



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

September 8, 2020

COVID-19 RETURN TO CAMPUS RESOURCES

- *Key resources:* [Procedure for sick employees](#) | [Procedure for sick students](#) | [Cessation of the expanded research designation](#) | [Return to Campus protocol](#) | [Face covering protocol](#) | [Meal preparation and eating spaces](#) | [Dashboard of cases on campus](#) | [Mental health during COVID](#)
- For latest updates, follow COVID-19 [Return to Campus](#)
- For AHS Parking update [Visit here](#)
- Questions? Send them to covid19comms@ucalgary.ca

PUBLICATIONS and REPORTS

Raising Canada 2020: Ringing the alarm for Canada's children

ACHRI, Children First Canada and the O'Brien Institute released the Raising Canada 2020 report on Sept. 1. It outlines the top 10 threats to the wellbeing of Canadian children and how COVID-19 has impacted children and youth. Dr. Brent Hagel, PhD, is one of the report's authors. "This report is a stark reminder of the significant threats to child health and wellness in Canada likely exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic," he says. "It is also a call to action for us to address these issues and protect children's rights." Read [UToday story](#) | Read [Calgary Herald story](#) | Read the [report](#) | Join Dr. Susa Benseler, MD, PhD, and a panel of experts on October 6 to discuss the findings and how you can take action. [Register](#)





Transitioning youth to adult care

To improve the lives of young people moving to adult care, Dr. Kyleigh Schraeder, PhD, launched a study with 18 family physicians, social workers, and nurses recruited from six Primary Care Networks in Calgary. She asked them for their perspectives on their roles in supporting young people who often experience health crises during this period. The views are published in *BMC Family Practice*.

Schraeder completed a postdoctoral fellowship through the ACHRI-supported Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program. She is a team lead for CIHR's Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction.

Children's voices in clinical care

A systematic review by PhD candidate Sumedh Bele and supervisor Dr. Maria Santana, PhD, found that integrating patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in children's care had a positive impact on quality of care and patient outcomes. The authors underscore that this review is the first to evaluate PROMs in pediatric routine clinical care. Published in *Frontiers in Pediatrics*, the study is part of the KidsPRO program to integrate patient voices into care. This study was funded by the Innovation Award from the Department of Pediatrics and an ACHRI Graduate Scholarship. View [KidsPRO video](#)



COVID-19 RESEARCH



Global study of COVID-19 in children

Dr. Stephen Freedman, MD, is leading a global study of emergency department visits during COVID-19. He presented early findings to the World Health Organization's (WHO) COVID-19 Clinical Management and Characterization Working Group. The study is tracking transmission and outcomes in children. Of the 5,000 enrolled, 800 tested positive for the virus. Freedman holds the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Professorship in Child Health and Wellness. *Photo: Dr. Freedman testing a baby at Alberta Children's Hospital, the lead site of the global study.*



Back-to-school anxiety

Need some tips on how to help your child cope with back to school during COVID-19?

Parents can use coping-focused language to promote things going well, write Drs. Nicole Racine, PhD, Sheri Madigan, PhD, and doctoral student Jessica Cooke in Conversation Canada. Madigan, the Canada Research Chair in the Determinants of Child Development, is a member of the Owerko Centre at ACHRI.

[Read more](#) | Watch [CTV Calgary](#)

If you are doing, or plan to do, research, clinical and/or quality improvement work related to COVID19, AHS is asking you to complete this 5-minute needs assessment survey, including what type of research/quality improvement work you plan to do, whether you seek to contact individuals directly, and your thoughts on provincial coordination in this area.

[LINK TO SURVEY](#)

ACHRI TRAINEE COMPETITION RESULTS



Awards will expand research in child health

ACHRI awarded 17 graduate scholarships this year to first-time recipients, twice as many as last year. These awards help graduates advance their careers and expand

research to move discoveries forward.

Shreeya Kedia, a master's student in Dr. Guang Yang's lab, is one of the awardees and is grateful for the opportunity. "This award helps me to advance my research in the lab. I am investigating the role of a ubiquitination mechanism in mediating neural stem cell fate decisions."

