We are pleased to share results from round two of the Child Health and Wellness Grand Challenge Catalyst competition.

Supported by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) and Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation, these awards kickstart innovative interdisciplinary teams to address Grand Challenges in Child Health and Wellness. Reviewers were impressed and inspired by the incredible submissions from Child Health and Wellness teams across the academy and our wider community.

Nine interdisciplinary teams received catalyst awards: three Branch Awards of $200,000 each and six Seedling Awards of $50,000 each. There were 39 proposals submitted. A huge thank you to our diverse team of academic and community reviewers with a special thank you to reviewers from the Women and Children’s Health Research Institute at the UofA.

Congratulations to the following awardees and their teams:

**Branch Catalyst Awards:** Drs. Miranda Fidler-Benaoudia, Bruce MacLaurin and Laura Sycuro.
Congratulations to Dr. Carly McMorris on receiving the Kids Brain Health Network Early Career Investigator and Mentorship Award recognizing her research excellence in neurodevelopmental disability and community-partnered research. Dr. McMorris is an Associate Professor at the Werklund School of Education whose research focuses on improving the well-being of children and youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Her research focuses on identifying why the majority of children and youth with NDDs experience mental health issues, such as anxiety, depression and suicidality. She identifies and adapts evidence-based interventions that can improve mental

Seedling Catalyst Awards: Drs. Tito Daodu, Charlene Elliott, Derya Sargin, Li-Fang (Jack) Chu, Cynthia Seow and Maria Santana.

View catalyst award projects

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT AND PATIENT ENGAGED RESEARCH

Congratulations to Drs. Deborah Marshall, Susa Benseler and Gillian Currie who were awarded a European Transnational Research on Rare Diseases Team Grant of $4.6 million. Producing an Arthritis Value-Framework with Economic Evidence – Paving the Way for Rare Childhood Diseases (PAVE) will integrate large national datasets to provide evidence on the socio-economic impacts of living with a rare disease. PAVE includes six research teams from Germany, Canada, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and Israel who will partner with patient and family advocacy organizations – a first of its kind partnership between the national Canadian patient organization Cassie and Friends, the European Network for Children with Arthritis (ENCA) and the Israeli Family Organizations.

Young adults living with JIA, recent graduates of the Patient and Community Engagement Research (PaCER) Program through Continuing Education at UCalgary, will participate. Read More

MEMBER AWARDS

Congratulations to Dr. Carly McMorris on receiving the Kids Brain Health Network Early Career Investigator and Mentorship Award recognizing her research excellence in neurodevelopmental disability and community-partnered research. Dr. McMorris is an Associate Professor at the Werklund School of Education whose research focuses on improving the well-being of children and youth with neurodevelopmental disabilities.
Welcome to Dr. Mary Dunbar who is joining the Child Brain and Mental Health Program at ACHRI. Dr. Dunbar is a Pediatric Neurologist and Assistant Professor in Pediatrics. Dr. Dunbar’s research includes the epidemiology of fetal and neonatal acquired injury including risk factors, early identification, treatment, and family supports. Her goal is to improve our understanding of why some infants are particularly vulnerable to injuries and complications such as seizures and epilepsy. View Profile

CHIR FUNDING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Drs. Deborah Dewey, Lois Donovan and Josephine Ho on their CIHR project grant to study: Examining Executive Function and Behavioural Difficulties in Children of Mothers with Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) (CONCEPTT Kids). The project will follow mother-child dyads from a multicentre randomized control trial of continuous glucose monitoring in type 1 diabetes (T1D) during pregnancy. This cohort provides a unique opportunity to evaluate the association between direct fetal exposure to maternal glucose and childhood neurodevelopmental outcomes. This research seeks to find focused management strategies for expectant parents to
Congratulations to Dr. Benedikt Hallgrímsson's PhD student in Medical Sciences, Cassidy Da Silva, who won 3rd place in the 2022 McCaig Institute Three Minute Thesis Competition for her presentation "The developmental-genetics of sex differences in human faces". Her thesis project contributes to understanding sex differences in human facial shape by exploring how specific genes and sex hormones interact to produce patterns of sexually dimorphic traits. All the best in the UCalgary 3MT competition later this month!

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Help, Hope and Healing for Ukrainian Children

Armed conflicts like that which we are seeing in Ukraine put children and youth and those who care for them in direct danger on the frontlines. Ukraine is a nation comparable in population to Canada – home to 7.5 million children. Like Canada, children’s healthcare is delivered by a diverse network of healthcare organizations, including twenty children’s hospitals. Many of these organizations are now delivering care in war-like circumstances.

