November 23, 2022

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ALBERTA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Research is Care. Care is Research.

We are sharing the pride, vision and excitement for all that our research community has and will continue to achieve.

DR. JULIA JACOBS-LEVAN
I am a clinician scientist and Director of the Alberta Children's Epilepsy Program. My research aims to bring new diagnostic tools and treatments to children with rare and difficult to treat epilepsies.

Each seizure causes anxiety and a perceived loss of control for affected families. In these cases, knowledge about seizures and epilepsy can empower, but is often not readily available. To address this gap – something I am very passionate about - we have developed a program in close collaboration with kids, families and health care providers called Knowledge to Empower (K2E). It’s a virtual interactive training platform with short, accessible, and engaging videos for different age groups impacted by epilepsy.

The videos feature two superneurons - Zippy and Zappy - one has epilepsy and likes to start seizures and the other one is his best friend, who is healthy. Created by Paola Santoscoy, a Research Associate on our team, Zippy and Zappy were selected by kids as relatable characters. Their big eyes, superhero capes and little battery of energy levels - were thoughtfully developed through engagement with stakeholder groups.

Zippy and Zappy are also adapted for all kinds of awareness activities, including collaboration with Epilepsy Association of Calgary, providing outreach to schools (videos and brain awareness week). These connections provide new learning opportunities for families and strengthen community awareness and engagement around pediatric epilepsy.

I believe that knowledge empowers. Everyone should have access to easy and entertaining information about their condition. Continued partnerships between our community and clinical programs at Alberta Children’s Hospital is work that I am proud to be a part of – and something that I think will continue to grow over the next 100 years.

- Dr. Julia Jacobs-LeVan @ExcitedBrains

ACH 100 ART PIECE AT FOOTHILLS CAMPUS
Come visit the ACH100 art piece located in the north end of the HRIC Atrium.

Take a picture with your team...a once in a lifetime (100 year) opportunity!

Post on social media and tag: @UofCr4kids @UCalgary @UCalgaryMed @ACHFKids #ACH100

NEW CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

We are proud to share that Dr. Jennifer Markides has been named the SSHRC Tier 2
Congratulations to Dr. Abhay Lodha on receiving the Immigrants of Distinction Award (IDA) in the Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math category. IDA is an awards gala dedicated to the remarkable contributions immigrants and refugees have made to create a strong and prosperous Canada.

Dr. Lodha is a Staff Neonatologist at ACH and Perinatal Epidemiologist. His goal is to improve the outcomes of vulnerable NICU babies. His research has encompassed perinatal epidemiology, neonatology, prematurity, neurodevelopmental outcomes and patient-oriented health outcomes. “The honour is a tribute to the newborn babies and families who make the decision to participate in the research and improve lives.” Dr. Lodha says. Read more.

With thanks: Clayton MacGillivray, Werklund School of Education

IMMIGRANTS OF DISTINCTION AWARD - DR. ABHAY LODHA

Canada Research Chair (CRC) of Indigenous Youth Wellbeing and Education. Dr. Markides, an assistant professor in the Werklund School of Education and Faculty of Social Work, is partnering with the Peace Wapiti, Fort Vermilion and High Prairie School Divisions to examine the educational experiences of Indigenous students and develop context-specific and culturally responsive school-based programming. “For too long, Indigenous youth have been educated within colonizing institutions. Systems of education need to take a proactive role in addressing the well-being needs of youth in schools.”

In addition to this project, Dr. Markides is working with two Fort Vermilion K-12 schools to identify and implement educational experiences that reflect and reinforce the students’ cultural identities, well-being and future goals. The schools have an approximately 95% Indigenous student population and the research is being carried out with guidance from Beaver First Nation Chief and Council and the Métis Local President and Elders.

“Earning this position is a dream come true. I am not the leader in this work, but a facilitator working alongside the community partners to see their priorities being addressed. We are taking bold steps to make change in real time so that the youth feel that their voices have been heard and respected. Our work is for them.” Read more.

