SUMMER STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

This year's Summer Student Symposium is fast approaching! You are invited to attend this virtual event on Friday August 28. Hosted by ACHRI, the Owerko Centre and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, this annual showcase gives undergraduates the opportunity to present their research to each other and the broader university community. Over 240 undergraduates from six academic disciplines, in all years of study and stages of research, are presenting on a variety of subjects. For information on the keynote speaker, trainee presentations and to register, visit here. If you have questions, please contact summer.research@ucalgary.ca

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS
**Discovery may lead to prevention of stroke**

Dr. Adam Kirton, MD, and ACHRI researchers Drs. Aleksandra Mineyko, MD, Alberto Nettel-Aguirre, PhD, Pauline de Jesus, BSc, Susanne Benseler, MD, PhD, Kamran Yusuf, MD, and Aru Narendran, MD, examined the relationship between neonatal inflammatory cytokines and perinatal stroke. They found that unique inflammatory biomarker signatures are associated with specific perinatal stroke diseases. The findings published in *Neurology* suggest that at-risk pregnancies might be identified to develop prevention strategies.

**Studying health effects of vaping**

Dr. Margaret Kelly, MD, PhD, who holds the inaugural Chair in Pediatric Respirology, and Dr. Mark Anselmo, MD, head of the Department of Paediatrics, and a team of researchers at the Alberta Children’s Hospital have been awarded a...
CIHR Catalyst Grant to investigate the health effects of vaping. The study will examine the pathogenesis of vaping-associated lung injury by the interactions between the alveolar epithelium and the immune system.

Breast cancer on rise globally
Dr. Miranda Fidler-Benaoudia, PhD, is the lead of a study on global rates and trends in breast cancer with findings published in *The Lancet Global Health*. The researchers found that breast cancer rates globally are on the rise, and uncovered trends related to age and location that could help target prevention measures. Read more

Alberta Inspiration Award
Dr. Deinera Exner-Cortens, PhD, won the 2020 Alberta Inspiration Award for Innovation, recognizing outstanding community leaders whose work to prevent family violence, sexual violence, and bullying has made a difference in their communities. Exner-Cortens' research has contributed to promotion of healthy youth relationships and prevention of teen dating violence.

Studying the safety of patient privacy
Dr. Nils Forkert, PhD, was awarded an *Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada Grant* for his project Deep Learning in Medical Imaging: Risks to Patient Privacy and Possible Solutions. The project will investigate model inversion attacks that can reconstruct training data. Forkert holds the Canada Research Chair in Medical Image Analysis and is the Program Director of the Child Health Data Science Program at ACHRI.

COVID-19 RESEARCH
COVID-19 and acute respiratory distress syndrome
Drs. Jeff Biernaskie PhD, and Bryan Yipp, MD, with a team of UCalgary and UBC researchers were awarded a COVID-19 Fast Grant through the Thistledown Foundation. The team is investigating the immune basis of COVID-19 related acute respiratory distress syndrome. The study will characterize the global immune cell response to the infection at different times following onset of symptoms, compare the responses from patients and evaluate the impact of different therapeutic interventions. This work will inform repurposing of targeted immunotherapies to improve outcomes for critically-ill patients.

COVID-19 and premature births
Neonatologist Dr. Belal Alshaikh, MD, is studying a dramatic decline in the number of premature births during the pandemic, observed in Calgary and elsewhere. Alshaikh is gathering data with clinical teams in Canada, Ireland and Denmark to study this trend. Alshaikh is the medical director of the neonatal intensive care unit at the South Health Campus. "By staying home, a pregnant woman may have less stress from commuting and from work, and that might have helped them," Alshaikh notes, adding it's too soon to know for sure which lockdown-related factors have contributed to the reduction in premature births.
Read more
Alberta Childhood COVID-19 Cohort (AB3C)
The AB3C research team led by Dr. Jim Kellner, MD, recently had a successful first day of enrollment. The team is testing for antibodies in a thousand children with and without COVID-19 to measure immunity in children over time, understand how children's immune systems react to the virus and determine the clinical impact of infections. The study's website has over 5,600 visits.

