

Weekly WHRI Community Update – February 19, 2021

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

Dear WHRI community,

Health misinformation is pervasive, and when left unchecked, it can directly impact societal levels of health literacy. It can also directly impact health behaviours leading to unnecessary interventions, while overlooking important investigations or procedures. While 2019 saw the most common health misinformation was related to cancer, 2020 saw many untested and harmful theories about COVID-19 that were perpetuated on social media. Health misinformation can interfere with evidence-based care provided by healthcare providers. It can interfere with vaccination programs. And it can infiltrate women's health in a potent way.

The WHRI is committed to the use of evidence-informed knowledge translation tools to share women's health research findings with the public. We believe firmly that research institutes have a part to play in improving the health literacy of the population. Every year, we host a number of public events on particular hot-topic themes in women's health, and invite WHRI members to share the latest scientific information on the topic in an accessible manner. Since the start of COVID-19, we have shifted these public events online, and seen an increase in attendance.

In two weeks, the WHRI will host its annual symposium on March 3, and our keynote speaker, Dr. Timothy Caulfield, will address common examples of health misinformation and an approach to combatting their pervasiveness. If you have not yet registered, I encourage you to do so [here](#). The next evening, on March 4, the WHRI will host our bi-annual public event, the [@WomensResearch Wellness Exchange](#). The event will be held virtual and is FREE to attend. I encourage you to attend, and importantly, to share the registration link with your communities:

[https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/womensresearch-wellness-exchange-tickets-142038243209?fbclid=IwAR2alTmsEdY\\_J7cotBW4AkIBPQzZwW2\\_swk9EGbBRSp7\\_fi3hUVVf3AYwhw](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/womensresearch-wellness-exchange-tickets-142038243209?fbclid=IwAR2alTmsEdY_J7cotBW4AkIBPQzZwW2_swk9EGbBRSp7_fi3hUVVf3AYwhw).

It is clear that it will take a multi-pronged approach to combat health misinformation. As women's health researchers and stakeholders, I invite you to consider what part you can play. If you are interested in presenting at a future event, please contact Melissa or Nicole at [whri.communications@cw.bc.ca](mailto:whri.communications@cw.bc.ca).

Sincerely

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

**Updates from February 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<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](#)

[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 most of February for parental leave. I will be providing assistance on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. For urgent grants facilitation, please contact Dawn McArthur \[dmcArthur@bcchr.ca\]\(mailto:dmcArthur@bcchr.ca\).](#)

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## [NEWS](#)

### [UBC Faculty of Medicine Call for Canada Research Chair \(Tier 1 & 2\) Applications](#)

The UBC FoM invites applications for up to 4 Tier 1 and up to 3 Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) in any field of research aligned to the FoM strategic plan. This competition is open to FoM Departments/Schools with Centres/Institutes as partners. The application deadline is May 24<sup>th</sup>, but earlier consultation with the FoM is required. Click the link for more information.

### [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 \(2/13 – 2/19\)](#)

- **Gynecologic Cancer Initiative – [Miller Mindell Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship](#) – ongoing**
- **BC Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research – [Indigenous CHRNA Fund](#) – 3/1**
- **UBC FoM – [Distinguished Researcher Awards](#) – 3/1**
- **Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research – [Sex & Gender approach Grant](#) – LOI(3/2)**
- **Pelvic Floor Disorder Research Foundation – [Various 2 Year Awards](#) – 3/15**
- **Brain Canada/Bell – [Mental Health Research Program](#) – LOI(3/16), Full(6/6)**
- **CIHR – [Applied Public Health Chair program](#) – 3/18**
- **US Department of Defense – [FY21 Ovarian Cancer Research Program \(various\)](#) – Pre(4/1), Full (7/8)**
- **CIHR – [Team Grant: Indigenous Gender and Wellness Team Grant](#) – NOI(6/22), Full(7/29)**

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

- **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?

International Women's Day

Help us celebrate **International Women's Day** on March 8th by letting us know how you or [#ChooseToChallenge gender bias and inequality!](#)

Does your research aim to shrink knowledge gaps for a sex-specific condition? Do you have statistics or facts about the gender gap to share?

We want to know. If you or your team is interested in helping us celebrate International Women's Day, send a statement incorporating #ChooseToChallenge to [whri.communications@cw.bc.ca](mailto:whri.communications@cw.bc.ca) by **March 2nd**. You can also [check out the official campaign here](#) and send us a photo in the #ChooseToChallenge pose!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Melissa or Nicole at [whri.communications@cw.bc.ca](mailto:whri.communications@cw.bc.ca).

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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.eply.com/whri2021>

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### FREE @WomensResearch Wellness Exchange – Registration Open!

Join us Thursday, **March 4th from 5-6:30PM PST** for the second **@WomensResearch Wellness Exchange!**

Hear from a variety of experts on topics related to women's health, including sexual desire, aging, and breast health at this free virtual event. Register today! <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/142038243209>

## Staff Resources

### PHSA Updates

#### C&W Open Forum, Feb. 24 – Slido now open for questions

The next virtual C&W Open Forum is Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 12pm.

Webcast link: <https://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/adf1149ce1cc41d8a66806a84de5aa741d>

You can submit questions in advance via Slido: <https://app.sli.do/event/ntzv3r1w>

#### Act now! The 2020-21 fiscal year-end is coming with tight timelines ahead

- The fiscal year-end is **March 31, 2021**, with tight deadlines that must be met for external reporting purposes.
- Please be sure to allow enough time for your items to be processed in this fiscal year. These deadlines are only a few weeks away:
  - Expense and petty cash claims: March 5 at 4 p.m.
  - Approved purchase order invoices for consulting, services or “amount only” purchases: March 19 at 4 p.m.
  - Approved and coded non purchase order invoices: March 19 at 4 p.m.
  - Billing and revenue accrual: March 23 at 4:30 p.m.
  - Corporate credit card: March 26 at noon
  - Purchase order invoices for received purchases: March 31 at 4 p.m.
  - Online expense and petty cash claims: March 31 at 3 p.m.
- Please mark your calendars with these due dates – all PHSA programs, departments and staff are required to follow these timelines. See the [Finance page](#) on POD or speak to your leader for more information.

#### T4/T4A tax statements available Feb. 24

- T4/T4A tax statements will be available electronically, via your online pay advice (PHSA: <https://pay.phsa.ca> or BC Emergency Health Services: <https://pay2.phsa.ca>) on Feb. 24, 2021.

- Google Chrome is the recommended browser to access your online pay advice, including your T4/T4A statement. If you are unable to view your pay advice in Chrome, please copy/paste the portal URL (<https://pay.phsa.ca> or <https://pay2.phsa.ca>) into your Internet Explorer address bar.
- Learn more by reviewing these [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (BCEHS employees: visit [this page for FAQs](#)) or contact PHSA Payroll at 604-297-8683 or 1-866-875-5306 (select option 2) or [payrollphsa@phsa.ca](mailto:payrollphsa@phsa.ca).

#### Updated version of Zoom for Healthcare

- PHSA employees with Zoom for Healthcare will have a new version installed on Feb. 17. The upgrade will enhance security and introduce [optional new meeting features](#) that may be helpful for virtual health visits.
- **What you need to do:**
  - **Before you leave work** at the end of day on Feb. 17, please ensure you **restart** your workstation.
  - **If you are working from home**, to allow for the update in the evening of Feb. 17, you need to ensure the following:
    - Exit Zoom Application ([see instructions](#))
    - Connect to the VPN
    - Keep your laptop ON and plugged into power
- For more information, visit the [PHSA Zoom for Healthcare webpage](#).

#### 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: 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 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.