

Weekly WHRI Community Update – July 24, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

We are now a month in to our research resumption process. Stage 1 involved an extensive review process and more than 198 applications were reviewed across C&W-- two thirds of these which were requests to resume wet and dry lab research in non-clinical areas received approval to return. Those requesting research resumption in clinical areas were considered in collaboration with clinical operations directors to ensure alignment between clinical research and clinical activities resumption.

Within this larger list, we have received a total of 25 applications from WHRI/BC Women's Hospital researchers. Of that total, 14 applications fell into the 'Wet/Dry Lab' Stream (involving lab or office-based activities) and 11 fell into the 'Clinical' Stream (involving activities within the hospital programs). These applications are in various states of approval: with most of them having received final approval.

For those investigators that have received notice of conditional approval, it is important that every team member who will be granted onsite permission review the Oak Street Campus Research Institutes COVID-19 Safety Plan and the BCCHR Facilities Safety Slideshow. It is also essential that all personnel 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>

Finally, each team member must complete the "Oak Street Campus - Stage 1 Return to Onsite Work COVID-19 Safety Declaration, which confirms that all returning staff have reviewed the documents and indicates the personnel's opt-in preference.

This week at a UBC Department Heads, School Directors, and Centre + Institute Directors meeting, leadership announced that UBC is now moving towards Stage 2 of research resumption. This will increase the number of researchers onsite. I understand that this will not be guided by the type of research being carried out, but rather the need for the research to be done onsite and inability to be carried out remotely. Stay tuned for more information in our weekly communications about the Stage 2 process.

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 18th to 24th

Informing Issue 2 of BC's COVID-19 Strategic Research Framework

The BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee (SRAC) published BC's COVID-19 Strategic Research Framework Issue 1 on April 30, 2020. Since this time, [SRAC membership](#) has expanded to better include perspectives on ethics, Indigenous health research, and patient/public involvement. They are currently working on Issue 2, and now have the opportunity to seek wider input.

Provide your input by **July 27th** <https://www.research.net/r/RFIssue2>

New BCCHR Page: Information for Research Participants

The BC Children's Hospital Research Institution has released a public-facing page for research participants coming to the C&W campus. It includes plain language **COVID-19 FAQs** and information about **campus measures to protect research participants** (and their families): <https://bcchr.ca/covid19>.

For questions about this page, please contact: crsadmin@bcchr.ca

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.](mailto:eric.ducharmelussier@cw.bc.ca)

NEWS

[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. The deadline to complete this survey is August 14th, 2020 at 11:59 PST.

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- DND IDEaS – [Moral Trauma on the Frontline \(COVID-19 Challenge\)](#) – 7/30
- 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 (7/18 - 7/24) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

- NSERC – [Discovery Grants Program](#) – NOI 8/4, Full 11/1

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

A new story on the POD showcases the [three CW research institutes and how they are examining COVID-19](#): <http://2pod.phsa.ca/news/Pages/Various-aspects-of-COVID-19-examined-by-investigators-across-the-Oak-Street-campus.aspx>

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

STAFF RESOURCES

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>
