Welcome to Dr. Simone Kortbeek who has joined the Care Transformation for Children Program. Dr. Kortbeek is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. Her research investigates the use of patient-reported outcome measures and the evaluation of health-related quality of life. During her fellowship training, she focused on pediatric liver transplant recipients and plans to expand this work to include patients with other chronic gastrointestinal and liver diseases. Read more.
Welcome to Dr. Cindy Barha, who joins the Maternal & Child Health Program at ACHRI. Dr. Barha is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology. The focus of her trans-disciplinary research is to promote healthy brain aging by developing efficacious and personalized exercise interventions as “medicine” for cognition and neuroplasticity using mixed-methods. Read more.

Welcome to Dr. Svenja Espenhahn who joins ACHRI as a Strategic Development Specialist. Svenja completed her PhD in Clinical Neuroscience at the University College London before moving to Canada to complete a postdoc at UCalgary. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in project management, grant writing and stewardship, training, and stakeholder engagement in the academic and not-for-profit setting. Being passionate about child health, she is happy to share her expertise in the new role. Svenja is a passionate ultra-runner who spends most of her free time in the mountains and an emergency services volunteer in the MD of Bighorn.

UCALGARY POSTDOC RESEARCH SLAM
Congratulations to our ACHRI trainees who were winners at the 2023 UCalgary Postdoc Research Slam.

- 2nd place: **Dr. Daniel Comadurán Márquez**, PhD, Cumming School of Medicine, Brain-Controlled Devices for Playing Sport
- 3rd place: **Dr. Meaghan Perdue**, PhD, Cumming School of Medicine, Reading Isn't as Easy as A-B-C: Looking into the Brain to Understand Reading Disability

The Postdoc Research Slam is inspired by the long-running MyGradSkills 3 Minute Thesis competition. It is an exercise in knowledge translation, informing viewers about the impact of postdoctoral research in everyday life. The judges evaluated contestants’ communication style, comprehension, and engagement within the three-minute time limit. Read more.

**LINK BETWEEN FUNGAL MICROBES IN INFANT GUT AND BODY WEIGHT**
A new national study led by Dr. Marie-Claire Arrieta has found a link between the diversity of fungal species in the infant gut and the body-mass index (BMI) of infants. Published in the journal Cell Reports Medicine, Maturational Patterns of the Infant Gut Mycobiome are Associated with Early-Life Body Mass Index found that along with changes in fungal diversity, other contributing factors such as the BMI of the mother and her diet, exposure to antibiotics, and bacterial diversity in the infant gut were all contributing factors related to infant BMI.

This is the first study we know of to show that specific types of gut fungi play a role in weight gain and growth in early childhood. The findings suggest gut fungi may have important influences on early childhood development, highlighting the need for more research on the role of gut fungi in during the first years of life.

This work was driven by co-first authors Emily Mercer and Mackenzie Gutierrez (pictured above) both PhD candidates in Dr. Arrieta’s research group. Read more.

DISMANTLING RACISM IN HEALTHCARE

Dr. Oluwatormilayo (Tito) Daodu, a paediatric surgeon at Alberta Children’s Hospital, studies health equity, focusing on improving surgical outcomes and making surgical care more accessible in Canada and around the world.

“All health-care providers should care about what factors have determined the health of their patients — factors which oftentimes are out of their control,” says Daodu “one such factor is systemic racism. Racism in health care, for example, disproportionately disadvantages patients who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour”

The practice of identifying and eliminating racism and its harms is called anti-racism. This is an essential duty for all physicians, says Daodu. Surgeons treat patients in their most vulnerable moments when racism can have its most devastating impact. They must become active advocates for change within their hospitals, organizations, and local and national governments.

Dismantling racism in health care begins with education, says Daodu, who was recently appointed, along with Dr. Kannin Osei-Tutu and Dr. Nicole Johnson, MD, to co-lead the development of an updated curriculum at the CSM with anti-racism as a pillar. Read more.

Thanks to: Brittany DeAngelis, O’Brien Institute for Public Health

BABY FORMULA MARKETING REGULATIONS
“While formula provides adequate nutrition for most infants, it lacks numerous other components that are present in human milk that positively impact infant growth and development,” says Dr. Merilee Brockway, a co-author of Health and nutrition claims for infant formula: international cross sectional survey published in the British Medical Journal.

As a result, formula companies are trying to add some of these components to formula in an attempt to better replicate human milk. However, the science to support these additives is lacking.

Dr. Brockway was part of an international group of researchers across 15 countries who reviewed the websites of infant formula companies. Scientific references were not provided for most (74 per cent) of products making specific health claims. What’s more, 84 per cent of these trials had authors who either received formula industry funding or were directly affiliated with industry.

“We are hoping our results — which support revised regulatory frameworks for breast milk substitutes to better protect consumers — will generate lots of important discussion about the continued unethical marketing by formula companies,” says Dr. Brockway. Read more.

Thanks to: Karen Cook, Faculty of Nursing

ADVANCING HEALTH THROUGH CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Advancing health and health care through citizen engagement

2023 Gairdner Symposium

Join the 2022 Gairdner Wightman Award winner, Dr. Deborah J. Cook, MD, from McMaster University and Dr. Verna Yiu, MD, Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic) from the University of Alberta for a discussion on how health and health care can be improved through citizen engagement.

