It's mid-summer already...we hope you are enjoying this sunny season. Please send your news, publications, and grants to r4k@ucalgary.ca

ALAN ROSS AWARD

Dr. Ian Mitchell has been awarded the most prestigious honour given by the Canadian Paediatric Society recognizing lifelong excellence in the fields of paediatric research, education, healthcare and advocacy.
Dr. Mitchell revolutionized the standard of care for children with complex medical needs, especially for those living with conditions requiring tracheostomy tube and mechanical ventilator support. The result is today’s standard of care: these children now live at home with their families, supported by the programs that Dr. Mitchell founded.

Congratulations from all of us at ACHRI!

Read more

GRAND CHALLENGE CATALYST AWARDS

A reminder: Round 2 of the Child Health and Wellness Grand Challenge Catalyst Award competition is open. It includes “Seedling Awards” valued at $50K each and “Branch Awards” valued at $200K each. Funding for these awards has been generously provided by the University of Calgary Vice President (Research) and the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Please register your intent to apply by August 30 to achri.awards@ucalgary.ca. Teams moving forward to the full application stage will be notified by Friday, September 3. Full applications are due Thursday, September 30. Learn more

SUMMER STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
ACHRI, Libin and the Owerko Centre are hosting the Summer Student Symposium on **Tuesday, August 24** from 9 to 12:15 pm. Undergraduates from across the university, in all years of study and all stages of research, will present on a diversity of topics, approaches, and interests. Check out [this page](#) for the program and registration.

**EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH**

Dr. Melanie Noel, PhD, has been named the inaugural Killam Memorial Emerging Leader Chair at the University of Calgary. "A stellar researcher and mentor, her ground-breaking work has influenced how we practice pediatric medicine and treat pain," says Dr. William Ghali, vice-president (research). Congratulations Dr Noel! [Read more](#).

**NEW PILOT PROJECT TO SCREEN NEWBORNS**
What began as Dr. Jean Mah’s research study is now a pilot program to screen newborns across Alberta for spinal muscular atrophy. Detecting and treating SMA early-on will save lives and bring new hope to families.

“This is spectacular news and a testament to the catalyzing and impactful work philanthropy makes possible. This would have never happened without the investment and support of our community through Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation. Thank you so much.” Dr. Susa Benseler, MD, PhD

Read more

PUBLICATIONS

We apologize for our error, please see the corrected information on the following publication.

Drs. Jeff Biernaskie, Frank Jirik, Michael Weinfeld (University of Alberta) and their respective research teams, have discovered that animals lacking the PNKP gene exhibited greatly impaired growth and the death of progenitor cells in specific tissues, including the brain. PNKP mutations are already known to be responsible for a variety of rare neurological syndromes in children and adults, and hence, this new animal model will facilitate further investigation into the mechanisms of death in cells that harbour PNKP gene mutations. The research was published in *Life Science Alliance*.

Drs. Sarah MacEachern, PhD, Nils Forkert, PhD, Jean-Francois Lemay, MD, and Deborah Dewey, PhD, have completed a detailed survey into physical activity participation and barriers for children and adolescents with disabilities. The study findings are published in the *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education.*
Dr. Stephen Freedman, MD, research teams at the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University of Alberta, as well as global collaborators, conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of Clostridioides difficile (C difficile) in asymptomatic children, finding high rates in infants six to twelve months. The findings are published in *JAMA Pediatrics*. Lead author Sarah Tougas is a pediatrics resident at ACH.

BANTING FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Anna MacKinnon, PhD, has been awarded a SSHRC Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, given to only 70 scholars across Canada. Supervised by Drs. Lianne Tomfohr-Madsen and Keith Dobson, MacKinnon was supported by an ACHRI Postgraduate Fellowship. MacKinnon’s project is seeking new solutions to combat intergenerational trauma. Congratulations Dr. MacKinnon!

**Read more**

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Substance Use and Addictions Program**
The federal Minister of Health announced a 2021 [national call for proposals](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-promotion-prevention/addictions/substance-use/addictions-research-funding.html) for Health Canada’s Substance Use and Addictions Program. Deadline September 24
Details [here](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-promotion-prevention/addictions/substance-use/addictions-research-funding.html).
Visit [ACHRI website](https://www.achri.ca) for funding opps.

**Peter Lougheed Research Award Competition**
The Cumming School of Medicine welcomes applications from young researchers for funds to benefit excellence in health research in Alberta. Deadline September 2
Details [here](https://www.achri.ca)
Welcome Dr. MacGregor Steele, MD

Dr. Steele is joining the Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders Program at ACHRI. He is a pediatric hematologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital and a clinical associate professor at the Cumming School of Medicine.

Dr. Steele is developing research studies of patients with auto-immune anemias and collaborating on care pathways for autoimmune neutropenias. Welcome Dr. Steele!

Postdoc Opportunity

Drs. Jennifer Zwicker and Maria Santana are recruiting for a postdoctoral fellow to examine youth and family perspectives on patient-reported outcome measures for youth with mental health concerns and/or disabilities. Learn more

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

The Science of Childhood Cancer Lecture Series
Free 15-week virtual series
Thursday, August 12
Deconvoluting the Origins of Acute Leukemia
Charles G. Mullighan, MD, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
Register

Summer Student Workshop Series 2021
Wednesday, August 4
1 - 2:30 pm
Effective verbal academic communication
Register

Wednesday, August 18
Effective visual academic communication
Register

Collaborations for Change: Connecting Research and Practice in Post-Secondary Mental Health
Thursday, August 12 & Friday, August 13
Virtual conference
Register

Cy Frank Legacy Lecture
Monday, September 13
4 - 5:30 pm
Dr. William Ghali, Vice-President (Research) is this year's lecturer.
Registration coming soon

For all events visit the ACHRI calendar

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