

April 25, 2022



## WELCOME NEW STAFF



**Jennifer Hodgins** joins ACHRI as **Child Health Data Program Manager**. She brings experience leading teams of quantitative analysts and implementing database technology. Most of all, Jennifer likes to help organizations derive insights from data. She is looking forward to collaborating with ACHRI researchers to identify and deliver fit-for-purpose data solutions. Jennifer is happy to return to the University of Calgary, having previously taught a graduate course in derivatives with the Haskayne School of Business. Outside of work, you can find Jennifer volunteering for local youth sports clubs and contributing to the global data community.

**Debbie Wall** joins us as the ACHRI **Executive Assistant and Administration**

**Manager.** Debbie moved her career from England with NHS University Hospitals and with the Ministry of Defence before arriving in Canada 13 years ago. She has transitioned through AHS Public Health, Surgery, and Department of Pediatrics before being welcomed to the ACHRI team. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family, friends, and fur babies, kayaking/canoeing, hiking, and gardening.



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations **Dr. Stephen Freedman** who has been appointed **Associate Dean, Clinical Trials** effective May 1, 2022. Dr. Freedman has been practising Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary since 2012. He holds the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation's Professorship in Child Health and Wellness and is an acknowledged expert in pediatric acute gastroenteritis, COVID and the conduct of multicentre clinical trials. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts and leads numerous CIHR and NIH funded research initiatives. [Read more.](#)



## COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



# CALGARY EAST ZONE NEWCOMERS COLLABORATIVE

**Anila Lee Yuen**, President and CEO of the Calgary Centre for Newcomers, presented to child health researchers and partners on the inspiring work of the Calgary East Zone Newcomer Collaborative and its holistic response to vulnerable communities in Calgary's East Zone. Its efforts led to converting the city's least vaccinated population to a 99% vaccination rate. The presentation highlighted how partnerships and community were essential to this success. [Access her presentation.](#)

Join us as we celebrate the Alberta Children's Hospital [100 years of hope + healing!](#) In celebration of this major milestone, ACHRI invites you to share your stories of research excellence.



Researchers and Trainees can share stories by emailing [fiona.mackenzie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:fiona.mackenzie@ucalgary.ca) to:

1. Set up a short interview, **OR**
2. E-mail your reflections on these questions (max 250 words)
  - What about your research are you proud of?
  - What inspires you as you look ahead to the next 100 years?
  - How will your work impact children and families?
  - How will the next generation carry your work forward?

Your stories will be shared in the newsletter and across various social platforms from May until December 2022.

## CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

On May 5, the Cumming School of Medicine is celebrating more than 80 UCalgary Med faculty and students whose award-winning achievements received accolades last year – the largest number of honourees to date! Distinguished local and international awards span early career, teaching, research and community. See the full list of awardees, and event details [here](#).

## TRAINEE HIGHLIGHTS



Congratulations to **Rachel Eirich** on her publication in JAMA Psychiatry: [Association of Screen Time With Internalizing and Externalizing Behavior Problems in Children 12 Years or Younger](#). Rachel is a PhD candidate in the Clinical Psychology program, under the supervision of **Dr. Sheri Madigan**. Her research includes the ways and contexts that digital devices are used across family members and how this affects child mental health and development outcomes.

The study found that while screen time duration impacts child mental health it is only one aspect of a child's environment that may contribute to their wellbeing. As a modifiable risk factor, the study encourages high quality screen time (e.g., educational content) and co-viewing when possible.

## PUBLICATION NEWS

Congratulations to **Dr. Gillian England-Mason**, a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Pediatrics, on her first-authored publication with a team of investigators from UCalgary, University of British Columbia, and University of Melbourne: [Prenatal exposure to phthalates and peripheral blood and buccal epithelial DNA methylation in infants: An epigenome-wide association study](#). Dr. England-Mason is currently working with the [Alberta Pregnancy Outcomes and Nutrition \(APrON\)](#) team under the mentorship of **Dr. Deborah Dewey**.



The study, including 152 maternal-infant pairs, is the first to show that prenatal exposure to **phthalates**, plastic chemicals found in food packaging and personal care products, was associated with DNA methylation variation in infants at CpGs annotated to genes associated with endocrine hormone activity, immune function and DNA damage, and neurodevelopment. Findings from this study and future research, will help to determine whether these biomarkers are a mechanism through which phthalates affect long-term health and disease. This work could inform future chemical management plans for phthalates and regulations to protect the health of children and families.

## CRESCENDO IS BACK!



After rave reviews in 2019, it's time for the much-anticipated return of this high-energy musical extravaganza in support of youth mental health care and research in our community. This features a full band, orchestra, chorus and Alberta's top vocal talents from The Beatles, Adele, ABBA, Coldplay and more. You'll want to share this night with friends. Purchase your tickets [now](#).

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **NFRF 2022 Special Call - Research for Postpandemic Recovery**

The goal of this program is to mobilize Canadian-led research efforts that support a more equitable, sustainable and resilient postpandemic reality. It will support projects that directly address one or more of the research priorities outlined in the [UN Research Roadmap for the COVID 19 Recovery](#).

**Deadline: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 (NOI)**

[Details](#)

### **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**

[Details](#)

### **Canadian Cancer Society Accelerator Grants**

This funding opportunity will support the implementation of evidence-based programs, practices, and policies that will improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

**Deadline: May 25, 2022 (Abstract), July 15, 2022 (RSO Full App)**

[Details](#)

### **E-Rare-6 Joint Transnational Call**

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 call is new analytic tools and pathways to accelerate diagnosis and facilitate monitoring of rare diseases.

