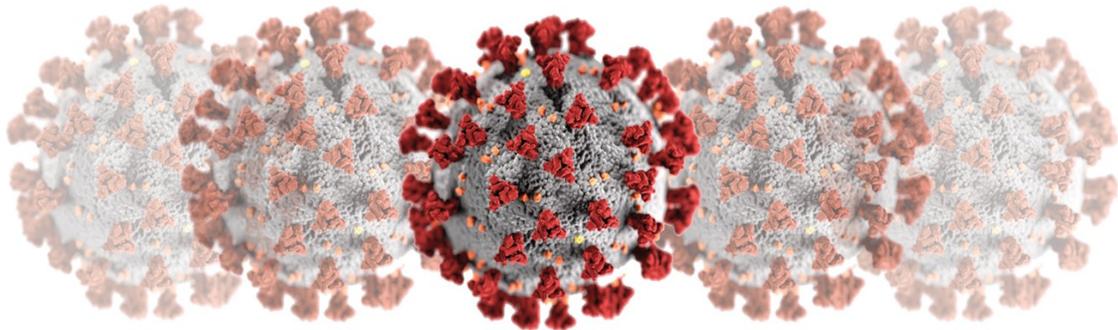




WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 6, 2020

## COVID-19 UPDATE



### Colleagues,

These are difficult times for all of us adjusting to the new normal of COVID-19 in our work and lives. Thank you all for supporting each other.

I have to share very sad news with you. Dr. Robert Haslam passed away last Monday, March 30, 2020. Dr. Haslam was an international leader in Pediatrics and Neurology, working in his early career as Director of the John F. Kennedy Institute and Deputy Chairman of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins. Upon returning to Canada, he served as Pediatrician-in-Chief at the Alberta Children's Hospital from 1975-1986 then as Chairman of Pediatrics and Neurology at the University of Toronto and Pediatrician-in-Chief at the Hospital for Sick Children from 1986-1996.

Dr. Haslam's legacy lives on in the hundreds of trainees he mentored, including several who are now leaders in our Institute and at ACH. His brilliant contributions as a child neurologist, researcher, and leader have been recognized by his induction into the Order of Canada, and most recently by the 2020 Henry Dunn Lifetime

Achievement Award from the Canadian Association of Child Neurology. Our heartfelt condolences to his family. We look forward to gathering to celebrate his life. We are beyond grateful for the many lessons he taught us and the role model and inspiration he was for our community. Campus flags will be lowered today in honour of Dr. Haslam.

**"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Isaac Newton, 1675**

On another note, there has been an exceptional response of research teams rising to the challenge of COVID-19. Our child health and wellness community is so well organized, we already have teams working on COVID including Dr. Freedman's study in emergency rooms world-wide, Dr. Pillai's team developing point of care testing, Dr. Williamson's team modelling COVID spread, and Dr. Wang studying the optimal quarantine period. We are so proud of you and would like to advocate for additional support for your work. **Principal Investigators, can you please notify ACHRI about COVID projects – current and proposed?** [Christina Hirota](#), [Kathy Gratton](#) and [Nicole Romanow](#) are developing a comprehensive list, and are available to support emerging projects, or those underway. Please know that across the research spectrum and far beyond COVID, we are advocating for you and your research.

It is an honour to be part of this incredible community of scholars.

Susa – for the ACHRI team

*We will not publish on Easter Monday April 13 but will return the following Monday April 20. This newsletter is designed to highlight news and build connections between ACHRI faculty, staff and trainees. If you have information you would like shared, please contact Laura Herperger at [laherper@ucalgary.ca](mailto:laherper@ucalgary.ca)*

## RESOURCES DURING COVID-19



Self-assessment for COVID-19 [AHS My Health](#)

Alberta Health Services [Information on COVID-19](#)

UCalgary COVID-19 response [website](#)

**CSM COVID-19 daily updates**

**Research Guide for working in AHS facilities**

**CSM Dept. of Peds Useful links for researchers**

**UCalgary Guidance for Researchers**

**Critical Research Designation Form**

**UCalgary COVID-19 Volunteer Support website**

**UCalgary Campus Community Needs Assessment**

**Resources for our families and parents**



Text COVID19HOPE to 393939 to subscribe.

### **Text COVID-19 Hope**

Alberta Health Services supported by the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation and community partners have launched a text-based program sending subscribers daily text messages to ease stress and anxiety. **Text COVID19Hope to 393939**

### **COVID-19 NSERC grants**

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) is providing up to \$15 million to stimulate collaborations between academic researchers, industry and the public and not-for-profit sectors to address pandemic-related research and technical challenges. Teams can be multidisciplinary, however the major focus should not be medical or clinical research. Support for up to \$50,000 for one-year projects is being made available immediately. Application deadline is June 1.

