

## Weekly WHRI Community Update – March 26, 2021

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

Dear WHRI community,

Many scientific societies have seen an increase in conference attendance since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, in part because the “new” virtual formats have allowed for increased accessibility by individuals who might otherwise experience barriers in attending such meetings. These potential barriers include financial limitations, childcare or caregiver responsibilities, and other personal hurdles related to travel and unfamiliar hotel rooms. Our own 6<sup>th</sup> annual [Women’s Health Research Symposium](#) earlier this month saw our highest ever attendance, and a review of the evaluation points to a preference for retaining some aspect of virtual access for next year’s symposium. I wish to again thank the [excellent speakers at this year’s symposium, all of the organizers who successfully put together an outstanding program](#), and all of the 270 attendees from our women’s health research community including first-time attendees.

For the past several years, the WHRI has also held monthly [research rounds](#), typically on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday morning of the month. These rounds now continue through the summer months, and like attendance at our symposium, our monthly virtual rounds have seen a doubling of our in-person attendance over the past year, which points to the popularity of these rounds, and the acceptability of the online format. We are looking for speakers to fill the summer and Fall 2021 rounds openings. We welcome members who have never presented at a WHRI event in the past. We welcome new investigators to volunteer to share their research ideas or preliminary findings. We welcome women’s health researchers from all reaches of the province, and from any institution to share their presentations and join our network. If you are interested in profiling your work, please contact Kathryn Dewar at [kdewar@cw.bc.ca](mailto:kdewar@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 March 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>

#### UPDATE: COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility for Research Staff

Yesterday we received news that vaccine clinics are open to **all** PHSA staff who work in the Vancouver Coastal Health region.

If you are a PHSA staff member or contractor working in the VCH region (including UBC employees), regardless of physical location, you can now sign up for a vaccination.

#### HOW TO BOOK:

Appointments continue to be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Please [see the attached email with links to book at one of the VCH COVID-19 Immunization Clinics.](#)

If you are not able to secure an appointment right away, please check back often. The booking links are valid and are functional. However, new appointments are released on a week-to-week basis, typically on Friday afternoon. More appointments are added throughout the week as clinic capacity and vaccine supply allows.

**Important reminder: Provincial orders and guidelines remain in place for everyone, even if you have received the vaccine.**

You can view [PHSA's vaccine FAQs](#) on the website.

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### UPDATED COVID-19 Education Modules

As a requirement of site access, staff are expected to complete the C&W COVID-19 education modules on the LearningHub. These modules have recently been updated (March 5<sup>th</sup>). Managers, please ensure you and your teams have completed the most up-to-date versions on the [LearningHub](#).

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### 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](mailto:Marsha.Simons@cw.bc.ca), Todd Jacques at [tjacques@bccchr.ca](mailto:tjacques@bccchr.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

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](mailto:tjacques@bcchr.ca) to request approval and email Marsha Simons [Marsha.Simons@cw.bc.ca](mailto: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](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

### [The Gynecologic Cancer Initiative launches Clinical Trials Accelerating Grants Program](#)

The Accelerating Grants program provides funding for interventional, observational, and translational clinical research studies focused on gynecologic cancers, and in particular those that advance lab-based discoveries by researchers in BC into the clinic. The intent of these grants is to support research related to patients. Suggested project funding ranges from \$50,000-\$100,000 for up to 2 years. Initial LOI stage deadline is May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a full application due in July 5<sup>th</sup>.

### [Launch of the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy](#)

CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC announced the launch of the Tri-Agency Research Data Management Policy (the Tri-Agency RDM Policy). Details about the policy and associated requirements for institutions and researchers are now available online. The agencies plan to implement the policy incrementally and with the continuing development of research data practices and capacity in Canada and internationally.

Contact the agencies emails for further questions:

CIHR ([ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@cihr-irsc.gc.ca](mailto:ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@cihr-irsc.gc.ca))

NSERC ([ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@nserc-crsng.gc.ca](mailto:ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@nserc-crsng.gc.ca))

SSHRC ([ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](mailto:ResearchData-Donneesderecherche@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)).