**Deadline: Friday, June 10, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **2022 Brain Tumour Research Grant Outline & Guidelines**

This program is seeking researchers conducting brain tumour projects in basic, clinical and translational research.

**Deadline: June 17, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **2022 Brain Tumour Research Feature Grant - Pediatric, GBM and Quality of Life**

This program is seeking applications from individual investigators or multidisciplinary teams conducting brain tumour projects in basic, clinical and translational research related to Pediatrics, GBM and Quality of Life.

**Deadline: June 17, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **Arthritis Society 2022 Ignite Innovation Grants**

The goal is to support the 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](#)

### **CIHR Operating Grant: Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) 2022**

This opportunity aims to understand the biomedical, psychological and/or social mechanisms of non-pharmaceutical interventions in order to identify potential target sites for enhanced personalized interventions or a combination of pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions.

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

[Details](#)

### **Mental Health in the Early Years - Implementation Science Team Grants**

The goal 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 (RSO Internal)**

[Details](#)

### **The Arthritis Society - Strategic Operating Grants**

This funding supports research proposals aligned with the Arthritis Society's priorities.

**Deadline: Monday, August 29, 2022 (Full Application RSO Deadline)**

[Details](#)

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

## **TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **2022 - 2023 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships**

This program provides funding to postdoctoral applicants, nationally and internationally, who will positively contribute to the country's economic, social and research based growth.

**Deadline: Sunday, May 1, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **ACHRI Postdoctoral Fellowships**

ACHRI Postdoctoral Fellowships are competitive internal awards providing salary support to trainees pursuing postdoctoral research.

**Deadline: Monday, May 2, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **ACHRI Clinical Research Fellowships**

ACHRI Clinical Research Fellowships are competitive awards intended to provide salary support to eligible trainees who wish to pursue research training during their medical residency or fellowship years.

**Deadline: Monday, May 2, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **Charlie Fischer Fellowship in Advancing Patient and Family-Oriented Research**

This award has been made possible through a gift honouring Charlie Fischer by Randy and Claudia Findlay. It was created to honour the many contributions made by Charlie Fischer toward improving outcomes for children and families through research, education and care.

**Deadline: Monday, May 2, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **Haslam Clinical Research Fellowship in Child Brain Health**

This award has been made possible through the Dr. Robert Haslam Chair Endowment, honouring the late Dr. Bob Haslam, Order of Canada, C.M., the internationally renowned pediatric neurologist at ACH. This Fellowship was created to advance research, create new knowledge, and inspire future leaders in child brain health.

**Deadline: Monday, May 2, 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](#)

### **Human Frontiers in Science Fellowship**

The HFSP fellowship program supports proposals for transformative, interdisciplinary research in the life sciences that address an important problem or a barrier to progress in the field.

**Deadline: Monday, May 16, 2022**

[Details](#)

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

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

## **EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

### **University of Calgary**

#### **Health Research - How to Navigate the IRISS New AHS Module**

Monday, April 25, 2022

12 - 1 pm

Stavey Beck - Senior Consultant, System Dev, Office of Research Services

Becky Wong - Director, Health Systems Access, AHS

[Register](#)

### **Association of American Medical Colleges**

#### **Developing the Next Generation of Physicians to Advance Inclusion, Justice, and Racial Equity**

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

10 - 11:30 am

[Register](#)

### **Mentoring Inclusive Practices for Health Care Professionals: Sexual & Gender Diversity and Inclusion**

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Evan Westfal and Alex Marshall

Institute for Sexual and Minority Studies and Services (UofA)

[Register](#)

### **Alberta SPOR Support Unit**

#### **Shifting the Lens on Girls' and Women's Health: Interdisciplinary Approaches and New Opportunities for Research Capacity Development**

**Friday, April 29, 2022**

10 am - 12 pm

Drs. Sofia Ahmed, Colleen Norris, Amy Metcalfe, Nicole Letourneau

[Register](#)

### **ATTACH Webinar Series**

#### **Qualitative Methods and Normalization Process Theory**

Friday, April 29, 2022

12 - 1 pm

Drs. Kendra Nixon, Nicole Letourneau, Lubna Anis

[Register](#)

### **Child Health and Wellness Seminar**

#### **Human Milk Oligosaccharide Supplementation: Effects on Gut Microbiota and Chronic Disease Risk**

Monday, May 2, 2022

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Erin W. Noye Tuplin

[Register](#)

### **OADR Grant Development Webinars**

#### **Research Metrics: Supporting Claims of Research Impact**

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

10 - 11 am

Kyle Demes; Elsevier's Research Intelligence Consultant in Canada

[Register](#)

### **Canadian Mental Health Association**

#### **Navigating Mental Health Services in Calgary: A Mental Health Week Panel**

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

12 - 1 pm

[Register](#)

### **Owerko Neurodevelopmental Clinical Rounds**

#### **Physical Activity Among People with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities**

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

12 - 1 pm

Dr. Brianne Redquest

[Register](#)

### **Medical Genetics Seminar Series**

#### **CBD 101**

Friday, May 13, 2022

9 - 10 am

Dr. Theresa Wu

[Join Zoom](#) (passcode: 899820)

### **Medical Genetics Seminar Series**

#### **Competence by Design: Introduction to EPAs and Workplace Based Assessments**

Friday, May 27, 2022

Dr. Shirmee Doshi

[Join Zoom](#) (passcode: 506464)

## 2022 Owerko Centre Conference

Thursday, June 7, 2022

9 am - 3:30 pm

[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](mailto:r4k@ucalgary.ca)

**Visit us:**  
[research4kids.ucalgary.ca](http://research4kids.ucalgary.ca)

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