

Weekly WHRI Community Update – May 1, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

Like many of you, I have been following our BC curve closely and have been reassured that we are guided by the directives of our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. As such, we will start to see social distancing guidelines start to loosen. This will impact our academic and teaching activities within our larger WHRI community that we will be monitoring closely.

This week UBC announced that the research curtailment, originally ending April 30, 2020, has been extended (<https://broadcastemail.ubc.ca/2020/04/28/extension-of-remote-work-arrangements-and-on-campus-research-curtailment>). While no end date for the extension has been announced, trust that we are actively engaged in those conversations and will notify our membership as soon as we have updates.

If you have an existing research exemption, it will be automatically extended with no additional activity needed. If you need to apply for a research exemption due to COVID-19 related research or other exempt reasons, please complete the [online exemption form](#).

As I notified our membership on April 29, WHRI researchers with current exemptions that involve clinical research at BC Women's Hospital will have those exemption forms reviewed in the next week. This will be done to ensure that the approved research accounts for updated policies with respect to people flow through the units and use of personal protective equipment to ensure an appropriate balance of risk and benefit.

UBC has begun the process of considering what a gradual return to academic and teaching activities might look like, and Dr. Gail Murphy, Vice-President Research & Innovation, hosted an online Town Hall for members of the UBC Faculty of Medicine to discuss a general approach to this plan on April 29. UBC is welcoming your input into this plan. More information can be found here: (<https://research.ubc.ca/covid-19-curtailing-research-activities-ubc-campuses>).

For all those working onsite under an exemption, please remember that physical distancing, [hand hygiene](#) and laboratory safety must be maintained at all times. Anyone displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 or any other illness — coughing, sneezing, fever, sore throat and difficulty breathing — must stay home. If anyone on your team displays symptoms, please send them home immediately. Thank you for your patience as we work together toward a plan that will continue to protect all staff, researchers, research participants, trainees, and our community at large.

Sincerely,

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

Updates from April 25th – May 1st

Extension of Research Curtailment and Remote Working

On Wednesday April 29th, Dr. Brotto sent an email (attached) to members and staff indicating the **extension of research curtailment and remote work arrangements** which currently has **no fixed end date**. The WHRI will continue to follow the guidance from the Provincial Health Officer and UBC and will communicate further details with you in the coming weeks.

Please refer to the attached email or the [WHRI COVID-19 page](#).

There is a new, MSFHR-led, BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Framework: An Evolving Guide for Decision-makers and Researchers (Issue 1, April 2020)

From Dr. Bev Holmes: *As you are aware, the Framework was developed by the new Strategic Research Advisory Committee (which we are providing strategic support to, and serving as secretariat) with input from the Public Health Officer and Health Emergency Coordination Centre, the Health Research Council of BC (senior health research representatives of all research-intensive universities, health authorities, funders and government), the Ministry of Health, and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. An important point of orientation on the Framework is that this is Issue 1. The Framework will evolve as the pandemic unfolds, and be based on additional input and feedback from a wide variety of provincial stakeholders, including patients and the public (facilitated by the BC AHSN), as well as being informed by national initiatives.*

Rapid Evidence Update Resource

Andrea Ryce, Clinical Librarian with C&W's New Knowledge and Innovation team, has created a [repository of COVID-19 literature](#) for all staff.

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. We are 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).

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

CIHR – Message from the President: Planning for the Fall Project Grant Competition

“The COVID-19 crisis has struck many researchers very hard, with interruptions to ongoing studies and restricted access to labs and patients...Although key details remain to be finalized, I want to reassure you that **the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition will proceed...**”

Mitacs Offering 3-to-1 Investment Ratio for COVID-19 R&D Projects

Mitacs announced they will be offering a 3-to-1 investment ratio for COVID-19-related projects.

New resources and support for Alliance COVID19 projects

NSERC is providing resources to support researchers preparing an Alliance application.

WHRI COVID-19 Funding Updates

Follow our webpage for all the latest COVID-19 funding related news, opportunities, deadline updates and official funding agencies’ statements.

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR – [COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity in Mental Health and Substance Use](#) – 5/7

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 5/19

PFIZER – [COVID-19: Continuity in Care for Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer](#) – 5/21

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute – [COVID-19 Targeted PFA](#) – 5/26

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

Emergency Medicine Foundation – [COVID-19 RESEARCH GRANT](#) – 6/5

Amazon Web Services – [Diagnostic Development Initiative](#) – Ongoing 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

UPDATES (4/24 - 5/1) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

NSERC – [Science Communication Skills grant \(pilot\)](#) – 6/15

CIHR – [Team Grant : Preparation to Trial: Inflammation for Chronic Conditions](#) – 7/2

HAVE SEVEN MINUTES?

[Tim Caulfield's recent article in Nature](#) regarding **Pseudoscience and COVID-19** is something the scientific community should see as a call-to-action to engage in knowledge translation activities.

“We need...scientists from relevant disciplines to provide simple and shareable content explaining why this hijacking of real research is inaccurate and scientifically dishonest.”

If you are interested in learning more about Knowledge Translation, please contact Nicole Prestley (Nicole.Prestley@cw.bc.ca).

WHRI Members Drs Angela Kaida, Valorie Crooks, and Mary de Vera, contribute to an article in The Conversation regarding the [importance of Scientific and Political communication and connectivity during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond](#).

STAFF RESOURCES

PRACTICAL RESOURCES

The [Global Control of HPV Related Diseases and Cancer](#) recently developed three practical resources for research teams to strategize remote onboarding, supervision, and workshop practices.

All three PDFs are attached:

1. **Tips for Supervising Students Remotely (Apr 28 2020)**
2. **Tips for Preparing an Online Student Workshop (Apr 29 2020)**
3. **Student Staff Onboarding Manual and Strategies for Working Remotely (Apr 27 2020)**

If using or adapting these documents please contact Adrianna Xue (adrianna.xue@cw.bc.ca) for appropriate citation/recognition.

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**