## NEW+RELEVANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (3/20 – 3/26)

- Gynecologic Cancer Initiative – [Miller Mindell Gynecologic Oncology Fellowship](#) – 4/1
- Molly Towell Perinatal Research Foundation – [2021 Maternal-Fetal Grant Competition](#) – 4/1
- US Department of Defense – [FY21 Ovarian Cancer Research Program \(various\)](#) – Pre(4/1), Full (7/8)
- V Foundation – [V Scholar Cancer Research Grant](#) – Nomination(4/8), Full(4/30)
- WorkSafeBC – [Ralph McGinn Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) – 4/9
- OVCARE – [Carraresi Foundation Research Grants](#) – 4/12

- OVCARE – [Sumiko Koabayashi Marks Memorial Grants](#) – 4/12
- Gynecological Cancer Initiative – [Barbara Berthon Ovarian Cancer Trainee Publication Prize](#) – 4/16
- International Development Research Centre – [Advancing gender analysis and women’s leadership in STEM fields](#) – EOI(4/22)
- Canada Research Chairs – [Canada Research Chair \(Tier 1 & 2\)](#) – UBC(4/30), Full(5/24)
- Rethink/Pfizer – [Improve the care of patients living with metastatic breast cancer](#) – Full(5/13)
- CIHR - [STBBI Research in Canada: Beyond HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C](#) – Full(6/9)
- CIHR – [Team Grant: Indigenous Gender and Wellness Team Grant](#) – NOI(6/22), Full(7/29)

#### COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Research Council of Canada – [Encouraging vaccine confidence in Canada](#) – Full(4/5)
- International Development Research Centre – [Women’s Economic Empowerment in a Low-Carbon COVID-19 Recovery](#) – EOI(4/13)
- 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?

BC Children’s Hospital Research Candidate Vision Presentations Senior Executive Director, BCCHR and Associate Dean, Research, BCCHR, FoM, UBC

Hear from the candidates for the role of Senior Executive Director, BCCHR and Associate Dean, Research, BCCHR, FoM, UBC and learn about their Vision for the BCCHR. This is your opportunity to engage with the candidates directly, and to ask the questions that are important to you as it relates to the future of the BCCHR.

- Time/Date: **March 31, 2021 – 3:15 – 4:00pm**
- Hosted Online: <https://ubc.zoom.us/>
  - Meeting ID: 93829539859
  - Passcode: 539859

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#### Global Health Lunch & Learn – April 21<sup>st</sup>

The Centre of International Child Health and BC Children’s and Women’s Hospitals are putting on a Global Health Lunch and Learn event (poster attached) on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**TOPIC:** Advanced Practice Nursing: An Expanding Global Phenomenon toward Universal Health Coverage and US Sustainable Development Goals.

**SPEAKER:** Dr Melanie Rogers

Teaching Fellow for Advanced Practice

PhD, Queens Nurse, ICN Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nurse Network Chair,

Director ICN NP/APNN Global Academy of Research and Enterprise

Spirituality Scholars Network Chair International Network for the Study of Spirituality

MSc ANP, BSc N, RGN, Dip A&E, Dip Counselling, Dip Women's Health, Dip HPE, PGCE, FHEA

**Meeting details:**

<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/69989354163?pwd=ajcweTVmNmFjWVZUM0ZjbTYvcWRpQT09>

Meeting ID: 699 8935 4163

Passcode: 870424

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**CIHR Institute of Gender and Health Sex & Gender Training Modules Feedback Survey**

In 2015, the CIHR Institute of Gender and Health (IGH) launched [online training modules on integrating sex and gender in health research](#). Since then, thousands of people have completed the modules. But, in that time, our understanding of sex, gender, and their influence on health has evolved. We want to make sure that our training modules reflect current knowledge and best practices.

Please help improve the modules by completing the [Sex & Gender Training Modules Survey](#) to share your feedback. Copy and paste this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/79FPWBF>

The survey is open until April 30, 2021.

**Staff Resources**

**Non-UBC staff who claim work-related expenses through UBC Workday**

It has come to our attention that some non-ubc staff (eg. PHSA) who have paid upfront for work-related expenses and claimed reimbursement through workday have been incorrectly identified in the system as suppliers and received a T4A slip (located in box 048).

People who believe they have received a T4A slip in error are encouraged to submit a ticket on UBC's [Integrated Service Centre](#), who will investigate each case. Accounts payable is able to cancel incorrectly issued T4A's manually as we await a long-term solution.

