MARK YOUR CALENDAR

While much of “normal life” has changed drastically or been put on hold this year, children with urgent medical needs still need our help. Country 105 Caring for Kids Radiothon is an 18 year tradition with funds raised supporting research, mental health, life-saving care and family-centred care. Visit here to get inspired! And please listen live February 3rd to 5th.

CHAIRS
Good news! There are two new Chairs at the University of Calgary. We are so proud to congratulate ACHRI’s Dr. Nicola Wright, MD, ACHF Barb Ibbotson Chair in Pediatric Hematology, and Dr. Adam Kirton, MD, ACHF Dr. Robert Haslam Chair in Pediatric Neurology. Both are outstanding members of the Department of Paediatrics and the child health and wellness research community. A huge thank you to the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation, the families of Dr. Haslam and Barb Ibbotson, ACH leadership, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, and Alberta Health Services for their support for these research chairs! Congratulations Dr. Wright and Dr. Kirton!

AWARDS

Department of Pediatrics Awards
A big congratulations to this year's very deserving 2020 Department of Pediatrics CARE Award recipients! We salute Dr. Suzanne Tough, PhD, the research award
recipient and Dr. Joseph Vayalumkal, MD, the advocacy and leadership award recipient. We are so proud of you!

ACHRI POSTDOCTORAL AWARDS

ACHRI STEP has awarded the 2020 Child Health and Wellness Postdoctoral Scholarships from the fall applications. Congratulations to our four awardees and their supervisors:

- Dr. Nathalia de Lima e Martins Lara, PhD; supervisor Dr. Ina Dobrinski
- Dr. Lin Li, PhD; supervisor Dr. Edwin Wang
- Dr. Erin Noye Tuplin, PhD; supervisor Dr. Raylene Reimer
- Dr. Jeffrey Yiqun Lin, MD, PhD; supervisor Dr. Adam Cheng

Community donations to the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation support ACHRI Postdoctoral Fellowships. The awards are for two years at $25,000 annually with a matching amount from the supervisor.

We will highlight the research of these ACHRI awardees in our newsletter, starting with Dr. Lin and his supervisor Dr. Adam Cheng at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

Dr. Lin, MD, PhD, is a postdoc research associate at the KidSIM Simulation Centre at ACH. He studied as a clinical fellow at The Hospital for Sick Children and obtained his Master's at the University of British Columbia in clinical epidemiology before moving to Calgary in 2013. Lin is completing his postdoctorate investigating the pattern of contamination in healthcare providers during aerosol-generating medical procedures.
in the management of a simulated COVID-19 resuscitation. "I am so grateful to receive this award to investigate research methods that can guide the evaluation of biohazard and COVID-19 training at ACH."

**Supervisor Dr. Adam Cheng, MD, FRCPC**

Dr. Adam Cheng is the director of research and development for the ASPIRE/KidSIM Simulation Program at the Alberta Children’s Hospital. The KidSIM program has become a world-class program delivering high-quality simulation-based education and research. Cheng is co-chair of the International Network for Simulation-based Pediatric Innovation, Research and Education (INSPIRE) comprising more than 100 pediatric hospitals and simulation programs.

**A special thank you** to the ACHRI reviewers who so generously offered their time on the selection committee: Drs. Jeff Biernaskie, Beverly Collisson, Darren Derksen, Richard Hawkes, Sheri Madigan, Jillian Vinall Miller, Daniele Pacaud, Gerald Pfeffer, Dylan Pillai, and Tim Shutt.

**GRANT AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Pre-announcement: Human Frontier Science Research Grants**

The Young Investigator and Program Grants support innovative basic research in novel and interdisciplinary approaches involving science across national and international boundaries. Deadline March 2021.  
Learn more

**Pre-announcement: CIHR Early Career Investigators Reviewer in Training Program**

The RiT program offers early career researchers a learning opportunity to better understand the elements of high quality review and the peer review process through direct participation in the Project Grant competition with the support of a mentor. Deadline February 26

Learn more
Contact Jenna Slobozian jslobozi@ucalgary.ca

**COVID-19 RESEARCH**
The Alberta COVID-19 Vaccine Monitoring Program
This national safety monitoring program will collect information about health events after receiving any one of the COVID-19 vaccines. Led by the ACHIEVE Research Team of Drs. Jim Kellner, MD, Otto Vanderkooi, MD, and Ms. Joslyn Gray, the study will document health problems that develop from the vaccines which prevent regular daily activities and lead to medical care. The goal is for the surveys to be completed by 50,000 Albertans. To participate, fill out the survey.

