

October 11, 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 in the years to come.

CHILDNEPH RESEARCH TEAM



**CHILDNEPH Research Team** (left to right): Ken Pfister, Roxana Barabani, Susan Samuel, Laurel Ryan, Maneka Perinpanayagam, Ava Zardynezhad

**CHILDNEPH Trainees** (left to right): Areefa Alladin, Tanya Graves-Smith, Maneka Perinpanayagam, Roxana Barabani, Ken Pfister, Justin Knight, Susan Samuel, Zoya Punjwani

### **'We Can Do Better. A Call to Action'**

#### **Dr. Susan Samuel, CHILDNEPH Principal Investigator:**

When I was a resident at SickKids, I remember a participant asked a question during teaching rounds about managing their practice for nephrotic syndrome, a relapsing disease that occurs in young children. The answer was along the lines of 'we don't really know, and we can't do better than this'. I remember thinking 'why can't we do better?' There had been very little advance in the understanding of pathogenesis or treatment protocols for decades. That's really the moment I really felt the call to action to do something for nephrotic syndrome.

When I came to Calgary 15 years ago there were very few patients with nephrotic syndrome, but it made me realize that because it's a rare disease we cannot work in isolation – that inspired us to collaborate. With that, we launched CHILDNEPH – Canadian Childhood Nephrotic Syndrome Project. We are a team that focuses on finding evidence-based treatments and care for children with Nephrotic Syndrome.

#### **Dr. Maneka Perinpanayagam, Program Manager:**

I joined the CHILDNEPH research group in 2016. As a scientist, I am driven by evidence – so I ask myself 'why are we treating these kids this way'? We need to do better. I want to support the movement towards personalized medicine. I am so proud of the work we've done so far but there is so much left to do. We are fortunate to collaborate with our patient partners because it's not just the scientists and the physicians making the decisions and changing the course of the research, it's also

the families. They are the ones who go through this disease in real time. We need their input. It's been a rewarding experience so far. Every day we learn something different and it's a new challenge that we must overcome.

**Claudia Harding, Patient Partner:**

My daughter was diagnosed with nephrotic syndrome when she was about two and a half. We went to ACH and started on the standard treatment plan, but things went south, and she ended up in hospital for a while. It made me realize that there's so much that we really don't know about this disease. When the opportunity came available to act as a patient partner, it was important to me to be able to do anything that I could to help other kids and families. I hope that we can get to a place where we can really target treatment and care so that kids don't have to carry this throughout their whole life.

**Roxana Barabani, Research Assistant:**

Everyone on the team plays an important role in achieving our goals. When I am in the lab processing samples, I know this small step can have such a big impact and I am so happy to be part of that. Each of the samples that we process from families contributes new information to advance science in this area.

**Dr. Susan Samuel:**

I've always said this right from the beginning, I don't think I will be the person who discovers the molecular targets or unlocks the mystery of this syndrome, but I am very determined, and it would be my honor to be a facilitator in that journey of discovery. I want to put in the groundwork to help others find the exact mechanisms so that when a patient comes in, they can be given precision therapy. By learning from each patient, we can iteratively improve care.

**CONNECT WITH US**

We invite you to share your stories of research excellence as we celebrate the Alberta Children's Hospital **100 years of hope + healing**.

Researchers and Trainees, please email [fiona.mackenzie@ucalgary.ca](mailto:fiona.mackenzie@ucalgary.ca) to set up a short interview. Stories will be shared in the newsletter and across social platforms throughout 2022.

**NEW ACHRI MEMBERS**

ACHRI is welcoming several new members! In the next few newsletters we will introduce you to each of them.

**DR. REBECCA HARTLEY**

Welcome to **Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Hartley** who has joined the Child Health Data Science Program. Dr. Hartley is a clinical associate professor in the Department of Surgery whose research focuses on



how pediatric plastic surgery patients engage with the health care system, and whether care pathways can be modified to improve care and health outcomes. She has been involved in creating care pathways for children with hand fractures, cleft palates, and cranial vault remodeling. Dr. Hartley's research engages with multiple medical disciplines including Plastic Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, and Neurosurgery and she looks forward to additional networking opportunities through ACHRI. [Profile](#)