In addition, ACHRI awarded six postdoctoral fellowships and two clinical research fellowships.

Dr. Golam Uddin, PhD, is a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Tim Shutt's lab investigating mitochondrial dysfunction in autism spectrum disorder. "This fellowship is such a boost to my career, giving me an opportunity to develop a new skill set, work on novel research and collaborate."

Congratulations to all the recipients, and a huge thanks to our reviewers. For a full list of the awardees, visit [here](#).

The next round of ACHRI Trainee Competitions will open on November 1st.

SUMMER STUDENT RESEARCH DAY



Summer students participate in virtual research day

Dr. Bill Ghali, PhD, UCalgary Vice-President (Research), and Dr. Susa Benseler, MD, PhD, Director of ACHRI, opened the Summer Student Research Day on August 28. "We at UCalgary have some of the finest trainees and summer students in Canada. You are the foundation of what we do here. Our wins are your wins," Benseler observed in welcoming the 200 attendees participating in the celebration highlighting a broad spectrum of child health research. [Read more](#).

Congratulations to all summer students on your excellent research projects! Symposium presentation winners:

Basic Science Research

Lauren Coulombe, supervised by Dr. Tuan Trang, PhD

A Mechanistic Explanation for the Benefits of Exercise in Chronic Neuropathic Pain

Clinical Research

Riley Bohach, supervised by Drs. Gillian R. Currie, PhD, and Deborah Marshall, PhD

A Characterization of the Literature on the Socioeconomic Burden of Rare Diseases: Preliminary Results From a Scoping Review

Translational Research

Jessica Ritchie, supervised by Dr. Jeff F. Dunn, PhD

Head-Mounted Accelerometer Detects Decreased Postural Stability in Self-Reported Concussion

Computational Methodology/Bioinformatics/Genetics

Raziq Kassam, supervised by Dr. Adam Kirton, MD

Utilizing Brain Computer Interface (BCI) for Robotic Painting

Pediatrics/Development and developmental disorders

Rylen Williamson, supervised by Dr. Carolyn Emery, PhD

Evaluating the Zero Tolerance for Head Contact & Policy Change on the Incidence of Head Contacts, Penalties Assessed and Player Behaviour in 13-14 Year Old Ice Hockey Players

CNS injury/Neurodegeneration/Mental health

Ayden Hansen, supervised by Dr. Jeff F. Dunn, PhD

Increased NIRS Light Scattering in the MS Population - Possible Physiological Insight into the MS Brain

Population and community health/Epidemiology

Julianna Park, supervised by Dr. Sheri Madigan, PhD

Prevalence of Multiple Forms of Sexting Behavior Among Youth: A Meta-Analysis

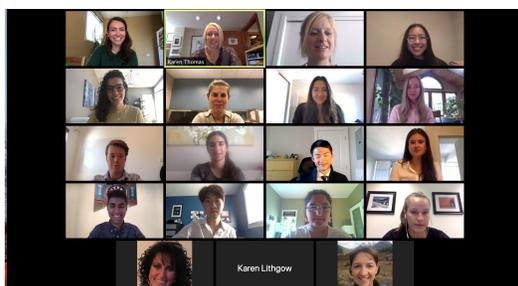
Cellular, molecular and microbial biology/Immunology and inflammation

Julia Casorso, supervised by Dr. Amanda Melin, PhD

Assessing natural sources of ethanol in wild primate foods: testing key predictions of the dietary exposure hypothesis

The symposium was organized by the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Owerko Centre and ACHRI supported by community donations through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.

We value your feedback! Please fill out the [survey](#) by September 10 at noon.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR Project Grant

Registration deadline - September 16

RSO Internal deadline - October 9

Competition [details](#)

CCHCSP Competition

Deadline - October 1

Eligibility, guidelines and application [here](#). If you have an active application, you may use the current submitted application or resubmit a revised version.

Contact Ruth.Fermin@albertahealthservices.ca

Child Health Research Development Fund

Open to Allied Health and Nursing professionals

Deadline - October 2

The Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation is sponsoring this opportunity to develop research to improve the health and well-being of infants, children, and youth and their families. Eligibility and guidelines [here](#). Application [form](#).

