



DECEMBER 13, 2021



Dear Child Health Research family,

Thank you for all that you do!

We are so proud of all of you – our wonderful and innovative community of child health and wellness scholars! As we wrap up 2021, we want to thank you for your brilliant, innovative work across all areas of research, education and care, and for putting children and families at the heart of your work. Thank you for your commitment to trainees, research staff and important collaborations with your campus, AHS and community partners. We wish you and your families a peaceful and magical-filled holiday.

Stay safe and well – we look forward to 2022!

Susa for the ACHRI team

WELCOME NEW ACHRI DIRECTOR

We are thrilled to welcome **Dr. François Bernier** as ACHRI's **Scientific Director of Precision Health**. Dr.



Bernier is the head of Medical Genetics, a professor in the departments of Medical Genetics and Pediatrics and the section head of Clinical Genetics. His research focuses on the identification of genes for rare genetic disorders and the translational application of genomic technologies to the clinic. The unifying theme is to explore the origins of human rare diseases and birth defects to improve health outcomes. His role at ACHRI is focused on advancing precision health across programs, and ending the diagnostic odyssey for children and families. [View profile](#)

NEW MEMBERS OF AMERICAN PEDIATRIC SOCIETY



Congratulations to **Drs. Stephen Freedman and Abhay Lodha** for being elected as members of the 2022 American Pediatric Society!

Dr. Freedman is a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine and holds the ACHF Professorship in Child Health and Wellness. Freedman's work seeks to improve the care of children who suffer from acute infectious illnesses.

Dr. Lodha is a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Community Health Sciences and is a Staff Neonatologist at AHS. His research hopes to advance long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes for premature infants. [Read more](#)

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Welcome to our new ACHRI member, **Dr. Juan Pablo Appendino**! Appendino is a clinical associate professor and pediatric neurologist in the Department of Pediatrics. Joining the Child Brain & Mental Health Program, Appendino explores traditional and alternative treatments for epilepsy as well as neonatal seizures, intensive care neuro-monitoring and genetic-epilepsy. [View profile](#)

Welcome to **Dr. Erin Brennand** who is joining the Maternal and Child Health Program at ACHRI! Brennand is an associate professor in the departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Community Health Sciences. Brennand's research seeks to improve the health of women across their lifespan, with a strong focus on the pre and post-pregnancy states. [View profile](#)

GLOBAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



Congratulations to **Dr. Nalini Singhal** on receiving the Global Health award from the Department of Pediatrics and being elected to the newly formed Canadian Association for Global Health! Singhal is a professor of Pediatrics, co-founder of the Global Child Health Unit, and Canadian PI for the \$3.1M Simulation for Life Africa scale up project. With the American Academy of Pediatrics, she co-developed the Helping Babies Survive programs that include Helping Babies Breathe, Essential Care for Every Baby, and Essential Care for Small Baby. These hands-on low-tech simulation-based programs are used in over 80 countries and have demonstrated an effect on decreasing newborn mortality and

stillbirth rates. In 2021, she was asked to represent the International Pediatric Association on the WHO working group on Kangaroo Mother Care.

RESEARCH INNOVATION



An investment of more than \$22 million through the Alberta government's Research Capacity Program will support research infrastructure and technology development at the University of Calgary. These projects will transform new knowledge into value for Albertans by supporting leading-edge discoveries in health and wellness, infectious diseases, machine learning, energy storage solutions, clean energy technology, quantum computing, wireless telecommunications and more. One of the projects, co-led by ACHRI's Dr. Signe Bray, focuses on imaging the development of brain circuits for early detection and intervention of mental illness.

"Unravelling the complexities of brain disorders requires high precision. This new infrastructure will allow UCalgary's outstanding brain and mental health researchers to generate more accurate and precise images of the human brain and ultimately lead to better diagnosis and treatment for brain disorders," says Dr. Bray.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the announcement](#)

UCALGARY EMPLOYMENT EQUITY CENSUS SURVEY

Available online through the UCalgary Employee Self-Service, data from this Census will support evidence-based decision-making by allowing UCalgary to identify and address any inequities and patterns that may impede an individual's success in employment. [Take 5 minute survey](#)

MATERNAL INFANT CHILD & YOUTH RESEARCH NETWORK

MICYRN is inviting interested candidates to apply for membership to an Expert Group in their child health sub-speciality area to provide advice on conducting feasible and

scientifically sound pediatric clinical trials. In addition, this call will help develop a database of investigators to be contacted for possible site participation in studies or mentorship opportunities. [Details](#)

Do you conduct pediatric clinical trials? The Maternal Infant Child & Youth Research Network wants to hear from you to identify barriers when conducting these types of trials. [Take 7 minute survey](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Government of Alberta: Ministry of Community and Social Services

Civil Society Fund Round 2

This fund provides \$20 million over 3 years to expand civil society's capacity to address social problems facing Albertans.

