

Weekly WHRI Community Update – February 5, 2021

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

Dear WHRI community,

Our annual WHRI symposium is our flagship event of the year, and it is less than a month away! It is an opportunity to showcase some of the incredible women's health research taking place across our province, a venue for bringing diverse trainees in women's health research together to meet and share stories, and importantly, a hub for networking, saying hello, and planning that next project in women's health. Last year our symposium, fortunately, was days before the COVID-19 pandemic control measures were instated and all in-person conferences came to a halt. I look back on the memories of our 2020 WHRI symposium fondly as the last time we congregated in person with so many of you.

Now, one year later, our 6<sup>th</sup> annual WHRI symposium will celebrate the same goals, despite the online format. Our trainee morning talk will be true to it's tradition of equipping trainees with valuable information to assist their research—this year with a focus on patient engagement. You will see diverse representation from across the province, and there will be networking opportunities too. Science communication and debunking misinformation will be a major topic, as will local-led research on women and COVID-19. You will not want to [miss our WHRI symposium](#), and I look forward to seeing you (online) there!

Here is the link for registration <https://events.eply.com/whri2021> and mark Wednesday, March 3, 2021 7:30am – 3pm in your calendar!

Sincerely,

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

### Updates from January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Update: PHSA MASK USE POLICY & SELF-SERVE DISPENSERS

- **Only medical masks are permitted** on the Oak Street Campus.
- C&W has completed the installation of self-serve medical face mask dispensers at building entrances in order to comply with the provincial mask policy, which states that masks worn in medical facilities including hospitals must be medical grade.
- The self-serve mask dispensers are intended for all care providers, staff, vendors and contractors, who should replace their personal mask with a medical mask at a building entrance, or proceed

to a different entrance if there are no medical masks available.

- While staff were previously allowed to wear personal masks to their unit before switching to medical grade, going forward, no personal masks are permitted once staff and visitors enter a C&W building now that medical masks are available at all entrances.
- All patients will be offered a medical face mask by entrance screeners; however as previously stated, there may be reasons why someone is unable or declines to wear a mask, including history of abuse and trauma, mental health concerns, physical health conditions, or age.

All persons entering hospital buildings are requested to don a medical mask by following these procedures:

1. Remove your personal mask if you're wearing one;
2. Sanitize your hands using hand sanitizer; and
3. Remove one medical mask from the dispenser and follow proper procedures to don the mask.

Please remember that masks are only one part of our infection control strategy. Stay home if you have any signs of illness, complete [PHSA's self-screening assessment tool](#) before arriving onsite, practice physical distancing and maintain good hand hygiene.

Our goal is for everyone to feel safe while working onsite. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, including requests for medical masks, to Marsha Simons at [Marsha.Simons@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Marsha.Simons@cw.bc.ca), Todd Jacques at [tjacques@bcchr.ca](mailto:tjacques@bcchr.ca), and Dr. Lori Brotto at [Lori.Brotto@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Lori.Brotto@cw.bc.ca).

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## 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)

## Funding Agency Updates and Opportunities

[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@bcchr.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.

\*Please note that I will be away for most of February, following the birth of my daughter. I will be available to assist with proposals on Friday February 19<sup>th</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup>. For urgent grants facilitation, please contact Dawn McArthur [dmcArthur@bcchr.ca](mailto:dmcArthur@bcchr.ca) while I am away.

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## NEWS

### [What You Should Know About the Spring 2021 Project Grant Competition](#)

Registration for the CIHR Spring 2021 Project grant competition began on February 4. There have been a few important changes to the competition, including:

- Return of the Summary of Progress report (Mandatory for NPAs)
- Update CV template that is friendly for non-academic investigators
- Replace the weighted scores in evaluating proposals
- Including a Sex & Gender Based analysis assessment by reviews

Click the [link](#) for a full list of updates.

### [Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research \(MSFHR\) LOI Reminders](#)

- [Scholar Program](#)
  - Letter of Intent (Revised Deadline): February 8, 2021, 4:30 p.m. PT
  - Full application deadline: March 22, 2021, 4:30 p.m. PT
- [Research Trainee Program](#)
  - Letter of Intent: February 8, 2021, 4:30 p.m. PT
  - Full application deadline: March 29, 2021, 4:30 p.m. PT

### [Safer + Stronger Grants Challenge the Rising Risk of Gender-Based Violence in the Pandemic](#)

The Canadian Women's Foundation is accepting applications by organizations offering significant gender-based violence supports and services to women to prepare surge capacity to deal with an anticipated influx seeking support as a result of increased gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, support their ability to help address, prevent and reduce gender-based violence. Available funds can range between \$10,000 and \$200,000. Application deadline is February 15.