Children’s Healthcare Canada and the Pediatric Chairs of Canada are collaborating with UNICEF Canada to facilitate a fundraising initiative to address several urgent children’s healthcare priorities in Ukraine. Donations will be welcome to help UNICEF meet identified needs in Ukraine. Learn more

HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACT FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Deborah Marshall is leading a national training program that provides postdoctoral trainees opportunities to work alongside health system leaders to apply their advanced research skills to address pressing and complex health system challenges. The Health System Impact Fellowship (HISF) National Cohort Training Program (NCTP) is a two-year initiative that brings together a diverse set of perspectives with health system leaders and emerging leaders across academia and the health care delivery, public, not-for-profit, and private sectors. Read more

Last week, a National Cohort Retreat provided an exclusive opportunity for networking, learning and collaboration among HSI Fellows and Alumni, Health System Leaders and Academics.

TRAINEE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Dr. Benedikt Hallgrímsson's PhD student in Medical Sciences, Cassidy Da Silva, who won 3rd place in the 2022 McCaig Institute Three Minute Thesis Competition for her presentation "The developmental-genetics of sex differences in human faces". Her thesis project contributes to understanding sex differences in human facial shape by exploring how specific genes and sex hormones interact to produce patterns of sexually dimorphic traits. All the best in the UCalgary 3MT competition later this month!
CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. LAURA SYCuro, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MICROBIOLOGY IMMUNOLOGY AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON HER RECENT PUBLICATION IN NPJ BIOFILMS AND MICROBIOMES: "PROTEASE ACTIVITIES OF VAGINAL PORPHYROMONAS SPECIES DISRUPT COAGULATION AND EXTRACELLULAR MATRIX IN THE CERVICOVAGINAL NICHE."

Dr. Sycuro’s team is exploring how the presence of bacteria associated with the common vaginal affliction bacterial vaginosis (BV) correlates with increased risk of preterm birth. Preterm birth affects 8% of pregnancies in Canada and is a leading cause of infant and child mortality worldwide.

The long-term goal is to identify new diagnostic markers and treatment strategies that safely correct microbial imbalances before they trigger early labor. Dr. Sycuro’s postdoctoral trainee Dr. Karen Lithgow wrote a blog post to further disseminate these findings.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Brain Canada: Cancer Research Society Translational Research Grants**
This program is designed to fund translational research that advances effective translation and application of knowledge of brain cancer across the expanse of pre-clinical, clinical and health services delivery domains to improve patient outcomes.
**Deadline: March 16, 2022 (Registration)**
[Details](#)

**UCeed Child Health and Wellness Fund**
This program is an early-stage investment fund that accelerates UCalgary and community-based startup companies to advance problem solving research in child and maternal health to create positive health impacts for children and families.
Opportunity Fund (Up to $150,000 investment)
Growth Fund (Up to $300,000 investment)
**Deadline: Friday, March 18, 2022**
[Details](#)

**Alberta Innovates: Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System (PRIHS) 7**
This program is designed to align the knowledge production efforts of researchers with the evidence needs of the health system through the implementation of promising solutions to priority health system challenges in collaboration with SCN's and Integrated Provincial Programs.
**Deadline: Monday, April 5, 2022**
[Details](#)
The Arthritis Society - Strategic Operating Grants
The Strategic Operating Grant program provides funding to support research proposals aligned with the Arthritis Society's priorities. The Arthritis Society’s new Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Accelerating Impact - Research Strategy aims to identify research avenues that focus on areas of highest priority to patients
**Deadline: Thursday, April 7, 2022 (RSO Pre-Application Deadline)**

Sick Kids New Investigator Research Grant in Child and Youth Health
This program provides support to child health researchers early in their careers so that they can compete with more senior investigators for research grants. Grant recipients may obtain up to three years of support for research in the biomedical, clinical, health systems and services, population and public health sectors.
**Deadline: Friday, April 13, 2022 (Note: Updated Deadline)**

CIHR Pediatric Cancer Consortium
The Consortium will advance a shared vision to collaborate and produce research to influence policy and practice predicated on better science, better access, and better coordination to improve lives of pediatric cancer patients and their families/caregivers.
**Deadline: Thursday, April 21, 2022**

CIHR Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) Report 2021: Future of Public Health
This funding opportunity will support research on the population and public health priorities identified in the 2021 CPHO Annual Report with a portion of the funding reserved for Early Career Researchers.
**Deadline: Friday, April 29, 2022**