[Learn more.](#)

### **Clinical Research Fund (CRF) Rapid Response Fund: COVID-related grants**

The University of Calgary/Alberta Health Services **Clinical Research Fund** is accepting applications for COVID-related clinical research. Eligible studies include clinical trials of treatments or models of care, clinical studies of diagnostic tests, clinical studies of PPE or utilization strategies, clinical studies of disinfection modalities for use in clinical environment, and studies evaluating non-pharmacological interventions to decrease transmission. All research must be done wholly or primarily in people and led or co-led at the University of Calgary. Systematic reviews are not eligible.

**Who is eligible to apply?** Any UCalgary faculty member from any Faculty.

**How much funding can I ask for?** Any amount up to \$100,000.

**What co-funding is required?** All grants must include matching funds at a 1:1 ratio or greater in cash, meaning that a funding request to the CRF for \$100,000 would imply a project for which at least \$200,000 in cash is required.

If you have questions please contact the CCCR at [cccr@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cccr@ucalgary.ca).  
For these and other opportunities, please view our external funding [website](#).

## IMAGES FROM THE FRONTLINES



### **Working during COVID-19 at Alberta Children's Hospital**

Dr. Nivez Rasic is a pediatric anesthesiologist and clinical associate professor at the University of Calgary.

She is also the Medical Director of the Vi Riddell Pain Program at the Alberta Children's Hospital. Her clinical work involves providing anesthesia for children and managing acute, complex and chronic pain in youth. Dr. Rasic is also the Co-Chair of the Acute Pain Working Group of the Alberta Pain Strategy. Thank you Dr. Rasic and all of our frontline healthcare professionals for your tireless work!

## PROVIDING DATA FOR COVID-19 TRANSMISSION ANALYSIS



### **Daily updates on a tracker**

Dr. Tyler Williamson, PhD, and his team in the CSM Centre for Health Informatics have developed an interactive dashboard with the best data available to keep Albertans and Canadians informed on the current COVID-19 situation. Visit the tracker at [chi-csm.ca](http://chi-csm.ca).

The tracker asks common questions such as: "What does the current COVID-19 crisis look like across provinces?"  
"How is Canada doing compared to other countries?"  
"Are policy changes making a difference in 'flattening the curve'?"  
Williamson, an assistant professor in Community Health Sciences, is an expert in non-canonical link functions for binomial generalized linear models.

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES DURING COVID-19



### **Webinar - April 6, 1-2 pm Parenting in a time of physical distancing hosted by the UCalgary Chancellor**

Dr. Sheri Madigan, PhD, and Dr. Nicole Racine, PhD, will discuss strategies for promoting parent and child well-being during COVID-19 and recognizing signs of child stress. Please [register here](#).

They will provide tips and strategies for establishing and managing routines, such as balancing children's physical activity, sleep, screen time, school work, and family time.

*Listen to all the episodes of UCalgary COVIDcasts featuring child health researchers Dr. Stephen Freedman, MD, on a global pediatric study of COVID-19 and Dr. Patricia Doyle-Baker, PhD, an expert on exercise and public health.*

## FELLOWSHIPS



### **Mayday Fellowship**

Dr. Kathryn Birnie, PhD, (photo above) and Dr. Nivez Rasic, MD, have been named the 2020 Mayday Fellows, a group of 12 pain experts from across North America selected for a prestigious program focused on communications and advocacy for improved pain care. "These experts have shown their passion for improving pain care and reducing human suffering from acute and chronic pain," said Christina Spellman, the Mayday Fund's executive director.



Rasic (photo above) is the Medical Director of the Vi Riddell Pain & Rehabilitation Program, clinical assistant professor and a pediatric anesthesiologist. Birnie is an assistant professor in anesthesiology, perioperative and pain medicine and the assistant scientific director of Solutions for Kids in Pain (SKIP). Congratulations Drs. Rasic and Birnie!

## PUBLICATIONS



### **Lack of evidence supporting the use of existing suicide assessment tools in youth with autism**

Dr. Carly McMorris, PhD, assistant professor in the Werklund School of Education, and ACHRI trainees Stephanie Howe, Katie Hewitt, and Jessica Baraskewich, published a systematic review examining tools being used to assess for suicidality in children and youth with and without autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Although a large number of young people with ASD experience suicidal thoughts and behaviours, this is the first study to investigate what tools are commonly used to assess suicide risk among young people with ASD.

The researchers searched four databases (PsycINFO, Medline, EMBASE, Web of Knowledge) identifying five tools commonly used to assess for suicide risk in the general population (C-SSRS, PSS, SITBI, SIQ-JR, BSS). The search revealed no suicide risk tools that have been used with children and youth with ASD. These results highlight the lack of available tools used to measure suicidality in children and youth with ASD, and discuss a framework for future research to fill this gap.

This review was published in a special issue focused on suicidality and self-harm in autism in the [Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders](#).

