

Weekly WHRI Community Update – May 8, 2020

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

This week Premier John Horgan outlined [British Columbia's Restart Plan](#), which lays out a Phased approach to services re-starting. Beginning mid-May, [we will see the gradual resumption of child care](#), which will offer significant relief for our research community and staff.

As noted in my communication on May 1, UBC is concurrently working out details for a phased return to on-campus work, and has been seeking broad input from the UBC community. Over 950 UBC faculty, Deans, and Associate Deans, Research participated in the virtual town halls and a copy of the slides can be found [here](#) (CWL required). Four working groups were struck to examine (1) research funding, (2) research records and career trajectories, (3) graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and (4) shared research facilities, and a summary of their activities can be found [here](#) (CWL required). Though the specific details of this plan are still in development, some very helpful guiding principles were announced. These principles will inform the development of our C&W site re-opening process. This is a coordinated effort between the WHRI, the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, and the BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services Research Institute. Any plans that impact WHRI staff, researchers, and their teams will be in alignment with the directives set out by the Public Health Office and with the approval of PHSA. Please stay tuned!

In the meantime, research curtailment remains in effect until further notice. Also a reminder that you may still submit an application for exemption if the research is related to COVID-19 or meets other exemption criteria: <https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=8MWWRETF78>.

I want to take the opportunity to inform our WHRI community of the [BC Children's Hospital Centre for Mindfulness](#) co-led by Dr. Dzung Vo and Dr. Joanna McDermid. They have been leading online guided meditations for the past two months on zoom for the C&W community on [Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons](#). PHSA has also compiled a list of [mindfulness resources for staff](#). For me these have been an important way to remain connected to the broader C&W community, and a chance to practice gratitude. Going into this weekend, I am grateful for the amazing public health leadership in our province, for our community of women's health researchers, and for this glorious sunshine.

Sincerely,

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

**Updates from May 1<sup>st</sup> - May 8<sup>th</sup>**

### **CALLING ALL TRAINEES!**

Dr. Lori Brotto and Dr. Angela Kaida have launched a survey to **understand the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on trainees** affiliated with the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI).

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>

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### Announcing the 2020 WHRI Catalyst Grants!

The Women's Health Research Institute, in partnership with the BC Women's Health Foundation, is pleased to announce the 2020 Catalyst Grant competition for the advancement of knowledge in women's and newborn's health. A total of **six grants** will be awarded at **\$25,000 each**. Like last year's competition, there is a required **letter of intent which is due June 10, 2020**.

These pilot grants are an open competition with respect to funding a project in women's and newborn's health. Awards are open to BC researchers at a university or research hospital setting, but candidates must be a member of the WHRI, and have not been a successful Principal Applicant in the previous three years of Catalyst Competitions. Eligible researchers include post-doctoral fellows, clinical fellows, research associates, clinician scientists and academic researchers.

New emerging teams, dedicated to women's and/or newborn's health, and investigators new to studying women's and newborn's health are encouraged to apply. As these funds are considered Catalyst Grants, the expectation is that these awards will provide pilot data to be used for future funding from provincial or federal sources. However, these funds cannot be used to subsidize an already-funded project.

#### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline:</b>	<b>June 10, 2020 11PM PDT</b>
<b>Application Deadline:</b>	<b>July 31, 2020 11PM PDT</b>
<b>Anticipated Notice of Decision:</b>	<b>October 1, 2020</b>

#### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

For application details, please see the WHRI Catalyst Grant application instructions that are attached to this email.

#### FOR SUBMISSION

The LOI must be submitted using the following link:

<https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=LEMTKKYMW7>

\*Please note you will not be able to save the LOI once it has been started so ensure you can complete the LOI in a single sitting.\*

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The **UBC Children's & Women's REB related COVID documents are now on the website:**

<http://www.phsa.ca/researcher/ethics-approvals/research-ethics-approval/ubc-bc-childrens-and-womens-research-ethics-board>

The first drop down menu on our homepage contains the initial REB bulletin, guidance for electronic consenting, zoom guidance from UBC and, a document that will hopefully guide everyone during the curtailment period.

If you have feedback on these resources or would like to have anything added, please contact Jennie Prasad, Manager, UBC/C&W Research Ethics Board, at [jprasad@bcchr.ubc.ca](mailto:jprasad@bcchr.ubc.ca).

