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

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

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

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

---

**CONNECT with @UofCr4kids on:**
Twitter  Facebook  Website

Do you have news to share?
Please email laherper@ucalgary.ca
Visit us:
research4kids.ucalgary.ca

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a student, faculty, staff, alumni, donor or partner of ACHRI.