### [CIHR Re-Launch the Applied Public Health Chair program](#)

The CIHR Institute of Population & Public Health (CIHR-IPPH) announced the renewal of the Applied Public Health Chair program in collaboration with the Public Health Agency of Canada. Mid-career researchers will be given an opportunity to collaborate with decision makers to help support evidence-informed decision-making that improves health and health equity. The initial launch includes seven available awards: Infectious Diseases; Healthy Environments; Sex, Gender and Healthy Cities; Upstream Prevention in Primary Healthcare; HIV and STBBI Research, and 2 awards for a general pool.

[Webinar](#): Thursday, February 11, 2021, from 8:00-9:30 am PT

### [CIHR Online Discussion on Systemic Racism in Canada's Health Research Funding System](#)

CIHR has updated on their online discussion on systemic racism in Canada's health research funding system will launch on February 4, 2021 and will be open until April 9, 2021. CIHR specifically invites the engagement of racialized and Indigenous communities with lived experience of systemic racism in the

health research sector to share their experiences.

#### [National Collaborating Centre for Public Health Announces KT Graduate Student Awards](#)

The NCCPH award is to recognize the work of graduate students regarding knowledge translation in public health in Canada. Three prizes of \$1500 will be awarded during the CPHA annual conference. Awardees are expected to use the funding to support their registration and virtual attendance at Public Health 2021. Applications are due 3/31.

#### [NEW FUNDING/AWARD OPPORTUNITIES \(1/30 – 2/5\)](#)

- CIHR – [Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging](#) – 2/16
- CIHR – [Team Grant: Indirect Socio-Economic Burden Of Inherited Diseases](#) – LOI(4/13), Full(5/4)
- Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research – [Sex & Gender approach Grant](#) – LOI(3/2)
- UBC FoM – [Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize in Cancer Research](#) – 3/5
- Brain Canada/Bell – [Mental Health Research Program](#) – LOI(3/16), Full(6/6)
- CIHR – [Applied Public Health Chair program](#) – 3/18
- CAAIF – [Research Fellowship in Type 2 Inflammation](#) – 4/26
- Asthma Canada/CAAIF – [Graduate Student Awards](#) – 4/26
- CIHR – [Team Grant: Indigenous Gender and Wellness Team Grant](#) – NOI(6/22), Full(7/29)

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

- Pfizer – [COVID-19 Vaccine Patient Education: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy](#) – 2/10
- Canadian Women’s Foundation – [Safer + Stronger Grants](#) – 2/15
- Mental Health Research Canada/MSFHR – [COVID-19 C, Y & F Mental Health Impact Grant](#) – 2/28
- CIHR – [Funding for SARS-CoV-2 Variant Research](#) – ~end of February
- PHAC – [Immunization Partnership Fund](#) – LOI(3/5), Full(by invitation)
- CIHR-CEPI – [Leadership Award for Excellence in Vaccine Research for Infectious Diseases of Epidemic Potential](#) – 4/20

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

#### [Have a Few Minutes?](#)

#### [INTERNATIONAL DAY of WOMEN and GIRLS in SCIENCE – February 11<sup>th</sup>](#)

To mark the International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 11, we want to take over Twitter with photos of **#WomenInSTEM**. We want to capture the full gamut of experience: the highs (show us your “just published” face) and the lows (the travails of being an academic and the struggles of balancing home and professional life).

On February 11, if you identify as female and work in health research or a STEM field, **please consider posting a photo and using the hashtags #WomenInScience #WomenInSTEM**.

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#### [WOMEN IN SCIENCE Event](#)

BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute is hosting an event to celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

**Date: Thursday, February 11**  
**Time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm**

At BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR), we are proud to support our inspiring female leaders who are making groundbreaking discoveries and innovations in research. At this unique event, we will be showcasing the important contributions of women who are paving the way for research in health sciences as well as having an open panel discussion.

The 2021 faculty includes:

- **Amy Inkster**, Graduate Student, Robison Research Team, BCCHR
- **Dr. Bhavi Modi**, Research Associate, Turvey Lab, BCCHR
- **[Dr. Gina Ogilvie](#)**, Investigator, BCCHR; Physician, BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre; Assistant Director, WHRI; Senior Public Health Scientist, BCCDC; Professor, School of Population & Public Health, UBC
- **[Dr. Patricia Spittal](#)**, Investigator, BCCHR; Head & Professor, Division of Health in Populations, School of Population and Public Health, UBC; Associate Director for Research, Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health
- **[Dr. Cynthia Verchere](#)**, Investigator, BCCHR; Head & Clinical Professor, Division of Plastic Surgery, UBC

*Moderated by: [Dr. Allison Eddy](#), Investigator, BCCHR; Head & Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UBC*

Participation is open to high school students, university students, health care professionals and members of the general public. As space is limited, [please register here](#).

For more information, please visit [https: the BCCHR website](https://www.bcchr.ca/) or contact [reseduc@bcchr.ca](mailto:reseduc@bcchr.ca).

