



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

May 11, 2020



Dr. Jim Kellner, MD, a member of National COVID Team

Dr. Kellner has been appointed to the National COVID-19 Immunity Task Force announced by the Prime Minister of Canada.

The Task Force "aims to catalyze, support and where appropriate and feasible, harmonize the design and rapid implementation of population-based studies that will generate reliable first estimates of SARS-CoV-2 immunity, overall and in priority populations across Canada."

For more information, visit the Task Force [website](#).

Congratulations Dr. Kellner!

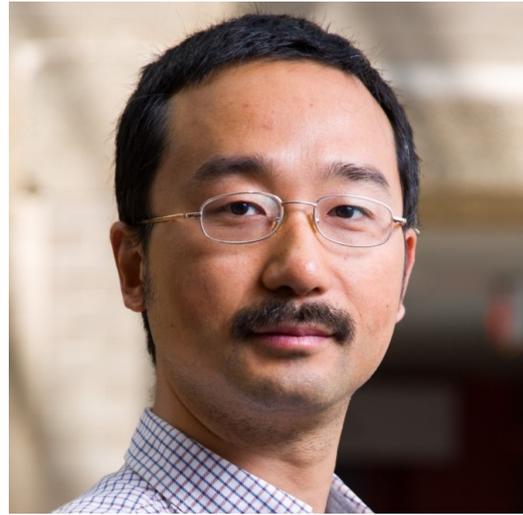
ALBERTA GENOME NEWS



Platform for Rapid, Reproducible, Phenotype-Centric Variant Prioritization in Poorly Characterized Rare Genetic Diseases

Dr. Jason de Koning, PhD, has been awarded an Alberta Genome Enabling Bioinformatic Solutions (EBS) Grant for research into rare childhood diseases. His team will build a powerful, open, and customizable software system to accelerate research to improve standards for reproducible variant interpretation in new and poorly characterized disorders.

RESEARCH RESULTS



Computational tools for viral pathogenesis and epidemiology using third-generation sequencing

Dr. Quan Long, PhD, has been awarded an Alberta Genome EBS Grant to develop and validate tools to characterize viral transmissions and viral evolution in the presence of sequencing errors. Long's team will develop new tools for Third-Generation Sequencing and apply them to human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV). Congratulations Drs. de Koning and Long!

[Read more](#)



New light shed on brain cancer and variants in ethnic groups

Dr. Marco Gallo, PhD, the Canada Research Chair in Brain Cancer Epigenetics, and his lab published research underscoring the need for careful evaluation of differences in genetic variants among ethnic groups. Brain cancer is now the leading cause of cancer deaths in young children. Gallo and his team identified two structural variants that were highly recurrent in children with high-grade glioma tumours.



Anna Bobyn, MSc, NSERC summer student, first author

Subsequent analyses of datasets from a control population of thousands of individuals revealed that these variants are present at high frequency in the non-cancer population, and in different frequencies in ethnic groups. The team notes, "our study highlights the need to integrate cancer genomic analyses and genomic data from large control populations." The paper is published in [BMC Medical Genetics](#).

WELLNESS WEBINARS



Summer Wellness Series

During the summer, the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning and the Campus Mental Health Strategy are presenting a series of wellness webinars offering participants important mental health tools to help work through the COVID-19 crisis.

[Register](#)

TRAINEE OPPORTUNITIES

**ACHRI SUMMER STUDENT WORKSHOPS
JUNE 3 to AUGUST 19**

ACHRI, the Owerko Centre and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute have teamed up to offer a **series of workshops** for summer students across campus. Students are welcome to participate in these workshops, regardless of their summer funding source, offered online from June to August. Summer students can register [here](#). We are seeking input from supervisors to maximize outcomes from these workshops more effective. Please complete a short [survey](#). For further training opportunities, please visit [here](#).

TRAINEES: EXTENDING DEADLINE TO MAY 15 FOR NEW APPLICATIONS

ACHRI has extended the deadline for the ACHRI Graduate Scholarships, ACHRI Postdoctoral Fellowships, and ACHRI Trainee Small Research Grants competitions to May 15. We welcome your applications.

You can find more information on how to apply and guidelines for these competitions [here](#).

If you have any questions, please email jklenin@ucalgary.ca

[There is new government support for research trainees](#) whose training programs are affected by the pandemic.

Visit our [Trainee web site](#) for all funding and training opportunities.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Workshop for Early Career Investigators

Children's Healthcare Canada

"Conducting health research during COVID-19 — Challenges and solutions for leadership and productivity"

Moderator: Dr. Christine Chambers, PhD, Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH).

May 13 at

9 am MT

[Register here](#)

International Microbiome Centre RNA workshop

"Intermediate R"

May 25-26 & 27-28

[Register](#)

Health Research Platform Strategy Lunch & Learn

May 25 at 12 pm

Speakers: [Linda Longpre](#) and [Sabine Moritz](#)

"The Regulatory Framework in a CoVID-19 world & guidance and supports for clinical research during the pandemic"

[Register](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



New Members

Dr. Linda Duffett-Leger, PhD – Maternal & Child Health [Profile](#)

Faculty of Nursing

Duffett-Leger uses participatory design methods to co-design wearable and mobile technology solutions to solve real-world clinical problems. A long-standing collaborator with the CHILD studies team, she is also co-lead of the Biomedical Engineering Research focus in Health and Monitoring and Management.

Dr. Mohammad Moshirpour, PhD – Child Health Data Science [Profile](#)

Schulich School of Engineering

Distributed data analytics is at the heart of Moshirpour's research. His team makes use of cloud capabilities combined with machine learning algorithms to process and analyze data at scale, including transportation, human resources, engineering applications, education, and healthcare.

Dr. Luis Murguia-Favela, MD – Precision Medicine & Disease Mechanisms [Profile](#)

Cumming School of Medicine, Paediatrics

With research focused on immune deficiencies and dysregulation, Murguia-Favela is site co-investigator for the Primary Immune Deficiency Treatment Consortium, comprised of 42 centers across North America. Their shared goal is to improve the outcome of patients with rare, life threatening, inherited disorders of the immune system.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Unraveling the mystery around children and COVID-19

Dr. Stephen Freedman, MD, Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Professor in Child Health and Wellness and an ER physician at the Alberta Children's Hospital, contextualizes recent virus studies and his own COVID research across 57 sites in 14 countries.

[Listen to Calgary Eyeopener](#)

[Read CBC online](#)

[National Post](#)



Making children comfortable with needles

There is a wealth of research showing how to prevent pain and soothe needle fears, writes Dr. Kathryn Birnie, PhD, in Conversation Canada. Birnie is an assistant professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine. [Read more.](#)

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