With thanks: Clayton MacGillivray, Werklund School of Education

KIDS SCREENTIME AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY POST COVID-19

Congratulations to Dr. Sheri Madigan on two new...
publications in JAMA Pediatrics, both exploring changes in child and adolescent screen time and physical activity during COVID-19. Assessment of Changes in Child and Adolescent Screen Time During the COVID-19 Pandemic found the pandemic revealed an increase in screen time to 84 min/d, or 52%. Screen time increases were highest for individuals aged 12 to 18 years and for handheld devices and personal computers.

The second publication, Global Changes in Child and Adolescent Physical Activity During the COVID-19 Pandemic, revealed a decrease of 17 minutes per day in children’s moderate-to-vigorous physical activity from pre-pandemic to during the pandemic.

Findings from both underscore the need for practitioners to promote healthy device habits and bolstered access to physical activity resources to ensure good health and social functioning among children and adolescents during pandemic recovery.

NEW ACHRI MEMBERS

Welcome to Dr. Gonzalo Garcia Guerra, a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Section Chief of Critical Care. Along with his clinical work, Dr. Guerra has been an active clinical researcher exploring nutrition, transfusion medicine, sedation and analgesia, health related quality of life, neurodevelopmental and long term outcomes after critical illness in children. Dr. Guerra believes his mission as an intensivist and a leader is to provide high quality, evidence-based clinical care to treat critically ill children so they cannot only survive their illness but also recover and achieve their maximum potential later in life. Read more.

Welcome to Dr. Matthias Wilms who has joined the Child Health Data Science Program. Dr. Wilms is a computer scientist and an expert in machine learning-based medical image analysis. His research centers around the development of machine learning solutions for health data science and precision medicine problems. He is specifically interested in developing and advancing machine learning methods that accurately model the complex dynamics and variations of normal or pathological processes in the human body by integrating and combining diverse, large-scale medical data (e.g., images, clinical data, text reports). Dr. Wilms looks forward to future collaborations with researchers across the different...
ACHRI programs to enable data-driven precision medicine for children. Read more.

A DECADE OF NETWORK SCIENCE FOR RARE DISEASE

Congratulations to Care for Rare on a decade of network science for rare disease gene discovery. Care4Rare is a collaborative team of clinicians, bioinformaticians, scientists, and researchers focused on improving the diagnostic care of Rare Genetic Disease patients in Canada and around the world, including ACHRI members, Dr. François Bernier, Dr. Deborah Marshall, Dr. Jillian Parboosingh and Dr. Ryan Lamont.

Reflecting on the incredible advances in diagnosis and discovery, the Care4Rare Consortium has published a decade of research summary. Care4Rare has made significant contributions to Rare Disease research, including platforms for data collection and sharing and instigating a Canadian network to catalyze functional characterization research of novel genes. The Consortium has been instrumental to implementing genome-wide sequencing as a publicly funded test for Rare Disease diagnosis in Canada. Read more.

ASTech AWARDS

Congratulations to Dr. Linda Duffett-Leger on receiving the 2022 ASTech Outstanding Achievement in AI/ML Advancement: Social Innovation Award for her initiative 'Health Technology – Creating Scalable Digital Solutions to Support the Mental Health and Wellness of Albertans'. Dr. Duffett-Leger is a nursing leader whose sustained program of innovative research is leveraging digital technologies to solve real-world health challenges for individuals, families, healthcare providers, and communities. Her team is focused on the urgently needed virtual delivery of mental health and wellness programs, to mitigate the lifelong consequences of socio-environmental adversities on health and psychological outcomes.

Congratulations to Dr. Catherine Lebel on receiving a 2022 ASTech in Social Innovation Award as an Early-Career Change-Maker in Research. Dr. Lebel is being recognized for her contributions to
pediatric neuroimaging and mapped structural and functional brain development across early childhood in unprecedented detail. Dr. Lebel has also forged new understanding of how the prenatal environment affects child brain development, both in terms of prenatal substance exposures and psychosocial stress. She and her team continue to investigate brain development in these children to understand how these brain changes may relate to behaviour and learning.