**PHSA Updates**

**All non-contract staff and leaders: Schedule and use all deferred 2020 vacation hours before March 31**

- After an unprecedented year learning to co-exist with COVID-19, with still more challenges to come, we need to continue to plan for the future. We all need to rest, recharge and reset, and part of that means disconnecting from work and taking vacation time, where possible.
- Please review your 2020 unscheduled vacation hours in your deferred vacation bank in [WFM](#) and talk to your leader about using these hours before March 31, 2021.
- If you are unable to use all carryover hours from 2020, unused hours at March 31, 2021 will be paid out, **up to a maximum of 75 hours, as an exception for this year only.**
- Unused hours in excess of 75 will be eliminated and not paid out. The target payout date is April 9, 2021.
- **Questions?** Please review the [vacation leave](#) page on POD, or reach out to [vacationleave@phsa.ca](mailto:vacationleave@phsa.ca).
- **Salaried physicians:** Please contact your physician administrator for vacation information.

## CRA guidance on claiming home office expenses: April 14 deadline for detailed method sign-offs from PHSA

- 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 (CRA):
  - **Option 1: A simplified, temporary flat rate method for claims up to \$400.**
    - i. Eligible employees can claim a deduction of \$2 for each day they worked at home more than 50 per cent of the time, over a period of at least four consecutive weeks, plus any other days worked from home in 2020 due to COVID-19, up to a maximum of \$400. For more information on this method, [view this infographic](#).
    - ii. **Process:** This method **does not** require any supporting forms signed by your employer. You complete the CRA's [Form T777S](#) and attach it to your 2020 income tax return.
  - **Option 2: Detailed method for claims over \$400.**
    - i. If you anticipate having a claim greater than \$400 due to working from home during COVID-19, the CRA has developed [Form T2200S](#) and [Form T777S](#) as well as a [calculator](#) to help you determine your eligible home office expenses. You may use this method if you worked more than 50 per cent of the time from your home for a period of at least a month (four consecutive weeks) in 2020. You cannot claim any expenses that were or will be reimbursed by your employer. If you have been reimbursed for any expenses (e.g. mileage, parking, etc.), these cannot be claimed for the T2200S.
    - ii. **Process:** This detailed method will require employees to complete the [Form T2200S](#). The **employee** is to complete Sections A and B and submit to [AskHR@phsa.ca](mailto:AskHR@phsa.ca) to be signed by the employer (PHSA) **by no later than April 14, 2021**. A signed copy of the form will be returned to you via email and a copy will be retained within your employee file. Keep all your supporting documents (i.e. receipts), as needed.
  - For detailed information on both methods, 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](#), PHSA will be issuing the [regular T2200](#) via the existing process. As a reminder, you cannot claim any expenses that were or will be reimbursed by your employer. If you have been reimbursed for any expenses (e.g. mileage, parking, etc.), these cannot be claimed for the T2200.
- Contact Payroll ([payrollphsa@phsa.ca](mailto:payrollphsa@phsa.ca) or 604-297-8683/ 1-866-875-5306) if you have general questions about the T2200.
- Any decisions regarding tax implications should be made in consultation with your independent tax advisor.

## New conversation session added: Microaggressions, part two

- The conversation sessions hosted in February for Black History Month are continuing and will be hosted monthly, covering a variety of similar topics.
- This month, the discussion will be focused on microaggressions, including what they are and how to spot them in the workplace.
- Date and time: March 31, noon – 1 p.m.
- [Register now!](#)

### **March 31 C&W Open Forum – Slido now open for questions**

- The next C&W Open Forum is Wednesday, March 31 at 12pm. It will include a presentation about vaccine hesitancy.
- Webcast link: <https://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/a6fe818183f343c5ba8371eb7ff7198d1d>
- You can submit questions in advance via [Slido](#).

### **Mark your calendar for PHSA's next town hall on April 1**

- Save the date for our next PHSA town hall: Thursday, April 1 from **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**
- [Join by webcast](#) or by teleconference (1-833-353-8610, participant code 4478028#).
- Interim president and CEO David Byres will be attending and other speakers will be confirmed soon. [Slido](#) is now open – use 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.

### **Survey: COVID-19 pandemic response and IPAC at C&W**

- C&W staff are invited to share their thoughts on infection prevention and control (IPAC) aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic response here at C&W by completing a [brief survey](#). Questions include:
  - How IPAC can best engage C&W staff in preparing for community outbreaks – whether it's the next pandemic or the next measles outbreak?
  - How and when staff want to be informed about outbreaks in the community.
  - How we can most effectively engage with you to support you to be ready for outbreaks?
- Participants will be entered into a draw for one of three \$50 Starbucks cards. We will be sharing the results of the survey. Thank you for your feedback.

### **Ongoing Staff Resources**

- 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.