Pregnancy During COVID-19
Drs. Catherine Lebel, PhD, Lianne Tomfohr-Madsen, PhD, and Gerald Giesbrecht, PhD, published findings from their Pregnancy During COVID-19 study. Survey results from 1,987 pregnant mothers from across Canada between April 5 to 20 show elevated symptoms of anxiety and depression that may have long-term impacts on children. The study is published in the Journal of Affective Disorders.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**CCHCSP Competition**
Deadline – October 1
Eligibility, guidelines and application [here](#). If you have an active application, you may use the current submitted application or resubmit a revised version.
Contact linda.pires@sickkids.ca

**2020 Peter Lougheed Research Award Competition**
Open to junior investigators
Deadline – September 1
Eligibility, guidelines and application [here](#)

**Child Health Research Development Fund**
Open to Allied Health and Nursing professionals
Deadline - October 2
The Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation is sponsoring this opportunity to develop research to improve the health and well-being of infants, children, and youth and their families. Eligibility and guidelines [here](#). Application [form](#).

Additional funding opportunities detailed [here](#).

NEW MEMBERS
Dr. Shelly Russell-Mayhew, PhD
Maternal & Child Health Program
Profile
Dr. Russell-Mayhew’s research addresses gaps or space between education and health, physical and mental health, and eating disorders and obesity. Primarily, Dr. Russell-Mayhew’s objective is to lead and transform research about weight-related issues like body image. Welcome to ACHRI Dr. Russell-Mayhew!

Dr. Kharah Ross, PhD
Maternal & Child Health Program
Profile
Dr. Ross’s research aims to understand the social and psychological factors that predict risk for adverse pregnancy and child outcomes, with a focus on biological mechanisms (e.g. immune system, cardio-metabolic system). Dr. Ross also focuses on diverse populations that are traditionally underrepresented in health research such as racial/ethnic minorities and individuals with lower socioeconomic status. Welcome to ACHRI Dr. Ross!

2020 VANIER CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
Dion Kelly, supervised by Dr. Adam Kirton, MD
Kelly is investigating ways that brain-computer interface (BCI) can help children with severe neurological difficulties like quadriplegic cerebral palsy. BCI can provide non-invasive solutions to facilitate communication for children with these severe difficulties who would normally have little or no ability to communicate.

Jahanara Rajwani, supervised by Dr. Doug Mahoney, PhD
Rajwani is investigating the process by which oncolytic viruses (OVs) function in curing cancer. OVs are viruses designed to seek out and kill cancer cells without affecting normal cells. Rajwani hypothesizes that these viruses may be effective, not by attacking cancer cells, but by infecting immune cells directly and thereby stimulating an immune response to cancer cells by the body. Read more

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Virtual Owerko Neurodevelopmental Research Rounds
Sept. 2, Noon - 1 pm Dr. Susan Graham, PhD, Director of the Owerko Centre
An Overview of the Owerko Centre at ACHRI - What we do
Register

Virtual Child Health and Wellness Seminars
Starting September 14 on Mondays from 8:30 - 9:30 am these seminars will feature local and international speakers from our seven Child Health and Wellness programs. Please pencil this series into your calendar and join us for the next chapter of accelerating Child Health and Wellness together. We will be in touch soon with specifics.

CANADIAN CHILD HEALTH CLINICIAN SCIENTIST PROGRAM (CCHCSP)
Certificate Eligible Sessions
Tuesday, September 22
Developing a Cocktail Pitch on Your Research
Karen Thomas, MA and Selina Allu, MA

Tuesday, October 13
Wellness of the Clinician Scientist
Dr. April Elliott, MD

Tuesday, November 17
Navigating A Budget
Jenna Slobozian, Cert RA

Tuesday, December 15
Paper Writing - Qualitative Research
Dr. Gina Dimitropoulos, PhD

All sessions noon - 1:30 pm
Register by emailing Janet Wu
janet.wu@ahs.ca

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Do you have news to share?
Please email laherper@ucalgary.ca
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