

Subject Line: Weekly WHRI Community Update – October 2, 2020

Content:

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

Dear colleagues,

At the Women's Health Research Institute we have been examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic controls on trainees, and I have referenced this work in previous weekly communications. We received responses from 119 trainees engaged in women's health research, and 96% of them reported feeling worried about the overall impact of COVID-19 on their physical, mental, and professional well-being. While over half of the postdoctoral fellows and about 17% of the graduate students reported now being involved in COVID-19 research, many of them lamented on their research being postponed, cancelled, or fundamentally changed. Alterations in training placements and practica were especially of concern to clinically-oriented trainees. We invite our WHRI community (and all associated trainees) to hear more about the survey results from Dr. Angela Kaida, WHRI Scientific Advisor, on Friday, October 16 at 8am [<http://whri.org/news-events/bc-womens-hospital-virtual-research-rounds/>]. We will also engage in a discussion about possible solutions to the barriers described by the trainees.

In addition to this work, we launched a study called "COVID-19 RESPPONSE: Rapid Evidence Study of a Provincial Population Based COhort for GeNder and Sex" which explores the effects of sex (male, female) and gender (identity, norms) on key health outcomes, economic parameters, intimate partner violence, and psychosocial outcomes affected by COVID-19 pandemic controls. This study, carried out in partnership with Co-Investigators at BCCHR, also will also establish the population prevalence of COVID-19 in BC. To date, approximately 3,000 British Columbians have participated, and we will be sharing highlights of the study once data collection is complete. We are grateful to the BC Women's Health Foundation for their support, and to the team of investigators and study staff who mobilized very quickly to launch this important study with a sex-and-gender based analysis at its core.

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 19th to 25th

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

FUNDING AGENCY UPDATES and OPPORTUNITIES

COVID-19 Grants Update 10.2.2020

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.

NEWS

[UBC Announces Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters Competitions](#)

UBC announces CRCC for funding a research excellence cluster: a network of researchers spanning multiple disciplines at UBC who form and nurture interdisciplinary teams that foster partnerships and collaborations, develop new research questions/directions/themes in research creation, address key societal and cultural problems, and work together to solve challenges that transcend traditional boundaries. These awards are specifically targeted at catalyzing advanced research initiatives with the expectation that awards will be used to enable the cluster to have more significant impact than otherwise possible. Researchers from all disciplines are invited to apply for funding. **NOI deadline is 11/2.**

COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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

UPDATES (9/26 – 10/2) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES

- [N/A](#)
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STAFF RESOURCES

PHSA UPDATES

REMINDER

COVID-19 learning modules

New Knowledge and Innovation has developed learning modules related to COVID-19 for all staff and students (employees, medical staff, residents, fellows and trainees, healthcare professionals, researchers, and students) to complete. The three courses provide a current overview of the COVID-19 pandemic, including policies that all staff need to review prior to returning to the workplace and for those staff already working at the C&W campus. It is available on the [Learning Hub](#) and will take about two hours to complete.

Women's Health Research Cluster (WHRC) hosts a virtual conference series on Women's Brain Health

From September 2020 – June 2021 the WHRC will bring you [monthly events](#) featuring world renowned speakers to discuss and share information about a variety of brain health issues that women face. Come connect with like-minded peers at one of our workshops, symposia, networking sessions or trainee/mentor events.

You can register for the [full series](#), or [pick and choose](#) which event you want to go to. Full series registration grants you access to all post-event recordings. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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.