

Weekly WHRI Community Update – August 21, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

We are pleased to announce that we have officially moved into the second stage of the resumption of research activities across the Oak Street campus.

In Stage 1, we took a cautious approach, weighing each request to resume onsite work against our prioritization criteria, capacity and other factors. In total, we welcomed back more than 135 research teams.

In Stage 2, we will continue our gradual increase of onsite work by enabling the return of all types of research as well as teaching/education activities and newly appointed faculty, staff or trainees, as long as these activities adhere to the Stage 1 Safety Plan.

In this stage, as always, the health and wellbeing of the Oak street campus community remains paramount and we will continue to follow the orders, notices and guidance of the PHO, WorkSafeBC, PHSA and UBC.

It is important to note that Stage 2 is not a return to our pre-COVID levels of activity. We must continue to limit the total number of people onsite and the time they spend on campus.

The following restrictions remain in place:

- Activities that can be done remotely must continue to be done remotely.
- All personnel must maintain physical distancing. Where needed, Principal Investigators (PIs) may need to schedule personnel in alternating shifts or reconfigure workspaces.
- There will be no change to maximum occupancy numbers for specific work areas and research buildings.
- All personnel returning to onsite work must have approval to resume onsite work and have complete online COVID-related training.
- Building access remains limited to Monday to Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This enables custodial staff to clean between shifts and adheres to their safety plan.

As in Stage 1, Research Institute approval to resume clinical research does not denote clinical or hospital approval. PIs leading clinical research must reach out to the appropriate operational or clinical lead to devise a plan to resume onsite clinical research and ensure those activities are incorporated into the clinical program's plans to restore services. As clinical departments are in various stages of reopening, the hospital may not be able to accommodate all research activities at this time.

The intake process to resume onsite work will be streamlined in Stage 2. In this stage, assuming the activities fit within the Stage 2 criteria and cannot be done offsite, PIs will determine the scope of their research activities and who on their team should resume onsite work.

If you applied to resume onsite work during Stage 1, you do not need to apply again. Please email Todd Jacques at tjacques@bcchr.ca with any updates to your onsite personnel and research team safety plans.

If your team includes any new personnel or existing personnel who require training on new tasks, you are also required to create a written training plan for these staff. This could include detailing whether

training will happen virtually or in person and the types of PPE that will be used to protect all those taking part.

For new research activities, please submit a request through the [Oak Street Campus Research Institutes Return to Onsite Research Intake Form](#).

To those who returned onsite as part of Stage 1, thank you. Your support and careful compliance with safety protocols enabled a safe and successful resumption of on-campus research activities.

To those who return as part of Stage 2, we look forward to welcoming you back.

If you have any questions, please email Kathryn Dewar KDewar@cw.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

Wyeth, Lori and Jehannine

*Sent on behalf of **Dr. Wyeth Wasserman**, Vice-President Research, BC Children's Hospital; **Dr. Lori Brotto**, Executive Director, Women's Health Research Institute; and **Dr. Jehannine Austin**, Executive Director, BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services Research Institute.*

Lori A Brotto PhD, R Psych
Executive Director, WHRI
Professor | Department of OBGYN, UBC
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Updates from August 8th to 21st

[CIHR Announces Key Dates for Spring 2020 & Fall 2020 Project Grants](#), which includes **potentially one day** between the Spring 2020 Notice of Decision and the Fall 2020 Notice of Intent.

- **Spring 2020 Notice of decision:** mid-September 2020, **likely September 14 or 15, 2020**
- **Fall 2020 Application Notice of Intent Deadline: September 16th 2020**
- CIHR has made some [changes to the Project Grant competition](#) to reflect the [context of COVID-19](#) and to make the competition work better for all ([Find out what's new](#))
 - Timelines shifted for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Project Grant competitions
 - Additional page to highlight COVID-19-related impacts
 - Expanded eligibility criteria to include Indigenous organizations
 - Updated instructions around attaching previous reviews

2020 Graduate + Fellowship Research Award Competition Launched

Applications are open for the 2020 Graduate and Fellowship Research Award in women's health grant competition. There are **two** awards available through this funding opportunity — one for a graduate student, and one for a postdoctoral fellow — each valued at **\$12,500** in salary support. Applications are due **September 21, 2020**.

For more information visit:

<http://whri.org/research-resources/research-funding/graduate-and-fellowship-research-award-in-womens-health-grant-competition/>

We are grateful to the [BC Women's Health Foundation](#) for supporting these awards!

Registration is open for the virtual BC COVID-19 Collaboration & Research Symposium, Sept 1-2, 2020.

The goals of the symposium are to:

- Share the broad range of research being conducted across BC on population and public health, health services, social sciences, education, and other impacts of COVID-19 to stimulate discussions around synergies and research gaps;
- Learn how this research can inform and support the BC Ministry of Health's COVID-19 strategic priorities and the BC Strategic COVID-19 Research Framework; and
- Discuss strategies for minimizing patient burden and the efficient use of data and support platforms that are available to COVID-19 researchers in BC.

