

Weekly WHRI Community Update – January 22, 2021

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

Dear WHRI community,

Like many of you, I'm sure, I watched the USA inauguration event this week. I was inspired by the hopeful speeches, the sense of optimism through music, the acknowledgement that diverse opinions need not divide us, and the feeling of a community coming together virtually despite physical separation. I was particularly moved in listening to the young poet, Amanda Gorman, who recited powerful words in her poem, "The Hill We Climb" while millions watched intently to this young, brave, bright, black woman. I encourage you to [watch it](#) (again) if you haven't had a chance to.

Our work as researchers, students, teachers, clinicians, administrators, and other stakeholders feels like a perpetual uphill climb at times, especially over the past 10 months. But there are moments of clarity, optimism, unity, and hope that we need to pay attention to and draw from. I find these moments when watching a student present their research; when participating in a study design meeting with an excited team full of ideas; and when hearing about student and colleagues' successes and recognitions. I believe it is important to bring awareness to and take pause for these moments of joy and light.

"The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it." – National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman.

Yours 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 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>

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

- As of Tuesday, December 22, 2020, **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](#)

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

### [CIHR Health Research Training Platform \(H RTP\) Pilot](#)

The H RTP Pilot funding opportunity supports the development of interdisciplinary, inter-jurisdictional, and intersectoral research training platforms that will attract high-caliber scientific, professional and organizational health research trainee and ECRs, and equip them with the skills required for academic and non-academic careers. Training platforms in [Girls and Womens' Health and Wellness](#) are part of the targeted call. Grants are valued at \$400K/year for up to 6 years, for a total of \$2.4M/ grant.

**Registration Deadline:** 21 April 2021

**Application Deadline:** 22 June 2021

### NEW FUNDING/AWARD OPPORTUNITIES (1/16 – 1/22)

- CanSAGE – [Gynecology Research Grants 2020](#) – 1/31
- UBC FoM – [Distinguished Research Award](#) – 2/5
- UBC FoM – [Distinguished University Scholar](#) – 2/5
- Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research – [Sex & Gender approach Grant](#) – LOI(3/2)
- UBC FoM – [Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize in Cancer Research](#) – 3/5
- 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
- Mental Health Research Canada/MSFHR – [COVID-19 C, Y & F Mental Health Impact Grant](#) – 2/28

### Updated Funding Opportunities and Deadlines List

## Have a Few Minutes?

### WHRI Symposium 2021

**Save-the-Date** for the Sixth Annual **Women's Health Research Symposium!** The event will be held virtually on **Wednesday March 3, 2021**.

The symposium is geared toward researchers, trainees, and other research and healthcare stakeholders. Registration details to follow! Email [KDewar@cw.bc.ca](mailto:KDewar@cw.bc.ca) with any questions.

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### MACHINE LEARNING BOOTCAMP

The **AI4Good Lab** takes place over 7 weeks and brings together a cohort of up to 30 women from across Canada. The summer 2021 program will run from May 3rd to June 22nd. The program consists of a mashup of a ML bootcamp, hackathon, and self-directed team projects. Instructors and mentors include university researchers, graduate students, and practitioners from start-ups, corporates, inter-governmental organizations and city government.

**Application deadline:** February 15th, 11:59 PM PST

**Apply here:** <https://www.ai4goodlab.com/apply>

This program is open to women who are registered with a post-secondary institution at the undergraduate level (or have graduated within the last 2 years) in STEM fields and have prior experience with coding and advanced math (calculus, linear algebra, stats).

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## WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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, Robinson 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 Vaccination Update

- Planning the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines is a priority at C&W. The first [priority groups](#) in B.C. are long-term care, ICUs, COVID-19 wards, EDs and paramedics. We have already held one vaccine

clinic at C&W to vaccinate priority groups, including BC Children's ED and PICU care providers, other health care workers caring for COVID-19 patients and paramedics. Indirect clinical care roles, as well as admin and leadership roles are not currently eligible for the vaccine.

- Work is underway to create a detailed vaccine rollout plan at C&W with input from medical and operational leaders. This plan is guided by the ethical framework for vaccine prioritization.
- With Pfizer temporarily slowing dose deliveries, we are not expecting to receive vaccines as quickly and in as great of numbers in January and February as previously expected. As more supply becomes available, every C&W medical staff member, care provider, and employee who wants the vaccine will receive it. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience and for continuing to practice all of the infection prevention measures we have grown accustomed to so we can keep our colleagues, patients and families safe. If you have questions in the meantime, please review a general vaccine FAQ document on a [new dedicated POD page about COVID-19 vaccinations](#) (*Reminder: you can now access POD remotely using your PHSA login credentials*).

#### **C&W Open Forum Jan. 27 – Slido now open for questions**

- The next virtual C&W Open Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 12pm.
- Webcast link:  
<https://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/d65a3364a882424f917ebf9111a9ed531d>
- You can submit questions in advance via Slido: <https://app.sli.do/event/zsb19dmv>

#### **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).

#### **Invest in your wellness this winter**

- Check out our [psychosocial resource](#) page for information on staying psychologically well and the [COVID-19: Pandemic Toolkit](#) from Homewood Health (our Employee Family Assistance provider).

#### **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.