Additional funding opportunities detailed [here](#).

NEW MEMBERS



Dr. Jack (Li-Fang) Chu, PhD

Precision Medicine & Disease
Mechanisms Program

Profile

The genetic and molecular basis of timing in the development of cells and tissues in the body is largely unknown. The Chu Lab is investigating the principles governing this developmental clock and how misregulation causes diseases such as spinal deformity. Chu, a recruit to the University of Calgary, comes from the Morgridge Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Learn more about Chu's research on [EurekAlert](#).

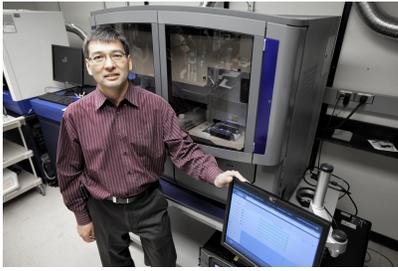


Dr. Gabrielle Wilcox, PhD

Child Brain & Mental Health Program
[Profile](#)

Dr. Wilcox has three components to her research. She studies the role of mental health on school functioning and preparedness to transition from high school to adult life. She examines assessments to inform interventions and collaborates on projects using neurostimulation to enhance other interventions. And thirdly, she examines practices related to teaching and assessing clinical reasoning in school psychology to improve clinical practice.

Retirement



Dr. Richard Pon, PhD, an adjunct professor in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, came to UCalgary in 1985 from McGill University to establish a core facility for custom synthesized oligonucleotides. He served as the Director of the University Core DNA Services and was a member of the Centre for Advanced Technologies. He was instrumental in the formation of the ACHRI-supported Centre for Health Genomics and Informatics at the University of Calgary. Congratulations Richard on your retirement!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Send in your pitch to Neuro Nexus!

Neuro Nexus will be a virtual hackathon this year. Now is the time to get your challenges in — **deadline is September 19.**

Do you know of a neurological or mental health challenge that needs solving? Pitch Day is October 17.

Submit your challenges on the [website](#).

Paediatric Grand Rounds

Sept. 9, 8:30 - 9:30 am

Drs. Lyndsay MacKay, PhD, Chantelle Barnard, MD, and Karen Benzies, PhD.

Journeying Alongside One Another: A Grounded Theory of Parents and Health Care Professionals Caring for Hospitalized Medically Fragile Infants

[Register](#)

Child Health and Wellness Seminars

Dr. Shelley H. Liu, PhD, Assistant Professor, Mount Sinai, New York

Sept. 14, 8:30 – 9:30 am

Statistical methods for children's environmental health: Modeling chemical mixtures, time windows of vulnerability and neurodevelopmental trajectories

[Register](#)

For upcoming CHW Seminars, visit the CHW [calendar](#).

Paediatric Grand Rounds

Well Doc Alberta - Why Physician Wellness Matters

Dr. Robert P. Pauly, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Sept. 16, 8:30 - 9:30 am

Out of the Closet and into the Light

[Register](#)

Alberta Pregnancy Outcomes and Nutrition (APrON)

10th Celebration

October 29 & 30

This event features cutting-edge discoveries in maternal-child health, including nutrition, mental health, child development, neurotoxin exposure, genetics, epigenetics and the microbiome.

For speakers and registration visit [here](#).

CANADIAN CHILD HEALTH CLINICIAN SCIENTIST PROGRAM (CCHCSP)

Certificate Eligible Sessions

Tuesday, September 22

Making your cocktail pitch sizzle!

Karen Thomas, MA and Selina Allu, MA

Tuesday, October 13

Wellness of the clinician scientist

Dr. April Elliott, MD

Tuesday, November 17

Navigating a budget

Jenna Slobozian, Cert RA

Tuesday, December 15

Paper writing -

Qualitative research

Dr. Gina Dimitropoulos, PhD

All sessions noon - 1:30 pm

Register by emailing

Ruth.Fermin@ahs.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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