

## Weekly WHRI Community Update – April 16, 2021

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

Dear WHRI community,

There has been longstanding recognition that sunlight affects mood. In fact, research shows that number of hours of sunlight [significantly reduces negative affect as well as feelings of tiredness](#). With the nicer weather we've seen recently, I have been leveraging this effect by moving my home work station outside a few hours per day.

I want to take the opportunity to remind our WHRI community that during the current “circuit breaker” period of heightened restrictions announced by Dr. Bonnie Henry a few weeks ago, any “non-essential for onsite” research activities should take place remotely. This also includes [postponing non-essential on-site visits](#). This means that some members of our community will be working from home more than before. I hope that all of you might be able to periodically move your home workstations outside to benefit from sunlight's effects on our mood and tiredness (by the way, the research finds no gender-specific effect of this phenomenon, so everyone will benefit!).

Sincerely,

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

### Updates from April 10<sup>th</sup> – April 16<sup>th</sup>

#### New Guidelines for Staff Break Areas at CW

As we have reduced seating occupancy due to the need to physically distance in common break locations such as the cafeteria, we are seeing a significant number of staff in lobby areas and patient and family dedicated spaces eating meals and taking breaks. These spaces have become crowded and have reduced the ability for patients and families to wait safely for care or to safely utilize these spaces while in our care. We seek support from everyone to mitigate continued use of these spaces by staff.

- **staff may** take designated breaks in the cafeteria, outdoor spaces, and TACC meeting rooms dedicated to staff breaks between 11:00 and 14:00 **weekdays, evenings and weekends**.
- **staff may not** take breaks in lobbies, stairwells and spaces dedicated to patients and families such as family lounges or breastfeeding spaces. **This applies to weekdays, weekends and evenings**.

**Managers, please share this information with your teams. In particular, those regularly going on site.**

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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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## 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

### [Arthritis Society of Canada Extends Strategic Operating Grant LOI Deadline](#)

The Arthritis Society of Canada has extended the deadline for Strategic Operating Grant Letters of Intent to April 23, 2021. The Operating Grant is eligible for research in: Arthritis pain, Osteoarthritis, Inflammatory arthritis, Childhood arthritis, and work-related arthritis. The grant award is \$100,000 annually for up to 3 years (\$300,000 total).

### [CIHR Institute of Gender and Health Request Feedback on Sex & Gender Modules Survey](#)

CIHR IGH is request feedback to improve modules by completing our Sex & Gender Training for integrating sex & gender into the research module. Click on the [Sex & Gender Modules Survey](#) to share your feedback.

## NEW+RELEVANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES (4/10 – 4/16)

- International Development Research Centre – [Advancing gender analysis and women’s leadership in STEM fields](#) – EOI(4/22)
- OVCAN-Cancer Research Society – [Strategic Partnership Grant Competition](#) – LOI(4/29), Full(7/6)
- Canada Research Chairs – [Canada Research Chair \(Tier 1 & 2\)](#) – UBC(4/30), Full(5/24)
- SSHRC – [Connection Grant](#) – 5/1
- Gynecologic Cancer Initiative – [Clinical Trials Accelerating Grants Program](#) – LOI(5/3), Full(7/5)
- Rethink/Pfizer – [Improve the care of patients living with metastatic breast cancer](#) – Full(5/13)

- MSFHR – [Reach Program](#) – Full(6/4)
- MSFHR – [Convening & Collaborating Program](#) – Full(6/4)
- CIHR – [Team Grant: Indigenous Gender and Wellness Team Grant](#) – NOI(6/22), Full(7/29)

### COVID-19 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- 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?

#### Clinical Trials BC hosts, “ASK US: Communicating Study Results with Clinical Trial Participants”

Register [here](#) for this event focused on best practice recommendation for communicating results with clinical trial participants.

Date: Thursday April 22, 2021

Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm Pacific Time

Featuring: Anita David and Marc Saunders

For more information, visit: <https://www.clinicaltrialsbc.ca/event/communicating-study-results/>

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#### “Picture a Scientist”

On behalf of BC Children's Hospital Research Institute & Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute, you're invited to join us for a virtual screening of [PICTURE A SCIENTIST](#) and a post-screening discussion.

PICTURE A SCIENTIST is a feature-length documentary film chronicling the groundswell of researchers who are writing a new chapter for women scientists. A biologist, chemist and geologist lead viewers on a journey deep into their own experiences in the sciences, overcoming brutal harassment, institutional discrimination, and years of subtle slights to revolutionize the culture of science. From cramped laboratories to spectacular field stations, we also encounter scientific luminaries who provide new perspectives on how to make science itself more diverse, equitable, and open to all. [Movie Trailer](#) | *Run Time – 97 Minutes.*

#### \*\*\*Join the Virtual Screening\*\*\*

From **Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm** to **Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm**, registered participants will have access to a virtual screening room to watch PICTURE A SCIENTIST online. Participants can watch this independently anytime within that 72-hour period.

#### [Register for the Virtual Screening](#)

#### \*\*\*Participate in the Post-Screening Discussion\*\*\*

On **Thursday, May 13, 12:00 – 1:00 pm**, all participants are invited to join us virtually for a panel discussion showcasing the important contributions to research from four women in our local research

community and the changing culture of science.

Panelists include: [Dr. Veronica Hirsch-Reinshagen](#), [Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose](#), [Dr. Wendy Robinson](#) & [Dr. Marianne Vidler](#). Moderated by [Dr. Lori Brotto](#).

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### Share Your Pandemic Experiences: Answer the SPEAK Survey

British Columbians across the province are invited to share their experiences as part of this [year's Survey on Population Experiences, Action and Knowledge \(SPEAK\)](#): Your story, our future.

[Last year's survey](#) drew close to 400,000 responses. The focus of this year's survey is on how our behaviours and experiences have changed over the course of the pandemic, the barriers that may exist to vaccinations, and how people can be supported to recover from the effects of the pandemic. To take part, go to the [secure SPEAK website](#). The survey takes 15 – 20 minutes and will remain open until **May 6, 2021**.

## Staff Resources

### PHSA Updates

#### New education conversation session added: Allyship

- Join us for an open conversation about allyship in support of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) community.
- Be prepared to join the discussion about what being an ally means to you:
  - What have you done to learn about this topic?
  - Have you witnessed microaggressions?
  - What will you do to be a better ally? What is performative allyship?
- [Register now](#) on LearningHub: April 28, 2021 from 12 – 1 p.m.

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

- 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.

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

- Self-serve medical face mask dispensers are installed 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.

#### **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.