BIOSTATISTICAL CONSULTING

Need support with biostatistical areas in your research study?

ACHRI has a dedicated Biostatistics Consultant, Dr. Grace Kwong, providing biostatistical support for ACHRI members and trainees. To discuss your project needs, initiate a consultation.

In order to shape biostatistical services, we'd like to hear about your research, and any barriers and/or areas in which you could benefit from biostatistics capacity building. We are holding engagement sessions throughout the month of November.

- **Who**: Clinician Investigators at the Alberta Children's Hospital
- **What**: Engagement sessions to make introductions and discuss ideas for biostatistics support
- **Where**: Sessions offered in person in ACH room C4-522, additional sessions being offered via Zoom
- **When**: Various dates and times in November
- **Why**: To help inform future biostatistics consultations and capacity building resources such as training and reference materials in the areas of greatest need

Sign up here: [Biostatistics Support: Clinical investigators Engagement Meeting](#)

CANDY CANE GALA

Candy Cane Gala is back in-person!
The Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation invites you, your family and friends to attend this much-loved evening of dining, dancing and boundless entertainment. With your generous support for innovative research and care, the sky’s the limit for sick and injured children in our community.

Reserve your table today!

2022 CHILD HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESEARCH RETREAT

ACHRI members, research staff and trainees are invited to learn about each other’s work across Child Health and Wellness programs and Grand Challenge areas. Includes stellar keynote speakers, dinner and a social!

2022 Child Health and Wellness Research Retreat

Thursday, December 15, 8 am - 9:30 pm
Friday, December 16, 8:30 am - 1 pm
MacEwan Ballroom and Hall, UCalgary

- Register to attend by December 7
- Trainee Video/Presentation Submissions by December 2
- Retreat Program

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES SURVEY

Calling all faculty members! ACHRITA is keen to organize useful education opportunities for the benefit of students and post-docs as well as faculty. As an ACHRI member and a professor, we would love your input on educational events you’d like ACHRITA to prioritize for your trainees!

Please complete this 5-minute survey by Dec. 5 to have your say on educational events you’d like ACHRITA to prioritize for your trainees.

Questions? Email ACHRITA@ucalgary.ca

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR THINC Implementation Science Team Grant
This opportunity aims to improve our understanding of how to implement, evaluate, adapt and/or scale evidence-informed integrated care and intervention policies.
These policies should encompass intersectoral collaborations within and/or beyond the formal health care delivery system.

**Deadline: Thursday, November 24, 2022 (RSO Internal)**

Details

**Research Partnerships Program (RPP) 2022**
The Research Partnerships Program (RPP) facilitates opportunities for research connections between post-secondary research institutions and school authorities. This program is intended to support collaborative research projects that focus on research questions most relevant to Alberta's education system.

**Deadline: Monday, November 28, 2022**

Details

**Banting Research Foundation Discovery Award**
This award supports innovative health and biomedical research projects by new investigators with intent to provide seed funding to gather pilot data to enhance their competitiveness for other sources of funding.

**Deadline: Thursday, December 1, 2022**

Details

**Azrieli Accelerator Catalyst Grants**
This opportunity supports new, transdisciplinary research related to neurodevelopment, neurodevelopmental conditions and/or neurodiversity.

**Deadline: Thursday, December 1, 2022**

Details

**2022 Robertson Fund for Cerebral Palsy Research Competition**
This opportunity supports basic or clinical research related to the detection, prevention, or treatment of Cerebral Palsy and/or related neurological enquiry.

**Deadline: Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

Details

**2022 The Koopmans Memorial Research Fund Competition**
This endowment honours the late Henry S. Koopmans. It provides funds for innovative research into the mechanisms of food intake, energy balance or integrative GI physiology.

