



COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR GRAND CHALLENGE 'BETTER BEGINNINGS'



Baby Gianna with parents Molly & Patrick

Gianna was born in January 2020 at 23 weeks and 6 days gestation, weighing 1 lb 6 oz. She spent 149 days in the neonatal intensive-care unit (NICU) at Foothills. Today Gianna is home with her parents who are thankful for the community's generous support for research.



More than 40 scientists and clinical researchers at the University of Calgary have launched an unprecedented initiative to prevent, reduce and treat preterm birth - funded by \$5 million in community donations through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation and Calgary Health Foundation. Together they will address one of the Grand Challenges of the University of Calgary **Child Health and Wellness Strategy** - Better Beginnings. Leads of the initiative are (from left) Dr. Amy Metcalfe, Dr. Donna Slater, and Dr. Lara Leijser. [Read UToday](#)
[Calgary Sun](#)
[Global News](#)

COVID-19 RESPONSE GUIDANCE FOR RESEARCHERS

Impact of new government COVID-19 restrictions at **UCalgary**

[Read more](#)

Impact on research operations at **Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH)**

All UCalgary faculty and staff must work from home – except under the following conditions: ACH access is required to use tools and equipment, work involves secure data and confidential information, or on-site preparation and attendance are required to deliver services to faculty, students, staff and the public

For work performed on site, an approved COVID work plan must be in place as per the **ACH research relaunch strategy**. Review your work plan to make sure that staff conducting work on-site are listed, including new summer students or trainees.

On-boarding of any new undergraduate summer students should be suspended until May 25. Summer students who have completed their on-boarding should follow the same guidelines for working at home as staff members. There are **remote on-boarding** steps outlined specifically for ACH.

Research participants - All in-person participant research should be suspended until May 25, with the exception of studies where suspension could adversely affect the health of participants, or where time-dependent follow-up assessments must occur. In-person research visits to ACH may continue under these circumstances, in accordance with approved COVID work plans.

AWARDS



CIHR Banting and Best Canada Graduate Scholarship

Amelia Potter-Dickey, a doctoral student mentored by ACHRI's Dr. Nicole Letourneau and Dr. Jason de Koning, has been awarded a CIHR Banting and Best Canada Graduate Scholarship to support research on parenting and attachment in preschool children. "My research is focused on understanding the impact that children's genotype contributes to attachment pattern development. This will advance our ability to target programs and nursing interventions to specific populations based on a child's genotype and caregiving environments," says Potter-Dickey. Congratulations Amelia!

[Read more](#)

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

Offices of Faculty Development and Performance & Professionalism, Equity and Diversity

EDI Lunch & Learn - Creative Trans Inclusive Practices

Wednesday, May 12

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

An ambassador from Skipping Stone Foundation will identify actions that foster inclusion

[Register](#)

Office of the Associate Dean Research

"Making Friends in Science" Webinar Series

Collaborating outside the academy

Wednesday, May 19

1 pm - 2:30 pm

Panel includes ACHRI's Dr. Katrina Milaney and Dr. Maria Santana

[Register](#)

Collaborating with other academics

Friday, June 4

2:30 pm - 4 pm

Panel includes ACHRI's Drs. Marie-Claire Arrieta, Francois Bernier, Stephen Freedman, and Deborah Marshall

[Register](#)

Unique NEW opportunity!

Address child health gaps province wide

The Pediatric Health Outcomes Research Program is designed to allow researchers and care providers to ask important child health and wellness clinical care questions to improve child health outcomes.

WCHRI and ACHRI are partnering on this exciting new offering!

Deadline - June 15

[More information](#)

Campus Alberta Neuroscience (CAN) Entrepreneurship Seed Grant

This grant is a foundational pillar of CAN's Entrepreneurship Program funding early-stage innovation projects with solutions to address neuroscience and mental health-related challenges in Alberta.

Deadline: June 30

[More information](#)

TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES

Summer Student Program kicks off this Wednesday, May 12

This summer, ACHRI, HBI, Libin, the Owerko Centre, and Snyder are pleased to offer a compelling Summer Student Program: a series of eight workshops, journal clubs, other opportunities and resources, it culminates in a Summer Student Symposium in August. Visit the [Summer Student Program](#) for details. Summer students across campus are welcome to participate in any or all aspects of the program offered online from May - August.

Maternal Child Health Journal Club

Part of the ongoing MCH RUSS program

May 10, Noon - 1 pm

[Register](#)

if you are interested in presenting, contact taylor.scheidl@ucalgary.ca

EVENTS AND SEMINARS

Child Health and Wellness Seminars

Monday, May 10

8:30 am to 9:30 am

Dr. Douglas Mahoney, PhD

Dr. Franz Zemp, PhD

The Alberta Cellular Therapy and Immune Oncology Initiative (ACTION)

[Register](#)

Child Health and Wellness Special Seminar

Wednesday, May 12

2 pm - 3:30 pm

Dr. Francois Bernier, MD, Head of Medical Genetics

Ending the Diagnostic Odyssey and the Launch of an Undiagnosed Disease Program

[Register](#)

Thursday, June 10

11 am - Noon

Dr. Rebecca Knickmeyer, PhD, Michigan State University

The Infant Microbiome-Gut-Brain Axis

[Register](#)

Navigating Partnered Research

Hosted by Knowledge Engagement and Research Services

Tuesday, May 11

10 - 11 am

Papering Partnerships

[Register](#)

9th Annual Dr. Harvey B. Sarnat Lectureship in Developmental Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology

Monday, May 17

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Christopher Dunham, MD, FRCPC, BC Children's Hospital & Clinical Associate Professor, UBC

The Sonic Hedgehog Pathway in Neuroembryology and Neuropathology

[Register](#)

2021 Mini-Symposium on Paediatric Neural Tumours

Tuesday, May 18

8 am - 12 pm

Dr. Christopher Dunham, BC Children's Hospital

Dr. Lucie Lafay-Cousins, Paediatric Oncologist, ACH

Dr. Walter Hader, Head of Neurosurgery, ACH

Dr. Harvey Sarnat, Paediatric Neurologist, Neuropathologist, ACH

[Register](#)

Owerko Centre Conference

Wednesday, June 9

9 am - 3:45 pm

In the Beginning: How Early Experiences and Exposures Saves Lives

Dr. Joanne Weinberg, PhD, University of British Columbia

Dr. Michael Kobor, PhD, University of British Columbia

[View program](#) and [Register](#)

28th Annual CSM Symposium

Friday, June 11

11 am - 5 pm

Dr. Ami Bhatt, Dr. Deborah Sloboda, Dr. Rima Al-awar, Dr. Barbel Rohrer

[Register](#)

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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research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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Room 293
Heritage Medical Research
Building
3330 Hospital Dr. NW
Calgary, AB T2N 4N1

403-220-6898
r4k@ucalgary.ca

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