

Weekly WHRI Community Update – September 18, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

It has been a very busy week with the announcement of the results of the CIHR Spring 2020 Project Grant competition the deadline to register for the Fall 2020 Project grant competition due 24 hours later, and the deadline for both the Reach and the Convening & Collaborating (C2) competitions run by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research due in a few days. This flurry of activity is welcome, in my opinion, as a solid reminder of the vibrant academic community we have in women's health research! I lost count of the number of award and grant letters of support I have written over the week, and I truly enjoyed celebrating the excellent work of our community through writing these letters.

But as we ramp up our academic and teaching activities currently, it is also imperative that we reduce our social interactions in light of increasing numbers of positive COVID-19 cases in BC recently. As Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has been stating in recent weeks: "Stick to six". Furthermore, we are asked to limit our social interactions to the same small group of individuals, and not interacting with different social circles on different days.

I look forward to the day when we can be working alongside one another, in person again. In the meantime, we can keep the vitality of our women's health research community going strong by sticking to six socially, coming onsite only if absolutely necessary to your academic role, and finding small pleasures where we can in working remotely.

As always, I would love to hear how the WHRI can best support your research needs.

Sincerely,

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

Updates from September 12th to 18th

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](#).

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

2020 Graduate + Fellowship Research Award Competition

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!

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 Announces Spring 2020 Awardees](#)

Congratulations to **Lori Brotto, Liisa Galea, Jessica Liauw, and K.S. Joseph** on being awarded their CIHR Spring 2020 projects! In addition, we'd like to congratulate WHRI members: **Paula Duarte Guterman, Yvonne Lamers, Giulia Muraca, Tim Oberlander, Sarka Lisonkova, Sandesh Shivananda, Jennifer Hutcheon, Donna Lang, Gina Ogilvie, H  l  ne C  t  , Angela Kaida, and Melanie Murray** for their role as co-applicants on funded projects! For all other applicants that weren't successful this round, we'd like to encourage you for all your efforts and we are looking forward to working together on reapplying with lessons learned from the review process.

[NSERC: New Guidelines for Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Research when Preparing Applications](#)

NSERC has developed general guidelines for the consideration of COVID-19-related impacts on research aiming to provide direction on how to describe these impacts in an application and information on how to consider these impacts when reviewing contributions to research and training and research/training plans.

[Highlight: Johnson & Johnson Scholars Award Program for female WiSTEM2D leaders](#)

Johnson & Johnson launched its annual WiSTEM2D Scholars Award program and are seeking female candidates for nomination. **UBC is limited to 1 nomination in each of the STEM2D disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Manufacturing, and Design.**

The award aims to fuel the development of female STEM2D leaders, who has completed her advanced degree, who is working as an assistant professor and who is not yet tenured at an accredited university. Recipients will receive \$150,000 over 3 years, with mentorship from STEM2D professionals. Applications require 2 steps for completion:

- 1. UBC Preliminary selection deadline:** Interested candidates should submit: (1) 500-word rationale, and (2) CV to Bryan Wong (bryan.wong@ubc.ca) by September 23rd, 12pm.
- 2. Final Application deadline:** Nominated candidates will need to submit: (1) a letter of recommendation from the head of the department, (2) A letter detailing proposed area of research, (3) CV, and (4) budget by October 15th

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **COVID-19 Immunity Task Force - [Population-based Hot Spots study](#) – EOI:9/21, Full:10/12**
- **Ferring Pharmaceuticals – [COVID-19 Grants in Reprod. Medicine and Mat. Health](#) – Ongoing 10/31**

UPDATES (9/12 – 9/18) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

- **CIHR – [Fall 2020 Project Grant](#) – 10/15**

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

Do you have research the world needs to hear about? Are you interested in sci-comm? Or maybe you're looking for an opportunity to learn more about uses for social media in health research?

The WHRI Social Committee (SoCo) is recruiting members!

The goal is to represent the broad scope of research undertaken by women's health researchers across BC, across all pillars of science. We are currently seeking representatives interested in using our various channels to promote their research, which includes: recruitment opportunities, academic activities (publication/presentation), knowledge translation, events, and more. **This is a great opportunity for any undergraduate or graduate student interested in social media and science.**

The SoCo, will support the creation and distribution of content through our social media channels. It will be a fairly low commitment - one-hour monthly meeting - and we are hoping to meet early October to review the Terms of Reference and get a read on everyone's capacity.