**Deadline: Friday, December 9, 2022**

Details

**Genome Canada: Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP) - Round 25**
This opportunity funds downstream research and development projects driven by challenges and opportunities identified by end-users such as industry, government, not-for-profits, or other receptor organizations. This is an ongoing competition.

**Deadline: Monday, December 12, 2022 (EOI)**

Details
SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant: Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization
With additional funding from Genome Canada, this program aims to foster a deeper understanding about the shifting dynamics of privilege and marginalization brought about by a variety of factors, such as old and recent socio-political events; new technologies, including genomics; the new mis/information age; and the COVID-19 pandemic.
**Deadline: Monday, December 12, 2022**
[Details](#)

CIHR Clinical Trials Funding – SEED Grant
The Cumming School of Medicine and Alberta Health Services Clinical Research Fund is now open for seed applications. This opportunity will support the Eyes High strategic vision of leadership in high impact clinical research at UCalgary and promote the objectives of AHS strategy for research innovation and analytics.
**Deadline: Thursday, December 15, 2022**
[Details](#)

Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation - RUNX1 Early Career Investigator Program
This award is designed to fund research investigating strategies that will lead to the development of therapies that will prevent the transition from pre-malignancy to overt hematologic malignancy in patients with RUNX1-FPD.
**Deadline: Wednesday, December 21, 2022**
[Details](#)

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

TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation: Young Investigator Award
This award supports early career researchers pursuing promising childhood cancer research ideas and who demonstrate a commitment to a research career in pediatric cancer. A mentor is required, as well as a career development plan.
**Deadline: Wednesday, December 21, 2022**
[Details](#)

Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
This program supports research for adult or pediatric brain tumour research that is Basic, Clinical or Translational in nature.
**Deadline: Friday, January 6, 2022**
[Details](#)

CIHR – Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA) - Brain Star Award
The specific objectives of the Brain Star program are to: promote research careers in neuroscience, mental health and addiction in Canada and stimulate the involvement
of students and trainees in the Institute and increase awareness of INMHA activities among students and trainees.

**Deadline: Sunday, January 15, 2022**

**Details**

Visit ACHRI website for trainee funding opportunities.

If you haven't done so please complete the ACHRI Trainee Registration Form.

**EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

**Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases & O'Brien Institute for Public Health**

**Science in the Cinema**

Wednesday, November 23, 2022

6 - 8:30 pm

[Register](#)

**Child Health and Wellness Special Seminar**

**Replication Repair Deficiency: Translating Science to Clinics Using the Power of a Global Consortium**

Thursday, November 24, 2022

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Anirban Das

[Register](#)

**Calgary Adapted Hub - Research and Community Engagement Meeting**

**Policy Matters: Practical Approaches for Evidence Informed Policy Development**

Thursday, November 24, 2022

12 - 1 pm

Dr. Jennifer Zwicker

[Register](#)

**Child Health and Wellness Seminar**

**Sustainability Matters: Prospects for a Just Transition in Calgary in a Time of Crisis**

Monday, November 28, 2022

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Noel Gerard Keough

[Register](#)

**ATTACH Webinar Series**

**An Introduction and Perspectives from ATTACH Parents**

Friday, November 25, 2022

12 - 1 pm

Dr. Nicole Letourneau

[Register](#)

**Snyder Institute - Mini-Medical School Lecture**
COVID-19: the Effectiveness of Vaccines and Treatments  
Monday, December 5, 2022  
6:30 - 8 pm  
Drs. Craig Jenne & Dan Gregson  
Register

Owerko Neurodevelopmental Clinical Rounds  
Treating Anxiety Among Children and Adolescents with Autism and ADHD: Updates from the Facing Your Fears Program  
Wednesday, December 7, 2022  
12 - 1 pm  
Dr. Carly McMorris & Stephanie Howe (PhD Candidate)  
Register

For all events visit the ACHRI calendar.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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

Visit us: research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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