

July 11, 2022



Happy Summer! The ACHRI newsletter will be moving to a monthly schedule over the months of July and August.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ALBERTA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



Research is Care. Care is Research.

We are sharing the pride, vision and excitement for all that our research community has and will continue to achieve in the years to come.

DR. ASHISH MARWAHA



'Collaboration as a Powerful Tool for Care'

As a medical geneticist, I see patients with rare genetic diseases. My special research interest is rare complex immune dysregulation disorders (CIDD) - this group of disorders cause genetic changes result in the immune system targeting the body itself. Kids with these disorders present with many different symptoms and end up going to multiple clinicians and specialists in search of a diagnosis.

That was the inspiration to create the complex immune dysregulation program, a clinical research program within ACH and ACHRI. As part of the program, I co-lead monthly clinical rounds. These children touch so many different specialties it's important our approach to care is collaborative. Our monthly clinical rounds are a powerful way of understanding what is going on and expediting a child's care. A willingness to work together is what makes the department here so strong and unique.

We are only beginning to discover all the genes that cause CIDD. Five or ten years ago we were checking for a handful of genes, now there are panels with over 400 genes and almost every month there's a new condition being described. By enrolling kids into our research, we get them to a diagnosis more quickly. Once they have a diagnosis, children can be immediately given targeted therapy preventing life-long disability. Our vision is to create an internationally recognized research program and for Calgary to become a leader in CIDD in Canada and around the world.

- **Dr. Ashish Marwaha**

DR. HEATHER BOYNTON



'Planting the Seeds of Spirituality as a Practice'

I have always had a keen interest in the mind-body-spirit connection, which I started exploring in my physical education degree and in my work with children and families over nearly 30 years. As a therapist, when I observed the root causes of suffering they often seemed connected to spiritual aspects. There's a lot of research around spirituality as a protective factor in mental health and as a critical factor when moving through trauma and grief. If we have a better understanding of what spirituality means to children, how they engage in it, and how we can foster it, then we can have better mental health outcomes for kids and families.

My long-term hope is to support practitioners to integrate an understanding of how we address mental health through spirituality into their practice. I designed a course on spirituality in social work practice. I'm working on embedding this curriculum into the BSW and MSW programs as well as supporting other professions to do the same. We are also applying this lens to field education. This work is the first of its kind in Canada and a way to transform how people are teaching, learning, and applying this knowledge in the field.

I'm inspired by the fact that I'm mentoring researchers, clinicians and practitioners in this area. We are planting seeds that 100 years from now will become a forest. I hope we'll see more meditation in the classroom, more children and teens feeling empowered to express and explore freely, and maybe we will see less suffering in the world. I really look forward to seeing where this all goes.

- **Dr. Heather M Boynton**

CONNECT WITH US

We invite you to share your stories of research excellence as we celebrate the Alberta Children's Hospital **100 years of hope + healing**.

Researchers and Trainees, please email fiona.mackenzie@ucalgary to set up a short interview. Stories will be shared in the newsletter and across social platforms

throughout 2022.

NEW CANCER SCREENING GUIDELINES



Congratulations to **Dr. Fiona Schulte**, an associate professor in the Department of Oncology on her publication: **Recommendations for the surveillance of education and employment outcomes in survivors of childhood, adolescent, and young adult cancer**. Dr. Schulte co-chaired a multidisciplinary international task force to develop a global recommendation for the surveillance of education and employment to support young cancer survivors. The guidelines recommend all survivors receive regular screening for educational and employment outcomes, just like the regular physical screening they receive as cancer survivors.

“We now have a clinical practice guideline (CPG) with internationally-harmonized recommendations for surveillance of education and employment in survivors diagnosed before 30 years of age which can improve their quality of life.” says Schulte. [Read more](#).

NEW ACHRI MEMBERS

Welcome **Dr. Kelly Larkin-Kaiser**, who has joined the Child Brain & Mental Health Program. Dr. Larkin-Kaiser is an assistant research professor in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences and a Research Scientist/Manager of the RESTORE Network. Her research spans neuroscience, applied muscle physiology, pediatrics, and rehabilitation.

Dr. Larkin-Kaiser’s research utilizes neuromuscular physiology approaches to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions and technology for neurorehabilitation (i.e. electrical stimulation, robotic exoskeletons, virtual reality).

Her work investigates dosimetry, therapeutic effectiveness of interventions to enhance neural, musculoskeletal and cardiovascular function in people with neurological diseases/disorders. [View Profile](#).