Deadline: Friday, December 17

[Details](#)

ACHRI-WCHRI Team-Based Research Development Fund

ACHRI is partnering with the [Women and Children's Hospital Research Institute \(WCHRI\)](#) to support the development of Alberta-led research teams focused on maternal-child health.

Deadlines: Friday, January 7, 2022

Friday, March 4, 2022

[Details](#)

Hotchkiss Brain Institute Hopewell M.I.N.D. Prize

This prize will serve as a catalyst to launch innovative, high-risk, high-impact research projects in brain and mental health at the University of Calgary.

Deadline: Friday, January 14, 2022

[Details](#)

[Read story](#)

UCeed Child Health Fund

UCeed is a philanthropically powered early-stage investment program that accelerates UCalgary and community-based start-up companies to advance problem-solving research, create jobs and fuel the economy.

Deadline: Friday, January 14, 2022

[Details](#)

Neurosciences Rehabilitation & Vision SCN 2022 Seed Grant Competition

This program supports foundational research in neurosciences, rehabilitation, and vision that transforms patient outcomes and improves the experience of patients and families

Deadline: Monday, January 31, 2022

[Details](#)

Pediatric Health Outcomes Research Program

This program has been established to improve our understanding of the impact of changes in care delivery on children's health outcomes. Resources are being made available by [Women and Children's Hospital Research Institute \(WCHRI\)](#) and ACHRI to

support the development of provincial partnerships that will answer questions that impact child health system changes.

Deadline: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

[Details](#)

Visit ACHRI [website](#) for funding opps

TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ACHRI Graduate Award Competition

Open to graduate students

This competition is administered by the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) and offers various scholarships including Izaak Walton Killam Doctoral Scholarship, Open Doctoral Scholarships, and Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships.

Deadline: Monday, January 10, 2022 at 11:59 pm

[New ACHRI GAC Instructions](#)

Mitacs Elevate Award

Open to postdoctoral fellows

\$55,000 per year for two years

RSO Internal Deadline: Friday, Jan 14, 2022 at 12 pm

[Details](#)

Mitacs Elevate Thematic Award

Open to postdoctoral fellows

\$70,000 per year for two years if the project addresses at least one of the key priority sectors of artificial intelligence, biomanufacturing, clean tech, or quantum science.

RSO Internal Deadline: Friday, Jan 14, 2022 at 12 pm

[Details](#)

Alberta Health Services Critical Care Strategic Clinical Network Summer Studentship Award

Open to undergraduate students

\$7,500 per student over 4 months between May and August 2022 to stimulate an interest in critical care research or clinical practice in critical care medicine.

Deadline: Tuesday, February 1, 2022

[Details](#)

[Application Form](#)

CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship

Open to doctoral trainees and post-doctoral fellows

Stream A: HSI Award for Doctoral Trainees: Up to \$50,000 per year for up to 1 year

Stream B: HSI Awards for post-Doctoral Fellows: Up to \$155,000 total for 2 years

Deadline: Thursday, February 24, 2022

[Details](#)

Charlie Fischer Postdoctoral Fellowship in Advancing Patient and Family Relevant Research

This award was created through a gift honouring Mr. Charlie Fischer by ACHRI SAB Chair Randy Findlay and his wife Claudia – both serve on Alberta Children's Hospital

Foundation (ACHF)'s Patrons' Council. Our thanks to ACHF for partnering on this fellowship.

[Details coming soon](#)

Visit ACHRI [website](#) for trainee funding opps

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Child Health and Wellness Seminar:

The wisdom of silence: What neural stem cells can teach us about neurodevelopmental disorders

Monday, January 10, 2022

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Guang Yang

[Register](#)

Child Health and Wellness Special Seminar:

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant for Sickle Cell Disease: The NIH Experience

Friday, January 14, 2022

8 - 9 am

Dr. Courtney Fitzhugh

[Register](#)

Women and Children's Health Research Institute

CCHCSP Learning Session: How to write a lay abstract

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

11:30 am - 1 pm

Dr. Meghan Riddell

[Register](#)

Child Health and Wellness Research Retreat

Monday, May 2, 2022 at 4:30 pm (Networking Session)

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 from 9 am – 3:30 pm (Research Retreat)

Details to follow

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

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We love to hear your news - please send discoveries, research publications, and grants to r4k@ucalgary.ca

Visit us:

research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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