

Weekly WHRI Community Update – April 24, 2020

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

Among the many individuals significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are students and trainees. Over the past 6 weeks, we have seen students unable to collect data due to research curtailment directives, students defend their theses and dissertations online (with ensuing remote celebrations), long-awaited conference presentations cancelled, and students who were budgeted for on their supervisor's grant application face new fears as those grant competitions were cancelled. We have also witnessed remarkable flexibility, persistence, collaboration, and resilience among our students and trainees over this time. Students and trainees are the future of health research in our world, and as such, we, your academic and institutional mentors, want to equip you in the best possible way for success so that you can improve our world. This week we learned of some important new relief coming to students. As described briefly in his letter on April 22, Dr. Michael Strong noted that the Government of Canada announced new funding of \$291.6 million to maintain income support for students and fellows impacted by research curtailment. While the details have yet to be released, we feel gratitude to the Government of Canada for providing some financial relief to our students.

To further understand the (direct and indirect) impacts of COVID-19 on our WHRI student and trainee community, we are developing a survey to distribute to the over 700 trainees associated with the WHRI. This information will be used to inform our strategic framework supporting students and trainees, and led by Dr. Angela Kaida. Stay tuned for the release of this survey, and then please share your experiences with us.

In the meantime, students and trainees, you remain in my best wishes.

Sincerely,
Lori Brotto
Executive Director, Women's Health Research Institute

Updates from April 18th – April 24th

UBC Faculty Invited to Town Hall led by Dr. Gail Murphy

The important Town Hall will be held on **Wednesday, April 29 at 10:30-11:30am**, led by Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation UBC. The conversation will focus on how UBC might take a phased approach towards resuming safe levels research activities. Please refer to the **attached email for the virtual meeting details**, including the zoom link.

Thank you to **Aditi Bhardwaj** for sharing your **Recap of the Virtual BC COVID-19 Research Symposium** which is **attached to this email** as a PDF.

Reminder that the full symposium recording can be viewed here:
<https://www.med.ubc.ca/research-2/virtual-bc-covid-19-symposium/>

BC Women's Research Rounds have gone virtual!

We have moved our monthly [Research Rounds](#) to a new online format, so that they can be viewed remotely. This new format was very well received during last week's rounds presentation from Dr. Lori Brotto on "Mindfulness: Practice and results of a clinical trial in women's health".

Please note, we will be extending virtual rounds into the summer and we are looking for presenters for June, July and August. **If you have any research findings you would like to present at an upcoming session, please contact Kathryn Dewar (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).**

BC Women's Research Rounds will continue to be held at the usual time: the third Friday of each month at 8am.

WHRI COVID-19 Website

The **WHRI COVID-19 has been updated** with the most up-to-date resources for the research community. If you have any comments, requests or suggestions, related to content, please send them to Nicole Prestley (Nicole.Prestley@cw.bc.ca).

Follow this link: <http://whri.org/covid-19-updates/>

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.

COVID-19 Grants Update

[GoC CIHR announces Support for research trainees at Canadian institutions](#)

Trainees funded directly through programs such as the Canada Graduate Scholarships, Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, and Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships are eligible for funding support.

[PM announces Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19](#)

Justin Trudeau announced comprehensive support of nearly \$9 billion for post-secondary students and recent graduates that will help: provide the financial support over the summer, continue their studies in the fall, and get the experience they need to start their careers.

[Launch of CIHR Operating Grant: COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity](#)

The Government of Canada announces the launch of a new rapid research funding opportunity to continue to mobilize science to fight COVID-19 (Due May 11th).

CIHR Notice

If you are eligible for a financial extension to your investigator-initiated research grant, you will be receiving an email shortly from the CIHR Contact Centre....

Mitacs and NSERC partnering to rapidly fund innovation for COVID-19 solutions

Mitacs is partnering with NSERC to advance COVID-19-related solutions.

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR - Operating Grant : WHO Solidarity Trial Scale-Up Funding Opportunity – 4/28

Harrington Discovery Institute – COVID-19 Response Grant – 4/30

CIHR – Operating Grant : COVID-19 May 2020 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity – 5/11

Mitacs – Bolstering industrial postdoc fellowships – 5/15

MSFHR – COVID-19 Research Response Fund – Ongoing until 5/19

NSERC – NSERC Alliance COVID-19 grants – Ongoing 6/1

NSERC – College and Community Innovation Program – Applied Research Rapid Response to COVID-19 – Ongoing until 6/1

Amazon Web Services – Diagnostic Development Initiative – 6/30

Ferring Pharmaceuticals – COVID-19 Investigational Grants in Reproductive Medicine and Maternal Health – Ongoing 10/31

Canada Digital Technology Supercluster – Call for COVID-19 Solutions – Ongoing

Genome Canada – COVID-19 Regional Genomics Initiative – Ongoing

HAVE FIVE MINUTES?

ZOOM SECURITY TIP TO AVOID “zoombombing”

As we all pivot into this virtual world, zoom is a platform being used more frequently. There are some simple safeguards you can implement to protect your next meeting from a “zoombomb”.

Check out this article in the New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/style/zoom-security-tips.html>

STAFF RESOURCES

UBC enhances SPSS and NVivo software to support working remotely

To assist faculty, staff and students working remotely, UBC IT has been able to enhance some of their software offerings, including updates to SPSS and NVivo.

IBM SPSS Statistics is an advanced statistical package software for Windows, Mac and Linux. A home use (standalone) license is now available to allow SPSS to be downloaded and installed on non-UBC-owned devices.

NVivo software is primarily used for qualitative data analysis to collect, organize and analyze content

from interviews, focus groups, discussions, surveys, audio, social media, videos and web pages. Previously, this software was only available to students, however UBC has made NVivo available to faculty and staff for download. [More](#)

PHSA has highlighted some important resources and strategies for staff:

The next Wellness Webinar: [Mindfulness and Mitigating the Stress Response to COVID-19](#) on April 29th, 6pm -7pm

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 or call **604-875-2982**