Welcome to **Dr. Mariana Bento** who has joined the Child Brain & Mental Health Program. Dr. Bento is an assistant professor in of Biomedical Engineering and Electrical and Software Engineering.



As a specialist in Machine Learning methods for medical imaging applications, her research focuses on fairness and bias mitigation, big data visualization, computer assisted diagnosis, outlier detection, detection of brain abnormalities, and longitudinal studies.

Dr. Bento's research can be applied to Trustworthy Machine Learning tools for child health data by supporting the study of the changes in a child's rapidly growing brain as well as highlighting the brain differences between healthy children and those diagnosed with disease. [View Profile.](#)

PROBIOTIC SUPPLEMENTS HELP TINIEST INFANTS

Dr. Marie-Claire Arrieta and colleagues have discovered probiotic supplements can help form a healthy microbiome in the gut of the tiniest infants who are born without a fully formed gut. The study found a specific mix of probiotic supplement accelerated the maturation of the microbiome into a term-like state and reduced intestinal inflammation in extremely preterm infants. "The findings show that a daily probiotic supplement containing the right type of microbes prompted a rapid transition of the gut microbiome to what is normally observed in healthy, breastfed infants born at term.



This mature microbiome is more stable, more resilient and was linked to reduced inflammation in the babies' gut," says Dr. Arrieta. [Read more.](#)

(courtesy of Snyder Institute)

2022 CELEBRATION OF LEARNING



Congratulations to **Dr. Craig Jeanne** who was awarded the **2022 UCalgary Teaching Award** for Full Time Academic Staff at the 2022 Celebration of Teaching. Dr. Jeanne is associate professor in the Department of Microbiology Immunology and Infectious Diseases.

A University of Calgary Teaching Award is a distinguished honour for members of our university community who, through their commitment and expertise, create deep and lasting learning experiences. [Read more.](#)

RBC RACE FOR THE KIDS

RBC Race for the Kids is back on **Sunday, September 11, 2022** at Heritage Park!

RBC Race for the Kids funds programs that help kids in our community struggling with mental health. **Sign up today** for this family-friendly walk/run, pancake breakfast and a lots of fun. Includes a T-shirt, breakfast, parking and all-day access to Heritage Park!



SURVEY: CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE CANADA



Please complete this **5-min survey** to help **Children's Healthcare Canada** better serve healthcare professionals and the children of Canada.

Enter your email for a chance to win a FREE in-person admission to the Children's Healthcare Canada Annual Conference in Ottawa from November 29 - December 1.

TRAINEE SURVEY

Attention Trainees: Please take the time complete this **30 second survey** on food security and food options on Foothills campus by **July 31, 2022**.



CIHR-VIDEO COMPETITION

Feeling creative? The **CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) Talks Video Competition** is a unique opportunity to submit a short video (<5 mins) that presents a clear evidence-based message to a lay audience related to IHDCYH's mandate. **Details**.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grand Challenges Canada - OPTions Initiative- Next Generation Methods

The focus of this call is to support women's, girls', and people with diverse sexual and gender identities' access to safe abortion in low- and middle-income countries.

Deadline: Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Details

Clinical Research Fund - SEED Competition Grant

This opportunity will support the Eyes High strategic vision of leadership in high impact clinical research at UCalgary and promote the objectives of AHS strategy for

research innovation and analytics.

Deadline: Friday, July 15, 2022

[Details](#)

Canadian Cancer Society Health Equity Research Grants

This program supports research that seeks to advance cancer-related health equity. Projects must be collaborative, co-created by people both affected by cancer and by structural marginalization, and designed to address the systemic, structural, and institutional factors that sustain health disparities in Canada.

Deadline: Wednesday, July 20, 2022 (Registration)

[Details](#)

Team Grant: CIHR-JDRF Type 1 Diabetes and Precision Medicine

This opportunity supports projects relevant to precision medicine and T1D related to: research spanning genes, application to better understand T1D disease risk, characterization of different endotypes of T1D to improve clinical care, and understanding heterogeneity of disease in different races and ethnicities and in Indigenous Peoples.

Deadline: Thursday, July 21, 2022 (Registration)

[Details](#)

Biological Basis for Cystic Fibrosis Related Diabetes (CFRD)

This opportunity supports projects that will improve our understanding of the biological underpinnings of the development and progression of CFRD as well as to identify novel therapeutic strategies to manage and treat the disease.