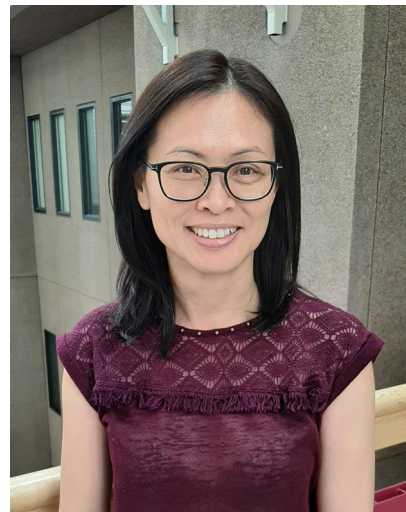
#### DR. THOMAS (RICHARD) CAWTHORN



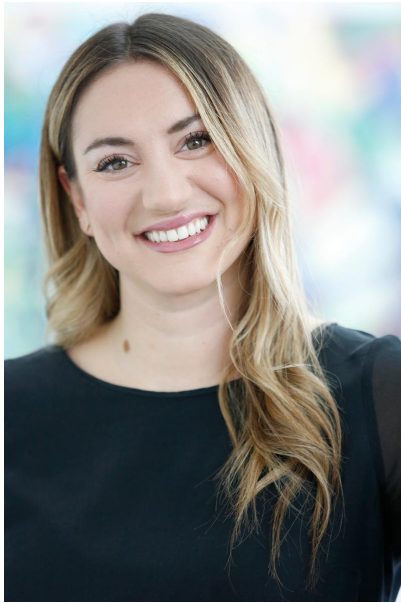
Welcome to **Dr. Thomas (Richard) Cawthorn** who has joined the Care Transformation for Children program. Dr. Cawthorn is a clinical assistant professor in Department of Surgery whose research aims to optimize care for children undergoing plastic and reconstructive surgery. He is involved in developing and implementing multidisciplinary perioperative care pathways for surgical procedures using quality improvement approaches and metrics. These pathways have been associated with decreased post-operative opioid consumption and reduced hospital length-of-stay and have been adapted for other pediatric hospitals in Canada. His team plans to expand on this work with other surgical specialties at ACH. [Profile](#)

#### WELCOME DR. GRACE KWONG

Welcome to **Dr. Grace Kwong** who joins ACHRI as our Biostatistics Consultant. She earned a PhD in Statistics from the University of Warwick, UK. She is an adjunct assistant professor with the Department of Community Health Sciences and spent 8 years as Biostatistics Consultant for the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine prior joining ACHRI. She's looking forward to collaborating with ACHRI researchers and strengthening their research projects through biostatistics support. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, hiking and cooking.



## TRAINEE HIGHLIGHT



Congratulations to **Brooke Allemang**, a PhD Candidate in the Faculty of Social Work under the supervision of **Drs. Gina Dimitropoulos** and **Susan Samuel**, on receiving the **2021 J.B. Hyne Research Innovation Award**. The award, which recognizes graduate student research excellence, is based on her work towards understanding pediatric to adult care transition preparedness in youth using a patient-oriented approach.

Brooke's research has been recently published in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing: **Association between transition readiness and mental health comorbidity in youth with chronic health conditions**.

The study found that having a mental health co-morbidity, being older in age and being female were associated with greater transition readiness. Future work may enable the development of strategies and best practices for supporting this population of youth and families in preparing for service transitions.

## INSTITUTE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, CHILD AND YOUTH HEALTH COMMUNITY EVENT



**Thursday, November 3, 2022**

**3:30 - 5:15 pm**

**HRIC Atrium, Foothills Campus**

This community event is designed for ACHRI members and trainees to connect with CIHR IHDCYH Institute Advisory Board Members.

**Register and Program**

**Registration Deadline: Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

## 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.

**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](#)

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### **CIHR Catalyst Grant: Policy Research for Health System Transformation**

This opportunity supports Policy Research for Health System Transformation grants that generate evidence to inform macro-level policies to support high-performing health care and public health systems in Canada.

**Deadline: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 (RSO Internal)**

[Details](#)

### **OPTions Initiative - Next Generation Methods**

This program supports proposals related to women's, girls', and people with diverse sexual and gender identities' access to safe abortion in low-and middle-income countries.

**Deadline: Friday, October 14, 2022 (NOI)**

[Details](#)

### **Genome Canada: Genomic Applications Partnership Program (GAPP)**

The GAPP 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.

