

Weekly WHRI Community Update – February 12, 2021

*Sent on behalf of Dr. Gina Ogilvie, Assistant Director, WHRI*

Dear WHRI community,

February 11 was International day of Women and Girls in Science and this year's theme was '*Women scientists at the forefront of the fight against COVID-19*'. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that women are more likely to shoulder the burden of consequences of pandemics and efforts to control pandemic consequences. In addition, studies have shown that the pandemic also had a significant impact specifically on women scientists, affecting their careers negatively. Even before the pandemic, statistics show that less than 30% of researchers worldwide are women. Women are still less likely to choose particular STEM fields including mathematics, statistics and engineering. This data shows us that there is a long road ahead to ensure that women fully participate in science.

Despite this reality, I am proud of the way the WHRI responded quickly to the pandemic and focused particularly on the needs of girls and women and sought to understand the impact of the pandemic on women in BC. In addition, over the past few years, the WHRI has prioritized support for training, education and mentorship, hoping to ultimately encourage young women to join whatever field they choose, and ensure that women are welcome wherever they choose to be. Going forward, we have an opportunity to think about what helped us become scientists, stay in science and flourish in science in order to bring on our next generation of scientists. We have an opportunity to think about how we can catalyze change in societal and systemic barriers to improve the engagement of women in science, and ultimately ensure society benefits from all the scientific creativity that women possess.

Sincerely,

Gina Ogilvie, MD MSc FCFP DrPH  
Professor | Faculty of Medicine, UBC  
Canada Research Chair | Global control of HPV related cancer  
Assistant Director | Women's Health Research Institute  
Senior Public Health Scientist | BC Centre for Disease Control

### Updates from February 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Update: PHS A 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

### [MSFHR and BC AHSN announce collaboration to drive health research in BC](#)

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research and the BC Academic Health Science Network have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to join forces to create a dynamic and integrated health research organization that will support the growth and evolution of BC's research and life sciences sectors. The proposed new organization will be committed to improving the health of British Columbians, the health-care system, and the knowledge economy.

### [CIHR Hosting Webinar for Health Research Training Platform Applications](#)

The CIHR will hold a webinar to support participants with requirements of the Health Research Training Platform (HFTP) Pilot funding opportunity on Thursday, March 4 at 10:00-11:30am PST. Click the link to [join](#).

### [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.

## NEW+RELEVANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (2/6 – 2/12)

- [Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research – Sex & Gender approach Grant](#) – LOI(3/2)
- [Brain Canada/Bell – Mental Health Research Program](#) – LOI(3/16), Full(6/6)
- [CIHR – Applied Public Health Chair program](#) – 3/18
- [Cancer Research Society – Scholarships for the Next Generation of Scientist](#) – 4/28
- [CIHR – Team Grant: Indigenous Gender and Wellness Team Grant](#) – NOI(6/22), Full(7/29)

## COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [Canadian Women's Foundation – Safer + Stronger Grants](#) – 2/15
- [CIHR – Operating Grant: CIHR Network for Emerging Variants Research](#) – EOI(2/18), Full(3/8)
- [Mental Health Research Canada/MSFHR – COVID-19 C, Y & F Mental Health Impact Grant](#) – 2/28
- [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?

**Dr. Angela Kaida** was profiled on CTV for **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, watch here: <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2137851>

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### **WHRI Symposium 2021 on March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Call for Posters & Award Nominations**

The Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI) is **now accepting submissions for the poster session** that will take place at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual WHRI Symposium on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. We will be holding the symposium virtually this year via a zoom conference platform.

Posters must be focused on research related to women's or newborn health. Posters can be 'repurposed' from previous conferences or presentations within the last two years. This call is open to researchers and trainees.

Abstract submissions to be considered for the poster session are due **Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**. The notice of decision will be Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

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**Mentorship Awards** recognize women's and newborn health researchers, at both early and later career stages, who have exemplified a deep commitment to fostering the professional and personal development of research trainees, including residents, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows.

Eligibility: All women's and newborn health researchers based in British Columbia who are members of the WHRI are eligible to be nominated. Nominees may be at any stage in their academic career, but one award will recognize a researcher in the early-career category (for those within 10 years of their first appointment), while the other award will recognize a researcher in the later-career category (for those 10 or more years since their first appointment). Faculty in either the tenure track or clinical track will be eligible. Research Associates are not eligible to apply.

Nomination Process: A letter (2 pages max) outlining the rationale for the nomination based on the criteria below should be submitted by February 24, 2021. Nominations may be made by a single mentee or a group of mentees, but only a single nomination is able to be submitted per mentor. Selfnominations will not be accepted.

All submission can be sent to [kdewar@cw.bc.ca](mailto:kdewar@cw.bc.ca)

**More information on the symposium program and speakers can be found here:**  
<https://ubccpd.ca/course/whri2021>

To register for the symposium, please click the following link: <https://events.ely.com/whri2021>

## Staff Resources

### PHSA Updates

#### Mark your calendar for PHSA's operational town hall on Feb. 19

- Join us for our next town hall on Friday, Feb. 19, from 10 – 11 a.m.
- You'll hear an organizational update about PHSA's interim leadership, as announced in [yesterday's all-staff message](#); details on PHSA's progress on anti-racism work; and a situational update on COVID-19 and the vaccination program underway. We hope you can make it!
- [Join by webcast](#) or by teleconference (1-833-353-8610, participant code 4478028#).
- Start thinking about your questions—Slido will open the week of the town hall, using the event code #PHSATownHall.
- If you have a scheduling conflict, remember you'll be able to watch the recording using the same webcast link later in the day.

#### 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 micro aggressions show up in the workplace**  
Feb. 17, 2021, 12 – 1 p.m. | [Register on LearningHub](#)
  - **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:
  - [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.