

Weekly WHRI Community Update – May 22, 2020

Dear WHRI community,

This week saw the beginning of BC's Phase 2 of the restart plan, with many of us cautiously but happily increasing our social "bubbles" slightly. There has also been a welcome reopening of some services and shops, which we have undoubtedly greatly missed over the past 10 weeks.

As I [noted last week](#), research on the C&W campus will also gradually begin to resume over the coming month. There will be a close alignment of coordinated guidelines across the WHRI, the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, and the BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services Research Institute. In this week's communication, Dr. Kathryn Dewar, the WHRI's Senior Research Manager, and member of this working group, has provided an update on this campus Restart plan.

I will remind each of you that if you are able to carry out your research-related activities remotely, we will continue to do so. These new guidelines pertain to those who are unable to complete all or some of their academic activities remotely.

I continue to be awed and inspired by the efforts I see on a daily basis to keep our women's health research community thriving, despite our social distance.

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 16th – May 22nd

PLANNING FOR PHASED INCREASE OF ONSITE RESEARCH ACTIVITY – Update from Kathryn Dewar

Preparations are currently underway for a **phased increase in research activity on the BC Women's and Children's Hospitals site**. In collaboration with our partner research institutes on the Oak Street campus, we are taking part in the Return to Onsite Research Working Group. The working group includes more than 20 members representing diverse areas of the WHRI, the BC Children's Hospital Research Institute and the BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services Research Institute. This working group has been tasked with determining how onsite research activities can be increased in a way that is safe, stepwise and follows applicable policies and directives (including those of UBC and PHSA).

Deliverables of this working group include ensuring the following are put in place:

- Clear rules and guidelines for those permitted to return to work onsite
- Physical distancing measures, particularly in shared workspaces and high-traffic areas
- The safe and sustainable use of personal protective equipment
- A prioritization of research activities for each stage of return and the creation of an online form to manage 'return' requests from the research community

A responsive approach that will enable the rapid reinstatement of curtailment if the need arises

It should be stressed that we will not be returning to the levels of onsite research activity that we had prior to COVID-19. Through this planning process, we are working to bring back onsite researchers, staff and trainees who require onsite resources to carry out their work. **Those who are able to work remotely will be asked to continue their work from home.**

The timeline for this phased increase on onsite research activity will align with that of UBC. On May 12, [UBC announced](#) a phased resumption of on-campus research beginning in June and a gradual approach over the summer.

2020 WHRI Catalyst Grants – Application Deadline Change to July 15th

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**. Please note, **the full application deadline** has been moved to **July 15, 2020 at 11 pm PDT**.

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

Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline:	June 10, 2020 11PM PDT
Application Deadline:	July 15, 2020 11PM PDT
Anticipated Notice of Decision:	October 1, 2020

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.

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>

UBC Webinar: Connect your Research in COVID Times

On, June 3rd from 1:30 to 3:00 pm, the [UBC Knowledge Exchange Unit](#) in collaboration with [UBC Media Relations](#) are hosting a webinar who aim to share impactful knowledge on the broad range of societal issues that the COVID-19 pandemic has uncovered.

For registration and additional information: <https://innovation.ubc.ca/connect-webinar>

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.

NEWS

[PM announces support for research staff in Canada](#)

The PM announced \$450 million in funding to help Canada's academic research community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The investment will: (1) Provide wage supports to universities and health research institutes, (2) Support universities and health research institutes to maintain essential research-related activities during the crisis, and to ramp back up to full research operations once physical distancing measures are lifted.

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

Peter Wall Institute – [COVID-19 Wall Solutions program](#) – 6/1

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

Microsoft – [AI for Health COVID-19 Grant](#) – 6/15

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

UPDATES (5/16 - 5/22) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

N/A

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

Collaboration During COVID

Drs Gillian Hanley and Tim Oberlander have teamed up with University of Calgary researchers on a Canada-wide survey "Pregnant During the Pandemic". We need your help getting the word out to British Columbians:

<http://whri.org/pregnant-during-the-pandemic/>

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

STAFF RESOURCES

When “safer at home” isn’t: Domestic violence during COVID-19 (POD access only):

<http://2pod.phsa.ca/news/Pages/Domestic-Violence-during-COVID-19-.aspx>

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 or call **604-875-2982**