NOVEL RESEARCH PROVIDES HOPE FOR BLINDING EYE DISEASES

Above image: presence of retinal synaptic layer in green (right panel) in rescued mouse versus absence of that layer and presence of axonal abnormalities in the retina of a blind mouse (left panel).

ACHRI researchers use gene therapy
A team of ACHRI researchers, Drs. Torben Bech-Hansen, PhD, Derrick Rancourt, PhD, and William Stell, MD, PhD, and MD/PhD student Derek Waldner, have found that vision in blind mice that model a night blindness disorder can be rescued partially during the normal period of retinal development using a gene therapy approach. Rescued mice showed the establishment of photoreceptor synaptic connections, partial vision and evidence of visual signal transmission, features that were absent in untreated blind mice. This proof-of-principle study sets the stage for future investigations to establish treatments for blinding eye diseases. The research is published in Translational Vision Science & Technology.
We invite all new grad and post-doc trainees to register here to access ACHRI STEP opportunities.

**Summer Studentships:** Deadline February 5  
The UCalgary Summer Studentship application portal is now open.  
Questions? Contact summerstudent@ucalgary.ca  
Apply at the consolidated application portal

**Trainee Publication Award:** Deadline February 1  
Applications are accepted from current undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral trainees in good standing whose primary supervisor is a member of ACHRI. These awards are competitive internal awards for the purpose of recognizing trainee achievement and excellence in child health research. Apply

**Trainee Travel Awards:** Under COVID-19 restrictions, ACHRI is accepting applications for attending virtual conferences or workshops on a rolling basis. Apply

Need help? Visit ACHRI Research Training or contact achri.training@ucalgary.ca

**Scientific Programming Series**  
Dr. Signe Bray, PhD, leads a course on computing tools via REALISE. Everyone welcome.  
January 15 – April 16 | Weekly on Fridays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Learn more
**PURE Awards - Program for Undergraduate Research Experience**
This award supports undergrads to conduct research between May and August.
Deadline February 5
Apply

**Graduate Students Images Research Competition**
This award allows grads to showcase their research through photos.
Deadline January 31
Apply

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**EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

**Child Health and Wellness Seminars**
*Mondays at 8:30 am*
February 1
Dr. Erica Sood, PhD, Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
Neurodevelopmental and psychological sequelae of congenital heart disease: Opportunities for prevention and intervention
Register
February 08
Dr. Steven Greenway, MD, FRCPC, University of Calgary
An update on DCMA, a mitochondrial disease prevalent in Southern Alberta
Registration in next newsletter
For all events visit the ACHRI calendar

**Health Research Platform Lunch and Learn**
Monday, January 25
12 pm - 1 pm
Linda Longpré, CCRP
The Quality Assurance and Regulatory Compliance Program for Clinical Research:
Lessons Learned

**ATTACH Webinar Series**
Friday, January 29
12 pm - 1 pm
Dr. Ian Graham, PhD, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Overview of Implementation Science and Innovative Clinical Trials

**Integrated Concussion Research Program Seminar Series**
Wednesday, February 3
12 pm - 1 pm
Dr. Cheryl Wellington, PhD, University of British Columbia
Concussion: Lessons from Humans and Animal Models
Email heather.shepherd@ucalgary.ca to register

**Owerko Centre Neurodevelopmental Clinical Rounds**
Wednesday, February 3
12 pm - 1 pm
Ashleigh Yule, M.A., R.Psych
Supporting Transgender Autistic Individuals

**Key resources**
Procedure for sick students | Procedure for sick employees |
Dashboard of cases on campus

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

Visit us:
research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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