E-Rare-6 Joint Transnational Call (2022)
This program is committed to expanding the diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases by bringing together interdisciplinary teams of researchers from across Canada and the European Community to collaborate for better health outcomes for the rare disease patient community. The topic of the call is development of new analytic tools and pathways to accelerate diagnosis and facilitate diagnostic monitoring of rare diseases.
**Deadline: Friday, June 10, 2022**

Arthritis Society 2022 Ignite Innovation Grants
The goal of the Innovation program is to support the development and testing of transformative, paradigm-shifting, concepts and approaches to address critical
barriers to progress in arthritis research, challenge our understanding of arthritis and its management, and generate novel approaches to confront the challenges we face in defeating arthritis and delivering the best evidence-informed care possible.

**Deadline: Thursday, June 23, 2022 (RSO Internal)**

**Details**

**Mental Health in the Early Years - Implementation Science Team Grants**
The goal of this program is to fund implementation science research that enhances our understanding of how to improve the systematic and equitable implementation of evidence-based interventions for young children (girls, boys and gender diverse children ages 0-5) and their caregivers.

**Deadline: Thursday, June 23, 2022**

**Details**

Visit ACHRI website for funding opps.

**TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Bloorview Research Institute: Pursuit Award 2022**
This program recognizes PhD students and recent alumni for their outstanding contributions to and achievements in childhood disability research.

**Deadline: Friday, April 15, 2022**

**Details**

**Arthritis Society Training Postdoctoral Fellowship 2022**
The Postdoctoral Fellowship program provides support for postdoctoral fellows to engage in research that is in an area of clear relevance to arthritis and the Arthritis Society’s new Strategic Plan 2020-2025: Accelerating Impact - Research Strategy.

**Deadline: Wednesday, April 13, 2022**

**Details**

**NOMIS & Science Young Explorer Award 2022**
The award is presented for outstanding research performed by the applicant as described in a 1,000-word essay.

**Deadline: Sunday, May 15, 2022**

**Details**

Visit ACHRI website for trainee funding opps.

Trainees: if you haven't done so already please complete the ACHRI Trainee Registration Form.

**EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

**Neonatal Grand Rounds**

**Intratracheal Administration of Surfactant and Budesonide Combination in Comparison to Surfactant for Prevention of Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia**
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
4 - 5 pm
Dr. Carlos Fajardo
Register

Paediatric Grand Rounds
State of Adolescent Health Care in 2022
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
8:30 - 9:30 am
Drs. April Elliott, Jorge Pinzon, Katie Soper, Ellie Vyver
Register

Campus Alberta Neuroscience
Successes in Neuroscience Symposium
Wednesday, March 16, 2022
11 am - 5:30 pm
Drs. Darrrren Derksen, Adam Kirton, Bonnie Kaplan, Catherine Lebel
Register

Joint UofA and UofC Pediatric Grand Rounds
Accelerating Evidence into Practice Partnering with the Healthcare System to Test then Scale and Spread Innovations
Thursday, March 17, 2022
8 - 9 am
Drs. Debbie McNeil, Karen Benzies & Matthew Hicks
Register

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Health Professions Education: Identity, Intersectionality, and Praxis
Thursday, March 17, 2022
10:30 - 11:45 am
Register

Child Health and Wellness Seminar
Do We Need one Another? The Relationship Between Social Support and Health in Rural Nicaragua
Monday, March 21, 2022
8:30 - 9:30 am
Register

ATTACH Webinar Series
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): Mitigating the Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences to Reduce Early Childhood Trauma
Friday, March 25, 2022
12 - 1 pm
Dr. Lubna Anis
Owerko Neurodevelopmental Clinical Rounds
Sad, Mad, and Feeling Had: A Multi-wave Study of the Strengths and Vulnerabilities of Alberta Youth During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Wednesday, April 6, 2022
12 - 1 pm
Dr. Kelly Schwartz
Register

Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
NextGen EDI Data Symposium
Friday, April 8, 2022 & Monday, April 11, 2022
Dr. Malinda Smith
Register

Garrod Symposium 2022
Precision Medicine in IEMs
Thursday, May 12, 2022 - Saturday, May 14, 2022
Register

Canadian Women in Medicine Conference
Thursday, June 2, 2022 - Saturday, June 4, 2022 (Victoria, BC or Virtual)
Register

For all events visit the ACHRI calendar

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Please send discoveries, research publications, and grants to Fiona Mackenzie at r4k@ucalgary.ca

Visit us:
research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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