**WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

**RARE DISEASE DAY** February 28

**Celebrating families**
One in 20 people lives with a rare disease. Despite this, there is no cure for the majority of these illnesses and many go undiagnosed.

**Rare Disease Day** creates awareness and encourages research and policy decisions to address the needs of these families. Please mark your calendar for **Friday, April 16, 2 - 4 pm** for a special Symposium on Rare Diseases hosted by the Department of Medical Genetics to highlight advances in treatments, research into the origins of these diseases and families sharing their experiences.

Learn about 5-year-old Alysha’s journey with a rare disease, diffuse mesangial sclerosis, from her mom Robin. [Listen here.](#)
CHILDHOOD CANCER

Immune function in cancer survivors
Dr. Gregory Guilcher, MD, and Dr. Nicola Wright, MD, along with an international team of oncology specialists, have published a review of immune function in childhood cancer survivors. The team reviewed existing literature describing immune function after childhood cancer therapy, including both standard-dose chemotherapy and high-dose chemotherapy with haematopoietic cell rescue. The paper in *Lancet Child Adolescent Health* includes guidelines for vaccinating childhood cancer survivors, notably those at risk for loss of protection. The work was published on behalf of the Children’s Oncology Group, the world’s largest clinical trials consortium for childhood cancer. Dr. Wright is the Barb Ibbotson Chair in Pediatric Hematology.

PREGNANCY AND CANNABIS USE

Investigation of cannabis and the fetus
Dr. Kamran Yusuf, MD, has been awarded a grant from The Leroy H. le Riche Endowment for Research in Substance Abuse to investigate the pharmacokinetics of cannabis during pregnancy. Approximately two to five per cent of pregnant women use cannabis during pregnancy. There is a lack of information on how women metabolize cannabis after ingestion and how much of the ingested cannabis crosses the placenta to the baby. The study goal is to reduce exposure of the growing baby to ingested cannabis. The cohort will be enrolled at the Foothills Medical Centre.

PEDIATRIC BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
Dr. Catherine Lebel, PhD, has been named a Jacobs Foundation Research Fellow (2021-2023), one of a small group of leading international pediatric researchers to be selected. Dr. Lebel will use the fellowship to investigate the early neurological roots of reading difficulties and how brain-reading relationships are affected by environmental factors.

TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES

Reproducible Research using RStudio: How to save time using Literate Programming
Presented by ACHRI STEP and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute's REALISE Program
Tuesdays, 1 to 2 pm
March 2 to April 20
Register

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Child Health and Wellness funding opportunities live here
UCalgary funding calendar also highlights upcoming funding opportunities

**CIHR Project Grant Spring**
To learn more about the competition, including the new updates, please attend this information session on March 4.
Register

**EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

**Child Health and Wellness Seminars**
Thursday, March 4
Noon - 1 pm
Drs. Suzanne Tough, PhD, Sheri Madigan, PhD, and Sheila McDonald, PhD
Are families doing okay? The well-being of families and tweens from the All our Families study during COVID-19
Register

Monday, March 8
8:30 - 9:30 am
Dr. Kelly Schwartz, PhD, RPsych
Maybe the kids ARE alright!
COVID-19 Student Well-being Study: Stress, mental health, and resilience during return-to-school
Register

**Comparative Biology & Experimental Medicine present:**
Candidate Seminar for Assistant Professor, Developmental Neuroscience
Dr. Ning Cheng, PhD
Social interaction, neural connectivity, and cancer drugs: Searching for treatments for autism
Wednesday, March 3
Noon - 1 pm
Zoom link

**Owerko Centre Neurodevelopmental Clinical Rounds**
Kate Godfrey, PhD candidate
Intense Interests in Preschool Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder
Wednesday, March 3
Noon - 1 pm
Register

**BCI-CAN Symposium 2021**
Dr. Jon Wolpaw, MD, National Center for Adaptive Neurotechnologies
Family panel: hear from families and children using BCI
Friday, March 12
8:30 am – 3:30 pm
Register

**Maternal and Child Health Program & PNIR present:**
Dr. Greg Miller, PhD, Northwestern University
Wednesday, March 17
9 am - 10 am
Moving toward an understanding of childhood adversity and
physical health across the lifespan
Register

Children's Healthcare Canada
All in: Creating Synergy in Pediatric Complex Care
March 25, 10 am - 3 pm
Program and Registration

For all events visit the ACHRI calendar

Key resources  Updated Isolation Guidance | Procedure for sick students | Procedure for sick employees | Dashboard of cases on campus

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