

December 21, 2022



Dear Child Health and Wellness Research family,

Thank you for all that you do!

As we wrap up 2022, we want to send a huge thank you for your brilliant, innovative work across all areas of research, education and care, and for putting children, families and communities at the heart of your work.

Thank you to our trainees, research staff and collaborators across campus, AHS and in the community. Your important contributions and dedication continue to improve the lives of children and families locally and globally.

Stay safe and well – we look forward to 2023!

Susa for the ACHRI team

2022 CHILD HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESEARCH RETREAT



The **2022 Child Health and Wellness Research Retreat** welcomed over 200 researchers, trainees and community partners. It was fantastic to gather in person to learn from each other and celebrate our diverse research community!

We were thrilled to have a fantastic agenda of incredible speakers. We were honored to have **Elders Reg and Rose Crowshoe** with us to bless our gathering for the retreat. Three incredible keynote speakers shared their wisdom, perspectives, and practices: **Dr. Michael Hart**, **Dr. Bukola Salami** and **Jon Cornish**. Recordings of these inspiring presentations will be available in January.

Finally we were immensely grateful to have **Alex Mertens** share her experience of how the TREXO Robotic walker is supporting her mobility and **Milan Heck** to share her cancer journey and the hope that translational research has brought to her treatment and care.

We would appreciate your feedback to help ACHRI plan future retreats. The **survey** will take 5 minutes.

Deadline: Wednesday, December 21 at 11:59 pm. Enter to win one of three \$25 prizes!

TRAINEE RESEARCH RETREAT PRESENTATIONS



Thank you to the ACHRI Trainee Association (ACHRITA) for organizing the Retreat Trainee presentations and competition. All submitted trainee videos can be viewed [here](#).

Sending a big congratulations to all trainee presenters!

Live Presentation Winners:

"Developing multitargeting Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cell therapies to treat Glioblastoma (GBM)" - Laura Mah

"Correction of Autologous HSPCs with Novel Adenine Base Editing in CD3 σ SCID (CAHN-EDIT-CD3 σ)" - Dr. Bradley Prince

Video Presentation Winner:

"Cerebral small vessel disease and the developmental origins of stroke" - Merry-Faye Granff

2022 BANTING FELLOWSHIPS

A huge congratulations goes out to the three outstanding ACHRI postdoctoral scholars on receiving a **2022 Banting Fellowship**. We are proud to celebrate that all three UCalgary recipients were ACHRI trainees and had a shared theme focusing on maternal and early childhood health. [Read more](#).

Congratulations to **Dr. Karen V.**

Lithgow (supervisor: **Dr. Laura Sycuro**, PhD, MSc): Proteolytic Remodelling of Uterine Tissues as a Trigger of Infection-Induced Preterm Labour



Congratulations to **Dr. Marcel van de Wouw** (supervisor: **Dr. Gerald Giesbrecht**): The Role of Gut Microbes in Prenatal Mental Health and Early Life Behavioural Outcomes in Infants

Congratulations to **Dr. Anna Funk**(supervisor: **Dr. Amy Metcalfe**): Outcomes of Pregnant Women and Infants with SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine and Infection Exposure



SUPPORTING YOUTH WITH EATING DISORDERS

When youth with an eating disorder reach the age of 18, they are typically required to move to adult treatment. To support this transition in care, **Dr. Gina Dimitropoulos** and colleagues will be establishing and implementing a standardized approach to support youth as they transfer to adult services.

TransitionED: Co-Designing and Implementing Canadian Practice Guidelines for Transitions for Youth and Young Adults with Eating Disorder is a national project bringing together



researchers, policy-makers, decision-makers and young people and their families from eating disorder programs across Canada. These key stakeholders will identify potential changes to services and policies that could better support youth in making a successful transition to adulthood and adult-focused services. Stakeholders will work together to implement the newly developed guidelines, including service-level interventions in a variety of settings. [Read more.](#)

