

Weekly WHRI Community Update – August 7, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

We are now about six weeks in to our research resumption process. As you have been reading in our weekly communications, Stage 1 involved an extensive review process across C&W, with clinical research projects evaluated in collaboration with clinical operations directors to ensure alignment between clinical research and clinical activities resumption.

Recently UBC announced a transition to Stage 2 of the research resumption process. This expansion will allow for a broader list of research projects to return to onsite activity. For those who can carry out their research related activities from home, we encourage you to continue to do so. For all others, the application process for Stage 2 will be available soon. It should be noted that all of the limits and processes for safety and occupancy that were described in Stage 1 will also apply in Stage 2.

I will take this opportunity to remind the WHRI research community that regardless of which stage your research falls into, you will be asked to:

- Monitor your health status.
- Before entering the building to participate in academic activities, complete the opt-in COVID-19 Self-screening assessment tool or review the COVID-19 symptom checklists available throughout the site and follow the direction provided.
- Do not use any on-site research spaces or workspace if you are ill, have flu like symptoms or have a fever or cough and contact your manager, instructor, or program staff as soon as possible. If you or anyone in your household is experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, you must self-isolate.

A reminder that all approved personnel need to complete **ONE** of the COVID-19 safety training modules as outlined below:

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

I'm tremendously grateful to the ongoing efforts of the C&W Return to Onsite research working group led by Dr. Wendy Robinson. I'm also grateful to our larger WHRI community for their patience and kindness during this process.

We will be skipping next week's communication due to staff holidays (including my own). I continue to wish our WHRI community good wishes.

Sincerely,

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

Updates from August 1st to 7th

2020 Graduate + Fellowship Research Award Competition Launched

Applications are now 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.

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

For more information visit:

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

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.

BC Women's Hospital Research Rounds - August 21st

We are thrilled to have [Dr. Julia Smith](#) present preliminary results from her qualitative study, "**Impact of COVID-19 on Women's Wellbeing in British Columbia**" of the CIHR-funded [Gender and COVID-19 Research Project](#) out of Simon Fraser University.

Date: Friday August 21st

Time: 8:00 – 9:00 am

Zoom Details: <http://whri.org/news-events/bc-womens-hospital-virtual-research-rounds/>

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

[NSERC removing one-per-lifetime applications to NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowships program](#)

As of the 2021 competition year (application deadline October 19, 2020), unsuccessful applicants from previous competitions will be able to apply again, provided they still meet all other eligibility criteria. Please note that this change will not be shown in the Postdoctoral Fellowships program description until its regular update when the competition is launched.

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 (8/1 – 8/7) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

CIHR PROJECT GRANTS

Spring 2020 competition Key Dates:

Peer review ongoing to Aug 21, 2020

Notice of recommendation: end of Aug 2020

Notice of decision: mid-Sep 2020 (likely Sep 14/15)

Fall 2020 competition Key Dates (**tentative**):

Registration: Sep 16, 2020

Proposal deadline at CIHR: Oct 14, 2020

Notice of recommendation: Feb 16, 2020

Notice of decision: Mar 3, 2020
Funding start date: Apr 1, 2021

Spring 2021 Competition Key Dates (tentative):

Registration: Feb 17, 2021
Application deadline: Mar 17, 2021
Notice of decision: Jul 7, 2021
Funding start date: Oct 1, 2021

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

Check out this Letter to the Editor, published in the Canadian Journal of Public Health, “**Challenges and opportunities for graduate students in public health during the COVID-19 pandemic**” by WHRI Member Kalysa Closson and others: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.17269/s41997-020-00349-8>

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

STAFF RESOURCES

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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Safe and secure: best practices for working remotely

Visit the IMITS Infocentre to read [five best practices to work securely when you're remote](#).

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>