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI) Social Media Committee (SoCo) is composed of representatives from the various research teams, members, and staff affiliated with the WHRI. Members of the SoCo contribute to the development, curation, and posting of content to WHRI social media channels.

Goal:

To serve as an opportunity for members to collaborate and support the creation of diverse content, representative of the breadth of research affiliated with the WHRI.

Role:

- Communicate knowledge translation activities (research results, publications, events);
- Promote research opportunities (recruitment, surveys), and member news (events, awards, funded grants, media stories) and;
- Communicate institute news (grant & award competition, webinars & training)
- Bring your own curiosity and enthusiasm to strengthen the communication of women's health research findings broadly

Scope:

To assist in various stages of communications planning, including developing original content, and supporting WHRI social media accounts using content management platforms.

Members of the SoCo will also ensure they bring unique content ideas from the teams they represent. Members will be able to request support for developing ideas or engagement strategies from the committee.

If you are interested in joining the SoCo, please contact whri.communications@cw.bc.ca.

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

STAFF RESOURCES

PHSA UPDATES

PHSA Virtual Town Hall on Sept. 22

As part of [PHSA's Crisis Review](#), the leadership team committed to hosting virtual town halls monthly, starting after the summer break. The next town hall date is set for Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. to hear the latest news across the organization and to get your questions answered:

- President and CEO Benoit Morin will talk about PHSA's direction and strategy for the year ahead—and how we all can contribute.
- Dr. Réka Gustafson, vice president, public health & wellness and deputy provincial health officer, will provide important public health updates, particularly as we move into flu season this year.
- Jaci Edgeworth, vice president, people services and chief of staff, CEO's Office, will share updates on our workplaces, training and more.

Visit www.phsa.ca/townhall (also [on POD](#)) for the webcast link and teleconference number.

We've reopened [Slido](#) to take your questions on the topics above. Use the event code #PHSATownHall using your mobile device or computer.

Guidance on non-medical masks in non-clinical areas

- In alignment with the guidance from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, if you are healthy, wearing a non-medical mask in PHSA's non-clinical areas continues to be a matter of personal choice.
- Wearing a non-medical mask may not protect you from COVID-19, but it is a good option in situations where you cannot keep a safe distance from others for an extended period of time. Good hand hygiene and staying at home and getting tested if you are sick are the best ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- In a number of PHSA's non-clinical facilities, we are a tenant in the building and the landlord may have specific requirements in common spaces – please be sure to follow the guidance/signage posted at your worksite.
- For direct patient care use, it's important to remember that non-medical masks cannot be used to replace personal protective equipment (PPE) approved by Infection Prevention and Control.
- PHSA has outlined [guidance on non-medical mask use in our non-clinical areas](#). You may also wish to review [BCCDC's guidance on the different types of face masks](#).

COVID-19 resources available to support you

- As a friendly reminder, there are a number of important resources in place to support PHSA employees and medical staff as we learn to co-exist with COVID-19.
 - The **COVID-19 Resource Line** is available to support any workplace health-related questions. You can reach the team by calling 1-833-875-2155 (toll free) or 604-875-7244, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - **PHSA's website** has a [staff resources section](#) (available off the network) which includes important information about topics like [exposure & illness](#), [leaves and timekeeping](#), [staff testing](#), [facility safety plans](#) and important psychosocial resources, wellness initiatives and resources for leaders & teams in [supporting our workforce](#).
- It's important that we continue to be vigilant and do not let our guard down. Please remember to practice good hand hygiene, maintain physical distancing, wear the appropriate PPE for your workplace setting and do not come to work if you are feeling sick.
- Here are some other resources you may find helpful:
 - BCCDC's [handwashing tips and posters](#)
 - PHSA tips on [how to physically distance at work](#)
 - BCCDC resources on [how to maintain safer social interactions](#)
 - [Food safety tips](#) from the BCCDC
 - [PHSA tips on PPE](#), including donning and doffing videos

UPDATE[REMINDER]! Staff COVID Safety Training

A reminder that all approved personnel coming to the C&W Oak Street campus are **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.

Upcoming wellness sessions

- Join us for upcoming wellness sessions to help you manage stress, support yourself and others, and enhance your resilience.
 - Register for these wellness activities on LearningHub:
 - [COVID-19: Strategies for Managing Stress](#)
 - [Anxiety, Depression and COVID-19: Supporting Yourself and Others](#)
 - [The Science of Happiness](#)
 - [Mindful Monday](#)
 - [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.
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