**Deadline: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 (EOI)**

[Details](#)

### **2023 MSI Foundation Research Grant**

This program supports emerging investigators in the field of health services and population health research (similar to CIHR pillar 3 or 4). Projects require a co-applicant who is a user of research.

**Deadline: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 (LOI)**

[Details](#)

### **Operating Grant: Diabetes, Psychosocial Health, Prevention and Self-Management**

This program supports research that builds on successful models of care, knowledge mobilization, and optimization of self-management for T1D and T2D.

**Deadline: Thursday, October 27, 2022 (RSO Internal)**

[Details](#)

### **UCalgary Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Scholarship in Health and Medical Education Funding Competition**

This program supports research and innovation that advances our knowledge and understanding of EDI and/or Indigenous health issues in health and/or medical education, and ultimately results in improved outcomes.

**Deadline: Monday, October 31, 2022 (LOI)**

[Details](#)

#### **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](#)

#### **SSHRC Knowledge Synthesis Grant: Shifting Dynamics of Privilege and Marginalization**

With additional funding from Genome Canada, this program aims to foster a deeper understanding of the state of knowledge 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](#)

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

### **TRAINEE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **ACHRI Trainee Small Research Grant Competition**

These grants provide funding to trainees of clinicians, clinician scientists and scientists of ACHRI who would like to undertake small research projects that are outside of the scope of their funded research program and to gain experience in developing their own, independent research avenues.

**Deadline: Monday, October 17, 2022**

[Details](#)

#### **Azrieli CHILD-BRIGHT Fellowship Program**

CHILD-BRIGHT is looking to fill 6 or more postdoctoral positions for up to two years. Applicants should have a passion for supporting children with brain-based developmental disabilities and their families. Applicants should also have a strong interest in patient-oriented research, EDI-DI, implementation science and expertise in disseminating research knowledge and supporting the uptake of evidence into practice .

**Deadline: Monday, October 17, 2022**

[Details](#)

#### **ENRICH masters thesis and doctoral salary awards for Indigenous and Black scholars**

This program supports black and Indigenous doctoral or masters (thesis based) students conducting research in perinatal and child health and well-being.

**Deadline: Tuesday, November 1, 2022**

[Details](#)

### **Eyes High Postdoctoral Match-Funding Program (Fall 2022)**

This program awards partial salary support for postdocs who will be highly competitive for external awards and will help advance UCalgary's strategic research and innovation plan.

**Deadline: Friday, November 4, 2022 (Sponsor Application Deadline)**

[Details](#)

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

If you haven't done so please complete the [ACHRI Trainee Registration Form](#).

## **EVENTS AND SEMINARS**

### **Paediatric Grand Rounds**

#### **COVID, Cannabis and Congenital Syphilis – The Impact of the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance System**

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Charlotte Moore Hepburn & Melanie Laffin

[Register](#)

### **Child Health and Wellness Special Seminar**

#### **Apgar Score and Risk of Neonatal Death Among Preterm Infants**

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

11:15 - 12:15 PM

Dr. Neda Razaz

[Register](#)

### **Child Health and Wellness Seminar**

#### **Drugs & Bugs - A Pharmacologist Attempting to Navigate the World of the Gut Microbiota**

Monday, October 17, 2022

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Simon Hirota

[Register](#)

### **Luna Child and Youth Advocacy Centre**

#### **Canadian Symposium on Advanced Practices in Child Maltreatment 2022**

Monday, October 17, 2022 - Wednesday, October 19, 2022

8 am - 5 pm

[Register](#)

### **2022 Owerko Family Distinguished Lecture**

#### **Somatic Mutation in the Human Brain**



Thursday, October 20, 2022

3 - 4:30 PM

Dr. Christopher Walsh

[Register](#)

**Child Health and Wellness Seminar**

**The Complex Immune Dysregulation Program at Alberta Children's Hospital**

Monday, October 24, 2022

8:30 - 9:30 am

Dr. Ashish Marwaha

[Register](#)

**ATTACH Webinar Series**

**The State of the Art and Science of Research Coproduction**

Friday, October 28, 2022

12 - 1 pm

Dr. Ian Graham

[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](mailto:r4k@ucalgary.ca)

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[research4kids.ucalgary.ca](https://research4kids.ucalgary.ca)

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