To register: https://www.sfu.ca/sfu-community/events.html#!view/event/event_id/13721

UPDATE! Staff COVID Safety Training

A reminder that all approved personnel coming to the C&W Oak Street campus are now **required** to complete the C&W COVID Education module. This module is available on the PHSA Learning Hub: <https://learninghub.phsa.ca/Courses/23617/cw-covid-education>.

While this additional training may seem redundant to some, the C&W curriculum includes site-specific information that is not covered in UBC's course. This includes PHSA's COVID-19 Guidelines and Procedures and information on C&W's safe work practices.

WHRI members not on the C&W campus should consult with their research site organizations for their specific COVID safety training requirements.

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.

NEWS

[CIHR: Indigenous Peoples and COVID-19 Knowledge Synthesis, Evaluation and Assessment Grants](#)

CIHR pre-announces the launch of the Indigenous Peoples and COVID-19 Knowledge Synthesis, Evaluation and Assessment Grants Rapid Research Funding Opportunity. This will provide research funding for responding to the unique health and well-being needs of Indigenous Peoples as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic. Application deadline is likely to be in December 2020.

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 (8/15 – 8/21) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

- N/A

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

COVID-19 KT Resource Hub on KT Pathways

[COVID-19 Provincial KT Resource Hub](#) is a collective effort of the BC health system and coordinated by [MSFHR](#), BC’s health research funder. It was created to support BC researchers and knowledge users who are engaged in COVID-19 related research (as well as those engaged in other research areas). On the hub you will find:

- Opportunities for patients to participate in research during this time,
- Knowledge synthesis and other KT activities on current COVID-19 research,

- Knowledge synthesis on provincial data gathered from researchers on current barriers and challenges (i.e. results of various surveys being distributed from different organizations),
 - A collection of KT and PoR (patient-oriented) resources from around the province that researchers, patients, health authority staff and decision makers can easily access, and
 - Tools and resources for working, holding meetings, and moving conferences online.
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Have some news of your own to share? [Email whri.communications@cw.bc.ca](mailto:whri.communications@cw.bc.ca)

STAFF RESOURCES

PHSA UPDATES

Staff screening tool now available

- For staff who are going into the workplace, sometimes showing up for your team/patients means not showing up. We know how dedicated our employees are to their patients and teammates, but one of the most effective ways we can curb the spread of transmission of COVID-19 is by ensuring we stay home if we are feeling unwell.
- PHSA has developed a new, mobile-friendly [staff assessment tool](#). We encourage all employees who are heading to a PHSA worksite to use this tool.
- The tool works best in Chrome, Firefox or Safari. It asks you about any symptoms you may be experiencing, then it offers a green, yellow or red screen with instructions. These screens indicate whether you are fine to head into work (green), should call your manager for advice (yellow) or should get tested and stay home (red). Use of the tool is voluntary. No personal information is retained.
- At some of our clinical sites that have active screening at the doors, staff may be required to show the green screen on their mobile device or undergo paper-based screening before entering the building.

PHSA policies & guidelines related to COVID-19

- We have developed a number of COVID-19 policies, procedures and guidelines to support a safe, healthy workplace.
- Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with these documents:
 - [COVID-19: Attending the Worksite Procedures](#)
 - [COVID-19: Maintaining a Safe and Inclusive Culture](#)
 - [COVID-19: Interim Remote Work Guidelines](#)
 - [COVID-19: Becoming Sick Procedures](#)
 - [Non-medical mask use in non-clinical areas](#)

Take part in the provincial survey on discrimination in health care

- The [provincial survey](#) inviting health care workers to share their experiences related to the presence and extent of discrimination specific to First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in health care services in British Columbia closes on **August 27, 2020**.
- As a reminder, the survey is part of the investigation into racism in health care announced in July by Health Minister Adrian Dix and being led by independent investigator, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond.

- PHSA has been working diligently to support the investigation, while simultaneously encouraging staff and medical staff start speaking up about all forms of racism and discrimination in the workplace. Taking part in this provincial survey is one important way to do that.
 - We encourage all staff and medical staff to take part – both to share your experiences and also to advance your understanding about the many different ways that racism presents on a daily basis.
 - You can also [reshare the survey information](#) with your social networks.
 - All survey responses are confidential, and all survey findings will be presented anonymously to the independent investigator.
 - Also, remember to sign up for one of many education offerings available to all PHSA staff through LearningHub, including the [San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training](#) program and the new one-hour learning bursts on [Unconscious Bias](#).
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COVID-19 information for patients, families and the public online

A reminder that information about COVID-19 for patients, families and the public is regularly updated on the [BC Children's website](#) and the [BC Women's website](#). Recent updates include information about COVID-19 testing.

PHSA Wellness activities to build your resilience

- Looking after yourself is an important component for building resilience, which is especially necessary during challenging times.
 - Join us for upcoming wellness sessions to practice mindfulness, learn about healthy strategies for maintaining and enhancing your resilience during COVID-19, and ways to support your overall well-being:
 - [Calming Your Mind in Challenging Times](#)
 - [Mindfulness Meditations](#)
 - [Resilience in the Workplace – Co-Existing with COVID-19: What is your plan?"](#)
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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.
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