With thanks: Zoltan Varadi, Faculty of Social Work

DONOR HUMAN MILK AS CLINICAL INTERVENTION



Dr. Merilee Brockway's research focuses on infant feeding, specifically breast milk and donor human milk's impact on health outcomes for vulnerable infants with adverse early life exposures. "I'm looking at using donor human milk instead of formula to see if we can keep the microbiome fairly homeostatic or normal and even if we can repair it, reducing the damage on the microbiome. It's kind of short-term, and then I want to see if that, in turn, relates to different health outcomes" says Dr. Brockway. [Read more.](#)

NEUROCRITICAL CARE AS AN AREA OF FOCUSED COMPETENCE

The **Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada** has formally recognized the **Neonatal Neurocritical Care** as an Area of Focused Competence discipline for Neonatology and Pediatric Neurology. The Calgary Neonatal

Neurocritical care training program is named after Dr. Harvey Sarnat who invented the Sarnat encephalopathy scale in 1976 and still been used to date around the world.

Neonatal neurocritical care represents an important and rapidly expanding area of patient care, its recognition as an Area of Focused Competence will enable the dissemination of knowledge and innovative treatments.

TRAINEE SUCCESS



Congratulations to **Dr. Perri Tutelman** who received a **Trainee Career Development Award** from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study based at St. Jude. Dr. Tutelman, a postdoctoral fellow supervised by **Dr. Fiona Schulte** and **Dr. Melanie Noel**, was awarded for her project “Longitudinal Patterns and Predictors of Cancer Fears in Survivors of Childhood Cancer” which will characterize trajectories of fear of cancer recurrence and fears of future health within the childhood cancer survivor study.

NOW INNOVATING PODCAST

'How nursing, research, and a passion for mental health inspired a path to social innovation'.

Tune in to 'Now Innovating', a podcast dedicated to sharing the stories of UCalgary researchers moving knowledge to practice and creating impact through social innovation. This month's episode features ACHRI Trainee, **Julia Imanoff**, a registered nurse and Eyes High doctoral scholar in the Faculty of Nursing. Julia wants to help humanity flourish by promoting healthy social connections, especially those between parent and child. She studies factors that influence those connections, which paired with her clinical expertise, has allowed her to co-found the social enterprise: The brief Crisis Therapy Institute. [Listen Here.](#)

NEW ACHRI MEMBER

Welcome to **Dr. Adetayo Adeleye** who has joined the Care Transformation for Children Program. Dr. Adeleye's research focus is on pediatric sleep medicine with emphasis on sleep related breathing disorders in young children, children with complex congenital respiratory anomalies, neuromuscular conditions and respiratory diagnoses that predispose children to breathing challenges during sleep. He is also engaged in quality improvement work to improve sleep care delivery to children by training and supporting community practitioners to provide sleep care and liaising with adult sleep providers to ensure the successful transition of pediatric sleep patients. [Read more.](#)

WELCOME NEW ACHRI STAFF

We are so pleased to welcome **Dalia Grobovaite** who has recently joined the ACHRI team as a Manager, Administration and will be supporting Dr. Susa Benseler. Dalia has a wealth of knowledge and experience in administration and management in a university setting. Being a lifelong learner herself and just recently wrapping up her graduate studies at the UCalgary, she has spent over ten years working in post-secondary institutions. She has supported senior leaders in various areas and departments and is happy to share her expertise in the new role. Dalia enjoys travelling and is a huge fan of figure skating and horse riding.



HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACT FELLOWSHIP WEBINAR

Recording and **presentation slides** are available from the **CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship (HSIF) UCalgary Information Session** held on December 13, 2022.

The session provided information on the HSIF program as well as supports and resources available to potential applicants.

Please share with your networks.

ELF ON THE SHELF EXPLAINS THE BRAIN



Check out the Alberta Children's Epilepsy Program [Etsy shop](#). The team has created a "Elf on the Shelf" memory game to provide a fun and interactive way for kids and families to learn about the brain and raise awareness around pediatric epilepsy. Brainy, the "Elf on the Shelf" explains the brain in the game, which is available in virtual and physical board games formats. Board games will be preordered and delivered prior to Christmas.

All funds will go to the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.

