

## Weekly WHRI Community Update – October 23, 2020

*Sent on behalf of Dr. Lori Brotto, Executive Director, Women's Health Research Institute*

As you may know, the WHRI works closely with the BC Women's Health Foundation ([www.bcwomensfoundation.org](http://www.bcwomensfoundation.org)) to advance our mandates of women's health. Thanks to their unwavering support, the WHRI has been able to offer the Catalyst Grants competition for the fourth year in a row, and recipients will be announced next week! We have also been able to award trainee and postdoctoral fellow grants, and for the first time, a clinician-scientist salary award in Medical Genetics. This year we will also open the doors to the Skidmore Goodman Research Lab for Women's Health, a new wet lab located in BC Women's Hospital housed adjacent to the Perinatal Research IMaging Evaluation (PRIME) Centre—both thanks to a \$2.5M donation from the Skidmore family. Though their **Her Health** series on CTV, several of our WHRI members have been invited to share evidence-based information critical to women's health with the public (See the most recent episode featuring our [Scientific Advisor, Dr. Liisa Galea, speaking about COVID-19 and women's health research](#)). Last year, the Foundation's advocacy efforts resulted in a \$10 million investment from the federal government towards a national cervical cancer research program, led by WHRI Associate Director, Dr. Gina Ogilvie. At present, the Foundation is supporting a WHRI-led study focused on the [impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic controls by sex and gender](#), including how women are differentially impacted psychologically, economically, and domestically. We have released snapshots of the data over the past month, with full details to come in the weeks ahead.

I urge you to take the time to read their [2019-2020 Impact Report](#) which describes these and many other projects. As the report declares,

*Together with you and allies worldwide, a movement is underway to demand gender equality in women's healthcare and research, and we are at the forefront.*

We are grateful to the BC Women's Health Foundation for their vision and passion towards ensuring that women's health research is supported, and translates into tangible benefits to the health and wellbeing of women. We wish to say "Happy 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary" to our steadfast partner, and we are excited for the next 25 in this journey alongside you.

Sincerely,

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

### Updates from October 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</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@bccchr.ca](mailto:tjacques@bccchr.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)

## FUNDING AGENCY UPDATES and OPPORTUNITIES

### COVID-19 Grants Update 23.10.2020

#### [Updated COVID-19 WHRI Funding Updates](#)

For all the latest funding news, COVID-19 funding opportunities, latest updates for deadlines and official statements from funding agencies regarding grant programs.

Email [Eric Lussier](mailto:Eric.Lussier@cw.bc.ca) for assistance with grants applications or grants revisions. I am available every Tuesday from 8am-4pm for virtual office hour meetings with WHRI researchers, or by appointment.

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## NEWS

### [Invitation to be a Part of the COVID-19 Immunology Consortium](#)

UBC has provided funding to establish a COVID-19 Immunology Consortium, led by Dr. Manish Sadarangani. Individuals interested in COVID-19 and/or immunology are being invited to be part of this group. The aim is to be inclusive and collaborative, so the consortium will be open to researchers, clinicians, research staff, students and any others who are interested in contributing. If you would like to be included as part of this, please respond to the VEC administrative assistant, Mistin Wilkinson ([Mistin.Wilkinson@bccchr.ca](mailto:Mistin.Wilkinson@bccchr.ca)).

### [FUNDING HIGHLIGHT: UBC Division of Gynaecologic Oncology Research Awards](#)

Research grants are available for up to \$20,000. They are one time only (i.e. non-renewable), and are designed to provide critical review, with rapid turn-around and constructive feedback, and funding for proposals that would not be eligible to receive funding at the national level. Application Deadline: December 4, 2020 5pm PST.

### [FUNDING HIGHLIGHT: CIHR/IHDCYH Announces Maternal/Reproductive Health Grant](#)

The CIHR and IHDCYH have announced it will be resuming the grant competition for maternal, reproductive, child and youth health grant competition. The competition was originally delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. LOI deadline is 12/15, with full application deadline on 1/26 next year.

### [FUNDING HIGHLIGHT: Marsha Rivkin Ovarian Cancer Grants](#)

The Rivkin Center has multiple streams of funding to support ovarian cancer research including a Pilot Study Award and Scientific Scholar Award open to international applicants. Deadline for application is 12/1.

## [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**
- **Veteran Affairs Canada** – [Literature review on the impacts of COVID-19 on well-being](#) – **Full 11/2**
- **CIHR** – [Indigenous COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity](#) – **LOI 11/10, Full 12/8**
- **CIHR** – [Evaluation of Harm Reduction Approaches to Address the Opioid Crisis in the Context of COVID-19](#) – **Full 11/12**

#### **UPDATES (10/17 – 10/23) TO COMPETITION DEADLINES**

- [CIHR – Preparation to Trial: Inflammation for Chronic Conditions](#) – **LOI 12/8, Full 1/12/21**
- [CIHR–ECIs in Maternal, Reproductive, Child & Youth Health \(2020\)](#)–**LOI 12/15, Full 1/26/21**

**Updated [Funding Opportunities and Deadlines List](#)**

#### **HAVE A FEW MINUTES?**

**The WHRI [Social Committee \(SoCo\)](#) is recruiting members!**

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? Join the WHRI SoCo!

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 will be meeting November 9th to review the Terms of Reference and get a read on everyone's capacity. Check out our [Terms of Reference](#). If you are interested or have questions, email [Melissa.Nelson@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Melissa.Nelson@cw.bc.ca) or [Frannie.Mackenzie@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Frannie.Mackenzie@cw.bc.ca)

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**Learn how you can better use and understand gender inclusive language** with actionable tips from Gwen Haworth at Trans Care BC. Inclusive pronouns are an important tool to build respectful relationships with colleagues and the people we serve. Full story on the POD:

<http://2pod.phsa.ca/news/Pages/They,-them,-their-.aspx>

#### **STAFF RESOURCES**

#### **WHRI LUNCH & LEARN**

Join us **Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon** for the next WHRI Lunch & Learn. Dr. Arianne Albert, Senior Biostatistician, Women's Health Research Institute will be presenting "Introduction to Analysis of Variance from one-way to ANCOVA: a walkthrough with data." Contact [whri\\_cwbc@cw.bc.ca](mailto:whri_cwbc@cw.bc.ca) for the zoom details.

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## PHSA UPDATES

### Flu clinics are here – book your appointment now!

- Flu season is upon us and PHSA has you covered with [staff flu clinics](#) now starting.
- This year, it's more important than ever to protect yourself from the flu. You can help reduce the burden on the health care system this fall and winter as we simultaneously manage COVID-19 in the community.
- Check the [flu clinic schedule](#) on POD and [book an appointment](#) for your vaccine. All clinics are **by appointment only – no drop-ins.**
- BC Emergency Health Services paramedics may drop in to any clinic using appropriate ID.
- You can also visit your local pharmacy, family physician or a [PHSA pharmacy partner](#).
- Don't forget to self-report! All PHSA employees, including medical staff and contractors, **must self-report** at [www.influenzareporting.org](http://www.influenzareporting.org). Please note you must include "www" when navigating to this site.
- Questions? Get in touch at [flu@phsa.ca](mailto:flu@phsa.ca) or visit the [Flu Prevention page on POD](#).

### 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.

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

- Visit [phsa.ca/covid19staff](http://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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**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](#).