

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

Dear WHRI community,

With back to school on many of our minds, we at the WHRI turned our focus to the hundreds of BC-based trainees in women's health who will be returning to classes this Fall. For the majority of them, this learning will be either totally or mostly online. Most have had to pivot in their research programs as well as they adjusted to carrying out their research off-campus. As we announced in our August 21 weekly communication, the Oak Street campus has now entered Stage 2 of research resumption. Since the start of Stage 1, a total of 222 applications across the C&W campus have received approval to resume onsite activities, and for many of these projects, this saw trainees back in their labs and research sites with relief and excitement (and perhaps some trepidation too). These 222 projects represent 136 research teams.

In the WHRI trainee survey launched in April, one third of the 120 respondents stated that their planned work, practicum, or training placement was delayed or cancelled due to COVID-19. One quarter noted that some of their courses were postponed or cancelled, and over 1 in 10 noted that they were not able to complete their degree as planned. Scientific advisor to the WHRI, Dr. Angela Kaida, who led this survey, will be sharing more of the findings in next week's [BC COVID-19 Symposium organized in partnership by SFU, the UBC School of Population and Public Health, MSFHR, the BC Support Unit, the Academic Health Sciences Network, the University of Northern BC, and University of Victoria.](#)

With trainees on our minds, I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind our WHRI trainee community of upcoming opportunities that pertain specifically to them. First, the deadline to submit abstracts for the World Sexual Health Day trainee presentation is [August 30](#). Second, we have launched a Graduate and Fellowship Research Award in women's health grant competition with a deadline of [September 21](#). Over the coming weeks we will release more of the findings from our trainee survey, and we will likely be asking our survey participants to continue to share their experiences as they return to classes and to research.

I am mindful that many of our WHRI community is on holiday and taking time to enjoy our beautiful province. I will keep your health and safety in my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Lori Brotto

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

Updates from August 22nd to 28th

OAK STREET CAMPUS STAGE 2 RESUMPTION OF ONSITE RESEARCH

The intake process to resume onsite work has been 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 KDewar@cw.bc.ca

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

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 Upcoming “Ask Me Anything” sessions](#)

Fall 2020 Project Grant competition

CIHR is hosting “Ask Me Anything” sessions designed to answer the questions researchers have about the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition. **When:** Wednesday, September 9 at 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. EST. [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) / [Ask a question using Sli.do](#) (Sli.do event code: #pjt-ama-sept9)

[Implementation Science Teams: Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness in Long-Term Care Funding opportunity](#)

The CIHR, the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI) and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) pre-announce this funding opportunity will provide research funding to Implementation Science Teams to support evidence-informed implementation of promising practice interventions and policy options within and across Long-Term Care. NOI 9/14, Application 9/30

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- MERCK – [Research grant for pandemic preparedness](#) – Ongoing 8/31
- Canadian Immunization Research Network – [COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness Opportunity](#) – 9/8
- 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 (8/22 – 8/28) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

- [N/A](#)

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

New HER HEALTH SEGMENT on [CTV featuring Dr. Julia Smith and the Gender and COVID-19 study](#).

These segments are organized by the [BC Women's Health Foundation](#).

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

STAFF RESOURCES

PHSA UPDATES

UPDATE[REMINDER]! 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.

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.
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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](#)
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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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