For more brain fun follow: [@ExcitedBrains](#) on Twitter, FB and Instagram. Through the month of December, Dr. Snuggles will explore what happens at a children's hospital. A great way for families to learn and raise awareness of what goes in a specialized pediatric hospital. **Please share with your networks.**



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR Planning Grants for Implementing Healthy Urban Policy

This program supports collaboration between city leaders and researchers and co-development of activities related to implementing and evaluating interventions in urban settings that would improve health and wellbeing.

Deadline: Monday, January 2, 2023

[Details](#)

AHS Critical Care Strategic Clinic Network - 2022 New Investigator Seed Grant

This program supports research proposals to provide critically ill patients with better care and better health outcomes. Proposals can target science and innovation in any part of the continuum. A priority area of interest is supporting critical care staff facing moral distress/injury and burnout.

Deadline: Friday, January 6, 2023 (Intent to apply)

[Details](#)

Simons Foundation Neuroscience Collaborations – Call for Vision Statements 2023

This call seeks vision statements to identify new, emerging breakthrough areas of neuroscience that are poised for high-impact funding by the Simons Foundation.

Deadline: Wednesday, January 11, 2023

[Details](#)

Lloyd J. Old STAR Program

This program provides grants of \$1.25 million over 5 years to mid-career scientists. This long-term funding is not tied to a specific research project, but aims to provide flexibility for investigators to explore outside-the-box and disruptive avenues of research.

Deadline: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 (RSO Internal)

Details

2023 SSHRC Insight Development Grant

These grants enable the development of new research questions, as well as experimentation with new methods, theoretical approaches and/or ideas. Funding is provided for short-term research development projects of up to two years that are proposed by individuals or teams.

Deadline: Thursday, January 19, 2023 (RSO Internal)

Details

CIHR dedicated funding for Collaboration with the European Commission - Joint Transnational Calls.

This funding will support the involvement of Canadian researchers in multinational research consortia in the following areas: neurodegenerative diseases, rare diseases, and antimicrobial resistance.

Details

Contact [Brandi Povitz](#) to confirm CIHR and RSO Internal deadline(s).

Visit ACHRI [website](#) for funding opportunities.

TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada - Studentship Grant

This program supports research for adult or pediatric brain tumour research that is Basic, Clinical or Translational in nature.

Deadline: Friday, January 6, 2022

Details

CIHR – Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) - Brain Star Award

The specific objectives of the Brain Star program are to: promote research careers in neuroscience, mental health and addiction in Canada and stimulate the involvement of students and trainees in the Institute and increase awareness of INMHA activities among students and trainees.

Deadline: Sunday, January 15, 2022

Details

Visit ACHRI [website](#) for trainee funding opportunities.

If you haven't done so please complete the [ACHRI Trainee Registration Form](#).

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Cumming School of Medicine

Implicit Bias in Medicine

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

1 - 4 pm

[Register](#)

UCalgary School of Public Policy

Disability-Inclusive Climate Action: Principles, Progress & Pathways

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

12 - 1 pm

Dr. Sébastien Jodoin

[Register](#)

7th Annual Global Child Health Virtual Conference

Children's Healthcare in a Changing World

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Drs. Jean-François Lemay and Nalini Singhal

[Register](#)

Global Child Health Unit and AHS Indigenous Wellness Core

Indigenous-Themed Simulation Course: Practice for Change

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

1- 5 pm

Contact globalchildhealth@ucalgary.ca to register

Child Health and Wellness Seminar

Co-developing Evidence-Based Knowledge Translation Tools for Parents:

Overview of a Research Program

Monday, January 16, 2023

8:30 - 9:30 am

Drs. Lisa Hartling & Shannon Scott

[Register](#)

ATTACH Webinar Series

Trauma-Informed Approach to Research

Friday, January 27, 2023

12 - 1 pm

Dr. Caroline Piotrowski

[Register](#)

Pediatric Infectious Disease Conference

Friday, February 10 - Sunday, February 12, 2023

Banff, Alberta

[Register](#)

For all events visit the [ACHRI calendar](#).

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

Visit us:
research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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