

Weekly WHRI Community Update – September 25, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

A week ago on September 18, 2020 Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg passed away at the age of 87 years old. She was an advocate for gender equality and women's rights first as a civil rights attorney, and then serving on the Supreme Court of the United States until the day of her death. She was involved in decisions that combatted gender discrimination (for women and men). Over the past week there have been [many excellent obituaries](#) and [tributes](#) to Justice Ginsburg, who has been labelled as a national treasure, and even icon. We at the WHRI wish to recognize Justice Ginsburg as we continue to champion the need for research in women's health, and advocating for sex-and-gender-based analyses in all areas of health research.

As you all know, a provincial election has been called and is slated for October 24, 2020. During the election period, all WHRI social media channels and our website will become inactive due to Ministry of Health and Elections BC Guidelines. We will continue to send our weekly email communication on Fridays, which contains critical information about the Return to Onsite Research process, and news about upcoming grants and opportunities. As a result, you'll see a more streamlined weekly communication. We look forward to resuming our regular outward-facing communications after the election.

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 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>**

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:KDewar@cw.bc.ca)

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## 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](#).

I am available every Tuesday from 8am-4pm for virtual office hour meetings with WHRI researchers, or by appointment. 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).

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## **NEWS**

### **[CIHR to Resume Strategic Funding Opportunities](#)**

CIHR has announced its plan to resume the 12 Strategic Funding Opportunities competitions that were put on hold when the pandemic struck in Spring. Applicants who had opened an application will be contacted through the system directly to be provided with key details. Over the next year, new opportunities will be brought online gradually with at least 2 months' notice before submission deadlines.

### **[CIHR Supporting early career researchers affected by COVID-19](#)**

CIHR will move forward with a plan to temporarily “pause the clock” for all ECRs. Given the impact of the pandemic has affected most of the CIHR community, this measure will be applied automatically to all who qualify and will not need to be requested. All those who held ECR status as of March 1, 2020—or who secured their first academic appointment after this date—will have their status extended by one year.

### **[CIHR Holding a Fall 2020 Project Grant Webinar](#)**

CIHR will be hosting a webinar for the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition, for applicants to learn about what's new and ask questions about the requirements for the competition. *Duration*: 60 minutes.

#### **English Sessions**

*When*: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. PST [Join](#)

#### **French Sessions**

**When**: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. PST [Join](#)

### [MSFHR Announces Earlier Deadline for 2021 Scholar and Trainee Competition](#)

Following out-reach to BC's health research system stakeholders, it's clear that funding for PDFs and ECRs is critically important now more than ever. MSFHR has announced they will [launch their 2021 Scholar and Research Trainee programs in November 2020](#). Stay tuned for more details.

### [FUNDING HIGHLIGHT: 2020/21 Clinical & Translational Research Seed Grants](#)

Applications for the 2020/21 Clinical & Translational Research Seed Grant are now being accepted. Clinical & Translational Research Seed Grant has been developed to support clinical and translational research projects taking place on the Oak Street Campus (BCCH or BCWH&HC). The intent is to support well-defined research projects that may not otherwise receive funding, foster new areas of research, enhance research partnerships, and build leadership capacity for both research and clinical trainees. Support is available for 2-3 grants with a maximum award value of \$10,000/grant.

### [COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

- **Ferring Pharmaceuticals** – [COVID-19 Grants in Reprod. Medicine and Mat. Health](#) – **Ongoing 10/31**

### [UPDATES \(9/19 – 9/25\) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES](#)

- [Vancouver Foundation – Systems Change – 10/16](#)
- [Vancouver Foundation – Participatory Action Research Grants – 10/16](#)

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## STAFF RESOURCES

### PHSA UPDATES

#### [PHSA Virtual Town Hall on Sept. 22](#)

If you were unable to join Tuesday's Virtual Town Hall, you can [watch the highlights](#) or [watch the full webcast](#) at your convenience.

- We are working hard to make the town halls a valuable and informative resource based on your feedback—and we've committed to a monthly schedule. Starting today, you will notice changes to the format, with more changes to come.
- o We opened our agenda with a welcome from Elder Gerry Oleman, a St'atc'imc from Shalalth British Columbia, who has recently been working with the PHSA Board and Executive Leadership Team.
- o President and CEO Benoit Morin spoke about our ongoing pandemic planning, his first six months with PHSA, our mission and values, and what you can look forward to in the coming months.
- o Dr. Réka Gustafson, vice president of public health & wellness and deputy provincial health officer, gave a situational update on public health in the province and shared her thoughts on what it means to "co-exist" with COVID-19.
- A [summary and timestamps for questions](#) answered through Slido is available on POD.
- Stay tuned for our next town hall in October! As always, details will be shared on [www.phsa.ca/townhall](http://www.phsa.ca/townhall) (also [on POD](#)) in advance.

## **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.

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

**Stay up-to-date on PHSA staff updates via their staff resources page:**

- Visit [phsa.ca/covid19staff](https://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.