## WELCOME CHILD HEALTH RESEARCHERS

### **New members**

[Dr. Roxanne Goldade, MD](#), a member of the Child Brain & Mental Health Program, is the Chief of the Section of Community Pediatrics, a clinical associate professor in pediatrics and physician lead of the Pediatrics for Kids in Care Program.

[Dr. Beata Mickiewicz, PhD](#), a member of the Precision Medicine & Disease Mechanisms Program, is coordinating the Precision Medicine for Improving the Diagnosis of Pediatric Appendicitis in the Emergency Department (PRIMED) study in ERs across Canada.

[Dr. Lin Yang, PhD](#), a member of the Maternal & Child Health Program, is an adjunct assistant professor in oncology and community health sciences and a

research scientist in cancer epidemiology and prevention research at Alberta Health Services.

## AWARDS



This award honours the recipient's commitment to providing the best working and learning environment for students, continued support in all aspects of their education, and for repeatedly going above and beyond the call of duty as a mentor. Aucoin is on the **CHild Active-Transportation Safety and the Environment (CHASE)** research team investigating ways to ensure child safety in a traffic environment, emphasizing finding ways to prevent injury. Congratulations!

### **UCalgary Graduate Students' Association Awards (GSA)**

Janet Aucoin is the recipient of the 2019-2020 Excellence Award in Teaching. She is Master's student in epidemiology supervised by Dr. Brent Hagel, PhD.

## A LITTLE DOSE OF HAPPINESS



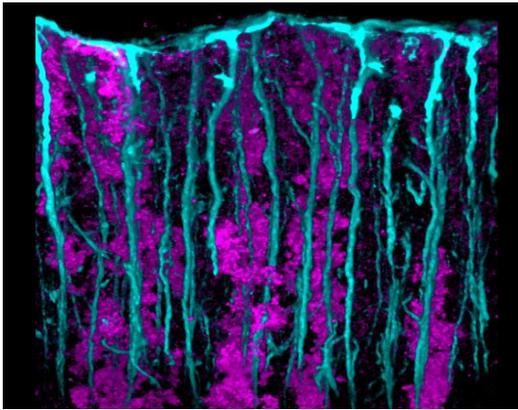
### **New feature in ACHRI Newsletter**

What brings you happiness? Send a screenshot of your zoom meetings, photos of your science art, children, pets - things to make us all smile. Email [r4k@ucalgary.ca](mailto:r4k@ucalgary.ca)

### **Your family photos**

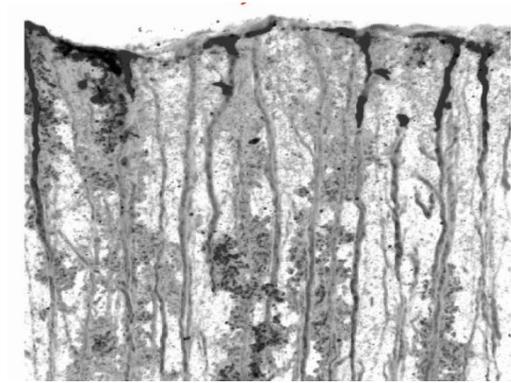
We are so pleased to share that Dr. Amy Metcalfe and her husband welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Caleb, into their family. Caleb was born on March 27. Congratulations!

## COLOURING FUN



### **Pull out your pencil crayons people!**

This [picture](#) taken in Dr. Jiami Guo's lab shows Bergmann glia in high resolution. Bergmann glia play a role in the development and function of the cerebellum. Guo's team works to identify fundamental principles governing the construction of neural circuits in development and disease.



Click [here](#) for the colouring page and then save the image on your device. You can print the page to colour by hand OR colour digitally by following the instructions [here](#). Happy colouring!

## **ACHRI TRAINEES**

### **Stay in touch with our training opportunities!**

Please note - The May 1 competition to the CCHCSP National Program has been suspended indefinitely. [Details](#)

Trainees wishing to apply to CCHCSP for doctoral and fellowship awards should please follow the process outlined on our ACHRI Trainee Funding page under the [CCHCSP tab](#).

The Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP) workshops at the Alberta Children's Hospital will be rescheduled in the Fall.

#### Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships

LOI deadline April 15

If you are interested in applying for a Banting Postdoctoral fellowship, please [register](#) for a workshop TODAY April 6.

Visit the ACHRI Weekly Training Post on the [ACHRI website](#) to learn about your training experience with ACHRI during COVID-19.

## **ACHRI CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

[ACHRI is cancelling its Grand Rounds until September.](#)

[Pediatric Grand Rounds will continue via Zoom.](#)

## Event planning during COVID-19

All planned, in-person university events on our campuses are cancelled immediately. Until further notice, the scheduling of future campus events is on hold. More details at [UCalgary COVID-19 response](#).

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**CONNECT with @UofCr4kids on:**  
[Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Website](#)

**Do you have news to share?**

**Please email [laherper@ucalgary.ca](mailto:laherper@ucalgary.ca)**

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

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