceptional Opportunities Fund – COVID-19 competition, the CFI will invest up to \$25 million with the objective of supporting urgent needs for equipment for ongoing research related to COVID-19. **The deadline for submitting an EOI is 6/16 and the proposals is due July 6, 2020.**

### UBC launches the COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative

The COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative (CRCI) is a province-wide program aimed at creating innovative health systems and structures capable of capturing and collating collective input and feedback to enable the prioritization and coordination of COVID-19 translational research. For more information follow the link.

### COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Microsoft – [AI for Health COVID-19 Grant](#) – 6/15
- SSHRC – [Partnership Engage Grants COVID-19 Special Initiative](#) – 6/15
- CIHR – [COVID-19 Mental Health & Substance Use Service Needs and Delivery](#) – 6/18
- Amazon Web Services – [Diagnostic Development Initiative](#) – Ongoing 6/30
- CFI – [Exceptional Opportunities Fund – COVID-19 competition](#) – EOI 6/16, Full 7/6
- SSHRC – [Partnership Engage Grants COVID-19 Special Initiative](#) – 9/15
- Ferring Pharmaceuticals – [COVID-19 Grants in Reprod. Medicine and Mat. Health](#) – Ongoing 10/31
- Genome Canada – [COVID-19 Regional Genomics Initiative](#) – TBA
- Canada Digital Technology Supercluster – [Call for COVID-19 Solutions](#) – Ongoing

### UPDATES (6/5 - 6/12) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

- CFI – [Exceptional Opportunities Fund – COVID-19 competition](#) – EOI 6/16, Full 7/6

### HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

Check out the [Q&A with Dr. Deborah Money](#) regarding pregnancy and birth in the time of a pandemic: <https://news.ubc.ca/2020/06/12/pregnancy-and-birth-in-the-time-of-a-pandemic/>

---

### Identifying Work and Health Evidence Gaps and Research Needs in the Context of COVID-19

You are invited to participate in a survey that will ask your opinion on what work and health evidence gaps and research needs exist in the context of global pandemics and COVID-19.

The purpose of this study is to generate a summary of work and health evidence gaps and research needs in the context of COVID-19 informed by a review of the research literature, a survey of COVID19 research registries, and this survey of researcher and knowledge users. The summary of needs and gaps will be submitted to research funders and knowledge users at provincial, national and international levels.

This study is funded by WorkSafeBC. The online survey is hosted in Canada and only the UBC team will have access to the answers. Your contact information was obtained from mailing lists for which you have consented to receive correspondence on work and health issues or from email correspondence with the Partnership for Work, Health & Safety.

Your participation is voluntary and if you choose to participate, your responses are confidential. We will provide you with a copy of the report at the conclusion of the study on your request.

Please visit the link below to take the survey (You will be re-directed to the survey website):  
[https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5juoAJAz0G01aDj?Q\\_Language=EN-GB](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5juoAJAz0G01aDj?Q_Language=EN-GB)

If you have any questions about the study or survey, please contact myself or our Survey Coordinator Suhail Marino at [suhail.marino@ubc.ca](mailto:suhail.marino@ubc.ca).

---

Have some news of your own to share? [Email whri.communications@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Email.whri.communications@cw.bc.ca)

## STAFF RESOURCES

PHSA is offering Unconscious Bias Learning Bursts through the LearningHub:  
<https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/22683/learning-burst-unconscious-bias>

---

Stay up-to-date on PHSA staff updates via their staff resources page: <http://www.phsa.ca/staff-resources/covid-19-resources-for-staff>

---

PHSA has highlighted some important resources and strategies for staff:

See [PHSA's latest COVID-19 support resources](#) for temporary accommodation resources, toolkits for staff and leaders, and checklists to plan a smooth transition back to work for staff and managers

**Lunch Hour Yoga** is a virtual 20 minute yoga session. No equipment needed. No need to change your clothes or footwear. Please be mindful of your personal physical limitations while participating.

**Tuesdays & Thursday from 12:00pm-12:20pm** via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/115502129>

Homewood Health [Pandemic Toolkit](#)

If you would like to speak to a trained professional, there are a number of no-cost resources currently available to you: [Homewood Health](#) Employee & Family Assistance Program

PHSA Confidential Staff Psychosocial Support email [workplacewellness@cw.bc.ca](mailto:workplacewellness@cw.bc.ca) or call **604-875-2982**

---