## Staff Resources

### PHSA Updates

#### COVID-19 vaccine update

Planning to support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations at C&W is well underway with input from medical and operational leadership and guided by the [ethics of vaccine prioritization](#).

At C&W, we continue to focus on Phase 1 of B.C.'s [four-phased COVID-19 Immunization Plan](#), which includes long-term care residents, staff and essential visitors; health care workers in settings like ICUs, and emergency departments; paramedics; and remote and at-risk Indigenous communities.

**If you have questions about the prioritization of vaccines, including when you or your team will be eligible to receive a vaccine, please direct them to your manager or leader and not to individuals who are part of the vaccine planning group.**

#### Updated BCCDC poster on types of face masks

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has updated their poster on the different types of facemasks: <http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/Face-masks.pdf>

## C&W mask/hand hygiene posters available for download

A reminder that posters about masks and hand hygiene are available to download. Two C&W versions have been created:

1. For a [patient/family audience](#)
2. For a [staff audience](#)

## Join the conversation during Black History Month

- With respect as one of our core values, we are an organization that builds on diversity to provide care and services for all.
- We invite everyone across PHSA to participate in our inaugural Black History Month activities as we strive to recognize and support the community of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) within our organization.
- Join a series of moderated discussions, organized by a committee of staff across PHSA's programs, to learn, share and start the conversation on these topics:
  - **Conversation: How anti-black racism shows up in the workplace**  
Feb. 10, 2021, 12 – 1 p.m. | [Register on LearningHub](#)
  - a. **Conversation: How micro aggressions show up in the workplace**  
Feb. 17, 2021, 12 – 1 p.m. | [Register on LearningHub](#)
  - b. **Conversation: Being black and working in healthcare**  
Feb 24, 2021, 12 – 1 p.m. | [Register on LearningHub](#)

There are also external events open to the public, including **Black (in)Visibility: Black Nurses in Canada who Paved the Way**, a panel hosted by the UBC School of Nursing on Feb. 25, 2021 to recognize the significant contributions of Black nurses to health care in British Columbia and Canada. [Register through UBC Nursing School](#).

To learn more about events that honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities, visit the [Black History Month page on the Government of Canada](#) website or learning resources on the [BC Black History Awareness Society website](#).

## Upcoming wellness sessions for your mental health and well-being

- Make your mental health a priority and register for one of these sessions, brought to you by PHSA's Health Promotion team:
  - [Assertiveness: Negotiating Respectful Interpersonal Boundaries](#) (Feb. 10, 12 – 1 p.m.)
  - [Building Emotional Intelligence](#) (Feb. 17, 12 – 1 p.m.)
  - [Building Working Relationships](#) (Feb. 24, 12 – 1 p.m.)
  - [Mindfulness Meditation sessions](#), including the [Lab of Rest and Respite series](#).
- For more information about these and additional resources, check out the [February Working Well Newsletter](#).

## New CRA guidance on claiming home office expenses

- PHSA staff who worked from home during the 2020 tax year due to COVID-19 have two options to claim home office expenses as developed by the Canada Revenue Agency:
  - A temporary flat rate method for claims up to \$400.
  - A detailed method for claims over \$400.
- For more information, view this [infographic](#) and visit the [Government of Canada website](#).

- If you had previous arrangements to work from home on a permanent basis under [PHSA's Flexible Work Options Policy](#), we will be issuing the regular T2200.

#### **Flu policy now in effect: Please self-report**

- Flu season is here, and the [provincial influenza policy](#) and [PHSA's influenza prevention policy](#) are now officially in effect. These will remain in effect until the end of the flu season is declared, usually at the end of March.
- Please make some time to [self-report your flu protection choice](#) as soon as you can! **All PHSA employees, including medical staff and contractors, are required to self-report.**
- Questions? Visit [Flu Prevention on POD](#) or email [flu@phsa.ca](mailto:flu@phsa.ca).

#### **Ongoing Staff Resources**

- C&W COVID-19 collection site – Open seven days per week, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Priority given to health care workers and priority population patients between 7 and 8 a.m. Health care workers have a unique number to call (604-875-2016) that allows them to leave a message.
- C&W COVID-19 learning modules – Three courses for all C&W staff and students to provide a current overview of the COVID-19 pandemic. Courses are for staff already working at the C&W campus. Staff also need to review prior to returning to the workplace. Courses are available on [Learning Hub](#) and will take about two hours to complete.
- Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document on ePOPS for information on mask use: [CW Mask Use in Health Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic: FAQ](#).
- For workplace health questions, call the PHSA COVID-19 Resource Line at 1-833-875-2155 (toll free) or 604-875-7244, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Visit [phsa.ca/covid19staff](https://phsa.ca/covid19staff) for COVID-19 staff guidelines and updates.
- Continue to check the BCCDC's website as a trusted source of information.
- Learn about [health and wellness](#) resources to support you.