### **REMINDER: Rapid Ethical Review Process for COVID-19 Clinical Research**

All COVID-19 related studies are being reviewed by the Research Ethics Board within 5 business days and this review will provide approval on behalf of all affected Health Authorities and, where relevant, BC Children's and Women's Hospitals.

More information on the **rapid ethical review process** can be found [here](#).

## **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).

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## **NEWS**

### **[CIHR retracts the clarifications issued yesterday](#)**

CIHR made [an announcement on Thursday](#) that clarified requirements for COVID-19 Rapid Response grant submissions to adhere to all 5 objectives. Due to feedback from the health research community, CIHR has retracted these clarifications and has extended the submission deadline to May 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **[CIHR Seeking Peer Reviewers for the COVID-19 Operating Grant](#)**

CIHR is seeking experienced reviewers. If you are interested and available, please reach out to CIHR immediately at [EHTRF-FRNMS@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:EHTRF-FRNMS@cihr-irsc.gc.ca) with your CV.

### **[Covid-19 Exceptions to Tri-Agency Post-Award Regulations for Trainees](#)**

Training award recipients (master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral) may defer the start date of their award, or request an unpaid interruption of up to four-months for reasons related to the COVID-19 situation.

### **[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.

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## COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

UBC FoM – [COVID-19 Strategic Investment Fund](#) – 5/10  
CIHR – [Operating Grant : COVID-19 May 2020 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity](#) – 5/12  
MITACS – [Bolstering industrial postdoc fellowships](#) – 5/15  
MSFHR – [COVID-19 Research Response Fund](#) – Ongoing 5/19  
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  
UBC FoM – [COVID-19 Strategic Investment Fund](#) – 6/7  
SSHRC – [Partnership Engage Grants COVID-19 Special Initiative](#) – 6/15  
Amazon Web Services – [Diagnostic Development Initiative](#) – Ongoing 6/30  
SSHRC – [Partnership Engage Grants COVID-19 Special Initiative](#) – 9/15  
Ferring Pharmaceuticals – [COVID-19 Investigational Grants in Reproductive Medicine and Maternal Health](#) – Ongoing 10/31  
Genome Canada – [COVID-19 Regional Genomics Initiative](#) – TBA  
Canada Digital Technology Supercluster – [Call for COVID-19 Solutions](#) – Ongoing

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## UPDATES (5/2 - 5/8) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

CIHR – [Operating Grant : COVID-19 May 2020 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity](#) – 5/12  
CIHR – [Catalyst Grant: Health Effects of Vaping](#) – NOI 5/12, Full 6/10  
Simons Foundation – [SFARI Collaboration on Sex Differences in Autism](#) – LOI 6/5, Full 10/2  
Vancouver Foundation – [System Change Grants](#) – on Hold  
Vancouver Foundation – [Participatory Action Research Grant](#) – on Hold

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## HAVE FIVE MINUTES?

### Need #SOMEGOODNEWS

Moe Elgendi, postdoctoral fellow at BC Women's Hospital and WHRI member, and Halla Elmaboyad, his wife, are spearheading an initiative to help boost morale during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pair created a Facebook group called [Support Front-line Healthcare workers in BC COVID-19](#), which is being used to coordinate the collection and donation of items like coffee, food, and headbands that make the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) more comfortable. It also provides a space for healthcare workers to ask their communities for support and for organizations to crowdfund. To date, the group has almost 300 members and countless posts.

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

## STAFF RESOURCES

UBC offers **Fundamentals Training to protect the privacy & information security of the UBC community.**

CWL required: <https://privacymatters.ubc.ca/fundamentals-training>

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### PHSA Survey – How are you doing?

The **PHSA Executive Leadership Team wants to hear from you** – how you're coping, what's working, what's not working, and how we can better support you. Specifically, we are asking you about your psychosocial health, which includes your personal wellbeing, resilience, coping with emotions, and the psychological impact of COVID-19. The results of the survey will be used to evaluate the awareness and uptake of our current support programs, and help inform future planning efforts.

<http://2pod.phsa.ca/news/Pages/How-are-you-doing.aspx>

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### 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**

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