

Weekly WHRI Community Update – July 31, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

It is 20 weeks today that the WHRI moved our operations and all of our research activities remotely. I am grateful to our staff for seamlessly transitioning each of their portfolios online and continuing to provide the wonderful support to our 330+ members. We have also finalized a Strategic Framework for Trainees and Students, thanks to the leadership of our Scientific Advisor, Dr. Angela Kaida. We also launched and completed a trainee survey to understand how COVID-19 has impacted this community. Soon, in direct response to what we heard from trainees, we will be announcing two new salary awards for graduate students and Postdoctoral fellows in women's health. Stay tuned! In so many ways, our lives have completely changed. But our commitment to "create new evidence-based solutions that inform and transform the health and health care of all women" ([the WHRI's mission](#)) remains unwavering.

Within the larger list of applications for research resumption on the C&W campus, the WHRI received a total of 28 applications from WHRI/BC Women's Hospital researchers. Of that total, 15 applications fell into the 'Wet/Dry Lab' Stream (involving lab or office-based activities) and 13 fell into the 'Clinical' Stream (involving activities within the hospital programs). Most of these have received final approval but a few have additional requirements that need to be addressed by the Principal Investigators.

One of the requirements for all team members planning to be back on site is the completion of one of the following COVID-19 safety training modules:

- PHSA Learning Hub: <https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/23493>
- UBC <https://wpl.ubc.ca/browse/srs/courses/wpl-srs-covid>

The C&W Return to onsite research working group will be meeting soon to examine the process for Stage 2 research resumption. We encourage you to keep reading our weekly communications for updates on this process.

In the meantime, I hope each of you has a wonderful BC Day long weekend!

Sincerely,

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

Updates from Jul 24th to 31st

[MSFHR Survey to Understand Impact of COVID-19 on Our Research Community](#)

MSFHR is conducting research on how the COVID-19 pandemic and its response has affected your research. If you are currently engaged in health research in BC, you can share your experiences of COVID-19 through this anonymous survey. The data collected will be used to inform MSFHR's decision-making and actions to better support the BC health research community in the context of this global pandemic.

Provide your input by **August 14th** <https://www.research.net/r/DK2JKDF>
Questions? Please contact Zena Sharman (Director, Strategy) at zsharman@msfhr.org

Please feel free to distribute widely through your networks.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: World Sexual Health Day 2020

Are you a trainee, student, fellow, or other researcher in training? We invite you to present your completed research, research in progress, or any planned research in our exciting rapid-fire format (approximately 5 minute presentations). **The deadline to submit your abstract is August 30, 2020.**

Date: September 11, 2020

Times: 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Location: Zoom

The theme this year is **Sexual Pleasure in Times of COVID-19**, so we ask that presenters prepare to speak on ways their work was impacted by the pandemic, if at all.

Please submit your abstract and abstract title, no more than 300 words to whri_cwbc@cw.bc.ca and include **“World Sexual Health Day abstract”** in the email subject line.

For more information: <http://whri.org/world-sexual-health-day-2020/>

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 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **MERCK – [Research grant for pandemic preparedness](#) – Ongoing 8/31**
- **SSHRC – [Partnership Engage Grants COVID-19 Special Initiative](#) – 9/15**
- **CFI – [Exceptional Opportunities Fund – COVID-19 for Colleges](#) – 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 (7/25 - 7/31) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

- N/A

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

SUPPORT WOMEN. PROTECT OTHERS.

Our partners at the **BC Women's Health Foundation** have released a collection of [face masks](#) supporting a variety of initiatives. They are available in three sizes (youth, adult medium, adult large).

<https://shop.bcwomensfoundation.org/collections/frontpage>

The WHRI recently released a new episode of the [@womensresearch podcast](#), focusing on **virtual leadership**. <http://whri.org/podcast/>

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

STAFF RESOURCES

CW Meeting Rooms

Academic, Conference and Meeting Rooms (SHY, 1982, ACB, Teck ACC, Mental Health buildings)
Bookable rooms are currently under review. This includes updating maximum capacities in Outlook (by July 31), removing excess furnishings, installing wall hand sanitizer dispensers, posting signage, confirming room cleaning schedules, and addressing one-time cleaning needs. Custodians of rooms with restricted booking access have also been sent instructions on the 'self-assessment' process to be completed by early August.

New WHRI Staff Standard Operating Procedures for Meeting Room and Shared Space booking have been created and added to the WHRI google drive. **Please take this info back to teams** noting the need for sufficient notification for use of rooms, especially during the busy summer months.

Questions? Please contact Marsha Simons (marsha.simons@cw.bc.ca)

The new Service Desk launched! PHSA and all other B.C. health authorities will be moving to a [new IMITS Service Desk and self-service portal](#) where staff and physicians will see several immediate changes, with additional features coming over the next few months. See attached email.

Stay up-to-date on PHSA staff updates via their staff resources page:

- Visit phsa.ca/covid19staff for COVID-19 staff guidelines and updates.
- Visit [POD](#) for stories about our workforce and supporting resources.
- Learn about [health and wellness resources](#) to support you.
- For site or program specific questions, check in with your supervisor or clinical leader.

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