Child Health and Wellness Strategy at University of Calgary

We are honoured and excited that the University of Calgary made Child Health and Wellness a cross-cutting research priority, becoming a national leader in this critical area. View November 16 celebration.

Highlights:

- Dr. Ed McCauley, PhD, UCalgary President and Vice-Chancellor, "Together with our superb partners, Alberta Health Services, and our community, the University of Calgary is amplifying its commitment to pediatric health."
- Dr. Susa Benseler, MD, PhD, Strategy lead and director of ACHRI, “Research in child health and wellbeing has the power to transform the future for children and families. We are deeply thankful that 40 years of community partnership is fuelling our passionate community of scholars.”
- Saifa Koonar, President and CEO of the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation, “We are incredibly grateful to our generous community, their vision,
commitment and decades of investment in pediatric research which have created this nation-leading opportunity."

- Dr. Sid Viner, MD, Zone Medical Director, Alberta Health Services, “Partnerships like ours are vital to ensure the care we provide is cutting edge, backed by the latest research, and supplemented by effective, proven prevention strategies. Our children deserve nothing less.”

- Stacey Audley whose son's life was saved by research-intensive care, “It brings me to tears knowing that kids will be the focus of even more research at Alberta Children’s Hospital and the University of Calgary.”

Full announcement
Read Strategy
Read Daniel's story (above photo)

IDEA EXCHANGE CHILD HEALTH & WELLNESS

Still time to register for today's event
4 - 5:45 pm
Register

Now that the Child Health and Wellness Strategy is announced, UCalgary’s virtual Idea Exchange is shining the spotlight on it - exploring how we are partnering with Alberta Health Services, Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation, community organizations, children and their families to identify and address critical gaps in child health and wellness. Hosted by President Dr. Ed McCauley, speakers include: Dr. Susa Benseler, MD, PhD, Suzanne Tough, PhD, and Saifa Koonar, MA. Breakout sessions will feature key areas of focus for research.

CANDY CANE GALA FAST APPROACHING
Candy Cane Gala - Friday, December 4
Get your tickets now!
The Candy Cane Gala is truly home for the holidays this year. Child and Health Wellness researchers are invited to attend the 14th annual event in support of child-focused programs, leading-edge equipment and innovative research. Details

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Monday, November 30
9 am – 3 pm
All ACHRI members, research staff and trainees are invited to the second annual ACHRI Child Health and Wellness Research Retreat.
Register
Program

COVID-19 RESEARCH
Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Exceptional Opportunities Fund
Dr. Dylan Pillai, MD, PhD, is one of three University of Calgary investigators to receive funding for projects to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19. Pillai will evaluate different patient and environmental samples using a technology called 'digital droplet PCR' to determine how the viral load influences clinical outcomes and transmission rates, and how effectively clinical tests are identifying asymptomatic and low-level cases of COVID-19. “Canadian researchers and scientists are helping to protect our health and safety and are key to finding our way out of the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Navdeep Bains, minister of innovation, science and industry. Congratulations!

NEW MEMBER
Dr. Craig Jenne, PhD, is joining ACHRI in the Care Transformation for Children Program. We are grateful to Dr. Jenne, who has been committed to ensuring the community is well informed on COVID-19. The Jenne lab is working to understand how the immune system plays a role in various childhood diseases. Specifically the lab is studying if changes in a patients' immunity can help predict and diagnose conditions in children such as appendicitis, and if the body's own immune cell can be reprogrammed to help fight diseases. Welcome Dr. Jenne!

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
Alberta Innovates: Accelerating Innovations into CarE (AICE) – Concepts Program
Registration deadline December 7
Award: $600,000
Details
**Department of Pediatrics Innovation Award competition**

Intent to apply deadline Thursday, December 17
Submission deadline: Thursday, January 28

**Details**
Information session Monday, December 7,  8 - 8:30 am
Session will address questions and provide tips for developing a strong submission
Register
Questions? Contact Nicole Romanow

**Maternal Infant Child Youth Research Network (MYCYRN)**

New studies were recently added to MICYRN’s COVID-19 child, maternal and family public catalogue. Investigators are encouraged to make updates to their data as work progresses.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Child Health and Wellness Seminars**
Next talk on December 7, TBD
For all events, visit the ACHRI [calendar](#)

**Office of Indigenous Engagement**
Hosted by Dr. Michael Hart, Vice-Provost
Keynote speaker Dr. John Burrows, PhD, University of Victoria
Towards Transformation
November 26, 11 am - 12:30 pm
Register

**ACHRI Research Retreat**
We look forward to sharing ideas across programs at the second annual ACHRI Child Health and Wellness Research Retreat
November 30
Register
Program

**Health Research Platform Strategy Lunch & Learn**
November 30, Noon - 1 pm
Delaine Ramesh, Hoffmann-La Roche Limited
Shweta Patel, Clinical Trial Program Administrator, University of Calgary
*Shared Investigator Platform (SIP) - A Tool in the Conduct of Clinical Trials*
Register

**COVID Corner presented by CME & PD**
Panelists: Dr. Deena Hinshaw MD, Dr. Jim Kellner MD, and Dr. John Conly MD
Lessons learned and moving forward
December 2, 7 - 9 pm
Register

**CANADIAN CHILD HEALTH CLINICIAN SCIENTIST PROGRAM (CCHCSP)**
Certificate Eligible Sessions
Noon - 1:30 pm
Tuesday, December 15

Paper writing -
Qualitative research
Dr. Gina Dimitropoulos, PhD
Register by emailing
Ruth.Fermin@ahs.ca

COVID RETURN TO CAMPUS

Key resources: Research relaunch at ACH | Procedure for sick employees | Procedure for sick students | Face covering protocol | Meal preparation and eating spaces | Dashboard of cases on campus | Event risk toolkit | Mental health during COVID

COVID-19 isolation guidance for employees and students. If you have any questions about this guidance please contact the occupational health nurse at ohn@ucalgary.ca.
Questions? Email covid19comms@ucalgary.ca