April 4, 2023, 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Theatre Four, Foothills Medical Centre

Postdoctoral scholars are invited to submit abstracts by Feb. 24.

Register Here.
Congratulations to Dr. Dylan Pillai who has been featured as one of CIHR's 2023 Faces of Health Research.

Dr. Pillai is leading a multinational group of researchers who are trying to eliminate ‘superbugs’ through use of practical interventions that will reduce the prevalence of antibiotic resistance infections in humans and animals that are located close to Laguna Lake, Philippines.

Dr. Pillai’s group will conduct a genomic surveillance of highly antibiotic resistant organisms so that overuse of antibiotics can be lowered. Their point-of-care test will also lead to the development of rapid, affordable, and portable diagnostic tests that can detect numerous types of pathogens (such as SARS-CoV-2 or malaria in resource-limited Ethiopia and Sri Lanka). Read more.

ACHRITA RESEARCH IN PROGRESS SEMINARS

All researchers and trainees are welcome to join the ACHRITA Research in Progress Seminars

When: First Tuesday of each Monday, starting Tuesday, March 7, 2023, 12 - 1 pm
Where: HSC Theatre 4 or join via Zoom

If you are interested in presenting please sign-up here: RIP Sign-Up

Questions? Email ACHRITA@ucalgary.ca

HEALTH CANADA CONSULTATION: TRANSPARENCY OF CLINICAL TRIALS
As part of the Clinical Trials Regulatory Modernization initiative, Health Canada has committed to increasing the transparency of Canadian clinical trials information. Health Canada is seeking feedback from researchers on:

- A draft guidance document describing policy expectations for sponsors of authorized clinical trials to register and report the results of their trials with international registries; and
- Mock-ups of a newly proposed clinical trials search portal.

To participate: please visit the consultation landing page, where you will find the links to the draft guidance document and portal mock-ups as well as some questions and directions on how you can provide feedback.

Questions? Contact: policy_bureau_enquiries@hc-sc.gc.ca

DATA AND RESEARCH SECURITY AWARENESS

There has been increasing discussion around secure data storage and protection against loss or access by a foreign interest. In response, Dr. Gerald Zamponi, Senior Associate Dean (Research), CSM, has provided further information and examples of security threats for UCalgary researchers.

Read more.

ACHRI TRAINEES

TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Brain Canada Foundation: 2023 Master's Personnel Awards for Black Scholars
The objective of the competition is to increase the number of highly qualified Black trainees across Canada committed to working in the fields of heart and brain research.

**Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2023**

Details

Brain Canada Foundation: 2023 Doctoral Personnel Awards for Black Scholars
The objective of the competition is to increase the number of highly qualified Black trainees across Canada committed to working in the fields of heart and brain
Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2023
Details

Please visit the ACHRI trainee funding page for page funding opportunities.

TRAINEE EVENTS

REALISE Module
How to connect with anyone (and why "networking" is overrated)
Thursday, March 9, 2023
1 - 3 pm
Register

REALISE Module
Careers in Research Administration
Thursday, March 15, 2023
10 am - 12 pm
Register

TRAINEE REGISTRATION

We encourage all trainees to register in order to receive the ACHRI newsletter, updates and access to ACHRI trainee funding and workshops.
Registration Link.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR Café Scientifique Program 2023
This funding opportunity supports events, known as Cafés, that enable knowledge-sharing and open, respectful dialogues between the general public and health researchers on health-related issues of public interest.
Deadline: Friday, March 10, 2023 (RSO Internal)
Details

Thrasher Research Fund Early Career Award
This fund is open to research projects that show great potential to impact the field of children’s health.
Deadline: Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Details

2023 BBRF Young Investigator Grant
This supports basic, as well as translational and/or clinical investigators. Research must be relevant to our understanding, treatment and prevention of serious psychiatric disorders such as: schizophrenia; bipolar; mood and anxiety disorders or early onset brain and behavior disorders.
Deadline: Monday, March 20, 2023
Arthritis Society Canada Strategic Operating Grant
This program provides funding to support research proposals aligned with Arthritis Society Canada's priorities.
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 (LOI)**

2023 THRIVE Grant
THRIVE offers funding for basic science, clinical, and translational research that enhances our ability to predict when and how adverse effects may occur in patients who have received cancer treatment and supports the development of approaches to avoid or lessen these effects.
**Deadline: Wednesday, April 5, 2023 (RSO Internal)**

2023 Alex's Lemonade Stand REACH Grant
The Reach Grant provides support for important preclinical hypothesis-driven research projects that are necessary to move a study from the pre-clinical arena into a clinical trial. The goal of this award is to support translational studies that will result in a phase 1 and/or 2 clinical trial, two to three years from the project start date.
**Deadline: Thursday, April 6, 2023 (RSO Internal)**

Cystinosis Research Foundation (CRF)
CRF has $5.0 Million available for new research grants and fellowships with the goal of funding the best and most promising research in the world in an effort to find better treatments and a cure for cystinosis.
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