Deadline: Thursday, July 28, 2022 (RSO Internal)

[Details](#)

NSERC Discovery Grant Program

This grant supports ongoing programs of research with long-term goals. Includes long-term operating funds and access to funding from other programs.

Deadline: Monday, August 1, 2022 (NOI)

[Details](#)

CIHR Project Grant Competition - Fall 2022

This program is designed to capture ideas with the greatest potential to advance health-related knowledge, health research, health care, health systems, and/or health outcomes. NOTE: OADR Faculty Information Sessions listed in 'Events' below.

Deadline: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 (Registration Deadline)

[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](#)

CIHR Catalyst Grant: Standards for Children and Youth Mental Health Services

This funding supports research and knowledge mobilization to inform mental health and/or substance use health services for children, youth, and young adults including the perinatal period.

Deadline: Thursday, September 1, 2022 (Registration)

[Details](#)

CIHR Patient-Oriented Research Training Grant - Health System Stream

The aim of the grant is to build capacity for POR in the health system by providing [non-governmental Canadian health systems or related organizations](#) with an opportunity to embed POR practices through training, mentorship, and practical opportunities.

Deadline : Monday, September 5, 2022

[Details](#)

SSHRC - Partnership Engage Grants

Engage Grants provide support for partnered research activities to inform decision-making at a single partner organization from the public, private or not-for-profit sector.

Deadline: Monday, September 12, 2022

[Details](#)

SSHRC - Insight Grant Fall 2022

This program supports research excellence in the social sciences and humanities. Funding is available to both emerging and established scholars for research initiatives of two to five years responding to the objectives of the [Insight program](#).

Deadline: Wednesday, September 28, 2022

[Details](#)

CIHR Catalyst Grant: Policy Research for Health System Transformation

This opportunity supports Policy Research for Health System Transformation grants that generate evidence to inform macro-level policies to support high-performing health care and public health systems in Canada.

Deadline: Thursday, September 29, 2022 (RSO Internal)

[Details](#)

Operating Grant: Diabetes, Psychosocial Health, Prevention and Self-Management

This program supports research that builds on successful models of care, knowledge mobilization, and optimization of self-management including: addressing psychosocial issues and mental health disorders in people with T1D and prevention and treatment in youth and young adults, with a focus on Indigenous and racialized, ethnocultural and low socio-economic status communities that are disproportionately affected by T2D.

Deadline: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 (RSO Internal)

[Details](#)

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

TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Brain Tumour Foundation Undergraduate Student Research Competition

This competition is an opportunity to showcase undergraduate work relevant to the brain tumour research community.

Deadline: Friday, August 26, 2022 (LOI)

[Details](#)

SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowships

These fellowships support new scholars in the social sciences and humanities to assist in: undertaking research, publishing, developing and expanding personal research networks and broadening teaching experience.

Deadline: Friday, September 9, 2022 (RSO internal)

[Details](#)

Owerko Centre Early Career Investigator Grant

This award enables early-career investigators to conduct research aligned with the Owerko Centre mandate of advancing neurodevelopment and child mental health. This grant can be used to collect preliminary/pilot data or to extend current work where funding for exploratory or novel studies is limited. This grant supports fellows and research associates to launch the next independent phase of their career.

Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2022

Details to follow

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

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

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

OADR Grant Development Office

CIHR Project Grant Fall 2022 - Faculty Information Session #1

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

1 - 2:30 pm

[Register](#)

OADR Grant Development Office

Planning the Best Response to an Unsuccessful Grant

Thursday, July 14, 2022

11 am - 12 pm

Drs. Catherine Lebel & Brandi Povitz

[Register](#)

Summer Student Workshop Series 2022

How to Create an Academic Abstract

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

1 - 2:30 pm

[Register](#)

Snyder Institute

Impressions of the Medical Sciences

Friday, July 22, 2022

9 am - 3 pm

[Register](#)

Summer Student Workshop Series 2022

Effective Visual Academic Communication for Presentation

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

1 - 2:30 pm

[Register](#)

Summer Student Workshop Series 2022

Effective Verbal Academic Communication for Presentation

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

1 - 2:30 pm

[Register](#)

OADR Grant Development Office

CIHR Project Grant Fall 2022 - Faculty Information Session #2

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

10 - 11 am

[Register](#)

Calgary Public Library & the UCalgary Knowledge Engagement Team

Ask a Scientist About the Brain!

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Dr. Guang Yang, PhD, and Kaylan Burns

[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

Visit us:
research4kids.ucalgary.ca

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a student, faculty, staff, alumni, donor or partner of ACHRI.



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