

Weekly WHRI Community Update – September 4, 2020

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

Dear WHRI community,

September is here, and with this brings the end of summer vacations and a return to routine. This week our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, advised British Columbians to limit our social contacts which may have been relaxed during the summer months. This means tightening our bubbles and being especially mindful of the number of interactions we have with others, and taking extra care to wash our hands often. At the same time, our C&W campus, as with UBC and our partner health research institutes, have moved to Stage 2 of research resumption which has seen the return of over 200 research projects to our campus alone. I am reassured by the meticulous safety plans and contact tracing procedures that have been put into place to limit the risk of infection. However, I also feel it is important to remind our WHRI community that any research or research-related activities that can be done remotely should continue to be done so. The Stage 2 research resumption is intended for those research activities and personnel who are unable to carry out their work offsite.

I want to take the opportunity to send my best wishes to all of the parents in our WHRI community this week. With our children seeing a return to in-person learning next week, and heightened anxiety experienced by parents, children, and teachers, I want to point out a link to a very helpful resource prepared by our colleagues at the BC Children's Hospital, featuring Paediatric Infectious Diseases Specialist Dr. Laura Sauv  <http://www.bcchildrens.ca/about/news-stories/stories/preparing-children-for-back-to-school-during-the-covid19-pandemic> . There is also an excellent resource sheet on COVID-19 and children prepared by the BC Centre for Disease Control (<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-and-children>).

For members who may be (re)applying to the CIHR Fall Project Grant competition (registration due September 16; full application due October 14), I want to remind you about the WHRI's Research Development Facilitator, Eric Lussier, who is a part of the [Research & Technology Development team at BCCHR](#). Consider reaching out to Eric ASAP if you want assistance with maximizing the chances of success with those submissions, and good luck to all!

Happy September!

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 29th to September 4th

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!

Celebrate World Sexual Health Day with us!

The theme this year is **Sexual Pleasure in Times of COVID-19**. Join us Friday **September 11, 2020** from **12:00 to 1:30** pm via zoom. For connection details, visit <http://whri.org/world-sexual-health-day-2020/>.

The BC COVID-19 Collaboration & Research Symposium

If you were not able to attend the event live, full recordings are available on YouTube:

Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ctx04llhCaM>

Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwov8uaKPGo>

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

[Upcoming CIHR Registration for Project Grants for Fall 2020](#)

The deadline for registration for the CIHR Project grants for Fall 2020 are approaching. The deadline is September 16. If you require assistance with develop a research idea or need to have your registration application reviewed. Please contact Eric to schedule

[CIHR Announces Fall Project Grants Bridge Funding](#)

IHDCYH is pleased to support three Priority Announcements as part of the CIHR Project Grant competition. Bridge funding is available for applications relevant to IHDCYH's broad mandate, (ie. human development: pre-conception; fertilization; embryonic and fetal development; the health of the mother and father; and the health and development of infants, children and youth). For more information on eligibility see [ResearchNet](#).

- **Registration deadline:** September 16, 2020
- **Application deadline:** October 14, 2020

[CIHR Sends Notice of Recommendations \(NOR\) for Spring 2020 Grants](#)

CIHR sent out Notice of Recommendation (NOR) (containing reviewer scores and comments although no final decision) this week with the Notice of Decision (NOD) set to be sent out by September 15th at the latest.

[Highlight: MSFHR KT C² and Reach Competitions](#)

MSFHR would like to highlight the upcoming Convening and Collaborating (C²) and Reach funding competitions. The competitions are meant to bring researchers and research users together. The deadlines were previously extended to September 28, 2020.

- [C2 Program](#) To co-develop research aligned with BC's health system priorities (ie. developing a research agenda, identifying key research practice priorities, or evaluating a peer support initiative)
- [Reach Program](#) To support the dissemination of research evidence, within the context of related knowledge, to facilitate its effective uptake and potential to impact health and care (ie. social media initiative, patient forum, or learning curriculum)

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **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**

UPDATES (8/29 – 9/4) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

N/A

HAVE A FEW MINUTES?

Our latest [@womensresearch](#) podcast is live! This episode is a deep-dive into lessons learned from two knowledge translation campaigns, which used social media.

Listen here: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5tUXKb2tytsc1LhOloMN38?si=sb5rrohwrNG3qsAftFuXBQ>

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.

CW Entrance Screening Update

Screening entrances have expanded to include the newly opened Sunny Hill on the CW campus, main entrance (#5), for patients and families and visitors. To support added traffic in this entrance area, we have also expanded screening to the Oak Street Entrance #11. Screeners will be operating screening stations at these and existing screening entrances (77, 93, 97, 55 and 53).

Entrance #5 and Entrance #11 will be in operation and accessible from 0800-1600 Monday to Friday and these entrances will be closed on stats and weekends as well as evenings. During closed hours entrance #11 is accessible via staff ID swipe card.

A reminder to staff that PHSA has developed a mobile-friendly [staff assessment tool](#). We encourage all employees who are heading to a PHSA worksite to use this tool.

Safety plans for PHSA facilities posted

As part of our commitment to safe workplaces, PHSA is developing safety plans for each of its facilities. This process involves input from operations, infection control, workplace health, and our joint safety committees.

The majority of the safety plans can now be found on the [staff resources section](#) of PHSA's website. You may notice some safety plans are labelled as 'interim.' The safety plans will continue to be updated as new elements are complete and continuous improvements are made.

It is a PHSA requirement that any staff member who is working at a PHSA facility reviews the safety plan for the worksite(s) at which they work. The links to the safety plans will also be included in PHSA COVID-19 guidelines & procedures training, which will be launched soon. Hard copies of the safety plans will also be posted at each facility.

New guidelines for testing asymptomatic individuals for COVID-19

In B.C., screening asymptomatic individuals for COVID-19 testing is not recommended at this time. Testing asymptomatic individuals is only recommended for use in public health investigations of a case, cluster or outbreak, and under the direction of a medical health officer. Read [the current guidelines](#) for testing for SARS-CoV-2.

B.C. does not recommend routine screening as a condition of employment, for travel, in schools, [prior to surgery or other procedures](#), or in hospitals or health care settings. This recommendation may differ from that of other provinces or countries, and other national or international health professional societies.

Read [the full document on testing](#) for further information.

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?](#)
-

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.