Sick Kids New Investigator Research Grant
These grants enable early-career researchers to make a meaningful contribution to the fight for children’s health. They are jointly sponsored by SickKids Foundation and the CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health. Grant recipients may obtain up to three years of support for research in the biomedical, clinical, health systems and services, population and public health sectors.
**Deadline: Monday, April 17, 2023**

Alberta Innovates Accelerating Innovations into CarE (AICE) - Validate Program
This program supports Alberta innovators to advance their Product-Market Fit, Business Readiness, Regulatory Compliance, and Product Development of their health innovations during the committing and early validation phases of their commercialization journey.
**Deadline: Tuesday, April 25, 2023**
**Details**

**SSHRC Connection Grant May 2023**
Connection Grants support events and outreach activities geared toward short-term, targeted knowledge mobilization initiatives. These events and activities represent opportunities to exchange knowledge and to engage with participants on research issues of value to them.  
**Deadline: Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

**Details**

**2023 Alex's Lemonade Stand 'R' Accelerated Grant**
The R Accelerated Award Grant is to advance ALSF’s mission to find cures and better treatments for childhood cancers by providing support to scientists focused on pediatric oncology research.  
**Deadline: Monday, May 8, 2023 (RSO Internal)**

**Details**

**2023 Alex's Lemonade Stand 'A' Award Grant**
The ‘A’ Award Grant is to advance ALSF’s mission to find cures and better treatments for childhood cancers by providing support to early career scientists who want to establish a career in pediatric oncology research.  
**Deadline: Monday, May 8, 2023 (RSO Internal)**

**Details**

**Team Grant: THINC Knowledge Mobilization & Impact Hub**
Operating as a single coordinating centre, the THINC Impact Hub will build and support a vibrant pan-Canadian learning community involving all THINC grantees and knowledge user communities towards advancing evidence-informed integrated care transformation and catalyze progress towards achieving the Quadruple Aim and health equity.  
**Deadline: Thursday, May 11, 2023**

**Details**

**CIHR New Investigator Salary Award : Health System Impact Embedded Early Career Researcher (ECR) Award**
This award supports embedded ECRs, increase their potential for impact and contribution as embedded scholars, and increase the probability that they will secure an embedded scientist position with a Canadian health system organization and/or a faculty position in a Canadian academic institution. This program will generate additional research capacity within health system organizations for learning and improvement, helping to further advance learning health systems across Canada.  
**Deadline: Friday, May 12, 2023**

**Details**

**Arthritis Society Canada Ignite Innovation Grant**
This salary award and research funding supports research programs aligned with Arthritis Society Canada's 2020-2025 Research Strategy.

**Deadline: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 (Registration Deadline)**

Details

### Arthritis Society 2023 Stars Career Development Awards
This program supports the development and testing of transformative, paradigm-shifting, concepts and approaches to address critical barriers to progress in arthritis research, challenge our understanding of arthritis and its management, and generate novel approaches to confront the challenges we face in defeating arthritis and delivering the best evidence-informed care possible.

**Deadline: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 (Registration Deadline)**

Details

### Pre-announcement: CIHR National Women's Health Research Initiative: Biomedical Discovery Grant
This funding opportunity supports high risk, high reward research in high-priority areas of women's health research. This opportunity will support basic science and/or other types of preclinical studies that have the potential to make significant advancements in women's health.

**Registration Deadline: June 2023**

Details

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

**EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

### Neonatal Grand Rounds
**Intranasal Breastmilk Use for Intraventricular Hemorrhage**
Tuesday, March 7, 2023
4 - 5 pm
Dr. Ashley Blagdon
Register

### Paediatric Grand Rounds
**Pediatric Annual Review**
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
8:30 - 9:30 am
Drs. Antonia Stang, Preet Sandhu, Sarah Hall & Nicole Romanow
Register

### Developmental Genetics Research in Progress
**Hypoxia-Dependent Regulation of Epithelial Tumor Growth**
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
1 - 2 pm
Abhishek Sharma (Savraj Grewal lab)
HSC1405A
Child Health and Wellness Seminar  
How to Build and Validate a Prediction Model  
Monday, March 13, 2023  
8:30 - 9:30 am  
Dr. Rebecca Hartley  
Register

Innovate Calgary  
Social Innovator Work Sprint  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023  
1 - 3 pm  
Register

Alberta SPOR Support March Journal Club  
Original Qualitative Research - Access to Mental Health for Black Youths in Alberta  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
10 - 11 am  
Dr. Bukola Salami  
Register

Banff International Conference on Behavioural Science  
School Mental Health: Utilizing Science, Culture, and Context to Inform Practice  
Sunday, March 19 - Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
Register

Calgary Adapted Hub - Research & Community Engagement  
Realities and Challenges in Inclusive Physical Education  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023  
Dr. Martin Block  
Register

2023 Knowledge Translation Canada Summer Institute  
Wednesday, June 14 - Friday, June 16, 2023  
Register

For all events visit the ACHRI calendar.

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Please send discoveries, research publications, and grants to Fiona Mackenzie at r4k@ucalgary.ca
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