

Weekly WHRI Community Update – February 26, 2021

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

Dear WHRI community,

This week, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) released its newest [Strategic Plan, A Vision for a Healthier Future](#). Alongside this 10-year plan, the CIHR will be releasing annual Action Plans, the first of which sets [action priorities for 2021-2022](#). Among the five priorities, priority B2 pertains to “Promote equity, diversity, and inclusion” which lists commitments to identify EDI-related barriers that impact applicants and peer reviewers; Build on existing EDI/GBA+ (gender-based analysis plus) initiatives to enhance integration of considerations in research through relevant and up-to-date EDI/GBA+ training, guidance and resources; and Enhance CIHR’s policy work to further gender equity and the integration of sex, gender and other identity factors in research (SGBA+). These priorities align fully with our [WHRI priorities and mandate](#). Given how vital CIHR funding is to so many of our WHRI members and trainees, I encourage you to take the time to read these plans.

Among other changes to the [Spring 2021 CIHR Project grant competition](#), this competition will see increased evaluation of sex and gender based analysis (SGBA). This means that the application score and written evaluation will include whether SGBA has been adequately addressed in the research proposed. This is a welcome change, and is a step forwards following a long history of inadequate sex disaggregation in research that has disproportionately and negatively impacted women.

At the WHRI, we have recommended that all research personnel (staff, students, trainees, affiliates) complete the [three Institute of Gender and Health training modules](#), which are designed to help researchers think about, plan for, and integrate sex and gender into their research—regardless of whether the research involves biomedical or human research. I encourage you to complete these training modules and share them with every member of your team.

SGBA is but one of several ways that we can improve health equity in women’s health research.

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 20th to 26th

Update: PHSA MASK USE POLICY & SELF-SERVE DISPENSERS

- 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.

- 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, Todd Jacques at tjacques@bcchr.ca, and Dr. Lori Brotto at 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 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 a Stage 2 approval and need to amend your application to add new team members, adjust team schedules, etc, please email Todd Jacques tjacques@bcchr.ca to request approval and email Marsha Simons Marsha.Simons@cw.bc.ca so that our site logs can be updated appropriately.

If you have any questions, please email 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 Mondays in February and March. For urgent grants facilitation, please contact Dawn McArthur \[dmcarthur@bcchr.ca\]\(mailto:dmcarthur@bcchr.ca\).](#)

NEWS

[NIH Announces the Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Initiative](#)

The NIH is accepting applications for research in Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection (PASC) Initiative and Investigator Consortium. At the heart of the Initiative is the rapid launch of the SARS-CoV-2 Recovery Cohort and SARS-CoV-2 Recovery Cohort Investigator Consortium – a collaborative meta-cohort that will leverage ongoing and new cohort studies to chart recovery in diverse adult and pediatric populations and rapidly advancing our understanding of the recovery process, epidemiology and natural history of PASC. This Research Opportunity focuses on 3 research study areas: Clinical Recovery Cohort Studies, Autopsy Cohort Studies, and EHR- and Other Real-World Data-based Studies. Proposals should be submitted by the proposing entity's research official via eRA ASSIST system, no later than **March 23rd by 2 PM PST**. [Register for the webinar](#) on March 1st 2pm PST to learn more.

[The BC SUPPORT Unit announces summative evaluation request for proposals](#)

The BC SUPPORT Unit is seeking proposals from organizations or individuals with experience in evaluation and sector knowledge to conduct a summative evaluation of the BC SUPPORT Unit's first phase of operation. The successful candidate will work collaboratively with the Unit and our partners to evaluate the first five-years of the Unit's activities. Proposals should be submitted by 5:00 PM PST on March 31, 2021. The Unit's Performance Measurement and Evaluation Lead will host an online meeting on March 17, 2021, to answer any questions that may arise. If you also wish to attend, email jward@bcsupportunit.ca

NEW+RELEVANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (2/20 – 2/26)

- Gynecologic Cancer Initiative – [Miller Mindell Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship](#) – ongoing
- UBC FoM – [Distinguished Researcher Awards](#) – 3/1
- Canadian Academy of Health Sciences – [2021 Fellowship](#) – UBC(3/1), CAHS(3/15)
- Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research – [Sex & Gender approach Grant](#) – LOI(3/2)
- CIHR – [Project Grant Spring 2021](#) – LOI(3/4), Full(4/1)
- Pelvic Floor Disorder Research Foundation – [Various 2 Year Awards](#) – 3/15
- UBC FoM – [Multidisciplinary Research Program in Medicine](#) – 3/15
- Brain & Behavior Research Foundation – [Young Investigator Grant](#) – 3/25
- Human Frontier Science Program – [Early Career and Team Research Grants](#) – LOI(3/30)
- US Department of Defense – [FY21 Ovarian Cancer Research Program \(various\)](#) – Pre(4/1), Full (7/8)
- Canada Research Chairs – [Canada Research Chair \(Tier 1 & 2\)](#) – UBC(4/30), Full(5/24)
- Arthritis Society – [2021-22 Innovation Grants](#) – Reg(5/3), Full(6/30)
- 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 – Operating Grant: Network for Emerging Variants Research](#) – Full(3/8)
- [NIH – Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Initiative](#) – Full(3/23)
- [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?

Congratulations to the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research KT Award Winners

Congratulations to the [8 WHRI researchers](#) who have been awarded MSFHR Convening and Collaborating OR Reach Awards! We are thrilled to see such strong representation for knowledge translation in the women's health research community.

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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 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.

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[Register Now! WHRI Symposium 2021 on March 3rd](#)

The 6th Annual WHRI Symposium will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021. We will be holding the symposium virtually this year via a zoom conference platform.

For 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>

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Staff Resources

PHSA Updates

Town hall highlights

- Thank you to everyone who joined us for PHSA's town hall last Friday.
- You can read the [highlights on POD](#), or [watch the webcast in full](#).
- Dr. Réka Gustafson, vice president of public health & wellness and deputy provincial health officer, spoke about COVID-19, the variants of concern and the immunization strategy. You can find her remarks at the 29:25 mark of the webcast.
- These videos answer the top town hall COVID-19 questions:
 - [What is the exit strategy for restrictions on socializing outside of households?](#)
 - [Why were front line staff turned away at the Feb. 16 clinic?](#)
- We also heard remarks from David Byres, interim CEO, on his introduction to the organization (10:45) and from Trushna Kassin, director of sustainability with the Transformation Leadership Office, about PHSA's work on anti-racism (19:45).
- Stay tuned for our next town hall in March.

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

- 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.

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.

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.
- 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

- [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](#).

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.

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 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.