

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

February 8, 2021



Dear ACHRI colleagues,

The last two years on the ACHRI leadership team as the Scientific Director Clinical Research have been exciting, busy and productive. ACHRI has had an outstanding two years with major accomplishments by the whole team: the development of the child health and wellness strategy, and enriched connections across our diverse community of scientists including renewed relationships between clinical, basic and translational research. In November we celebrated the fantastic milestone of the University of Calgary President declaring child health a University research priority.

After two incredible years, I am transitioning onto my next challenge and taking the lead on an exciting new project - a collaboration between ACHRI and the McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health. I am teaming up with Dr. Benedikt Hallgrímsson and Dr. Steven Boyd, McCaig Institute Director, to develop “Morphometrics and Clinical Imaging” (MoClii). This will allow me to build on my research in chronic diseases, imaging and childhood arthritis, and uncover new diagnostic options for my patients. This research is at the heart of my work as a clinical scientist.

It has been my honour to work on the ACHRI team and I will continue building our research community focused on the children and families we serve, in my own work and as site co-leader of the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program.

Dr. Marinka Twilt, MD, PhD

### **Thank you**

A huge thank you to Marinka for her wonderful work at ACHRI and across the child health and wellness research community – ACHRI team



Kathy Gratton, ACHRI's Research Support Specialist, is taking on a new role as Program Manager with Dr. Francois Bernier, MD, and the research team TIGeR: Translational Implementation of Genomics for Rare diseases. This Alberta Precision Laboratories and University of Calgary project is part of Genome Canada's All For One initiative, facilitating the uptake of genome-wide sequencing as a standard of care for rare diseases. Kathy has been a tireless support for researchers, facilitating funding opportunities, ethics and internal peer reviews, and supporting the program directors.

### **Thank you**

Join us in thanking Kathy for her awesome work at ACHRI. Sign her [kudoboard here](#). We wish Kathy the best in her new role at TIGeR - still within the ACHRI family!

### **EDI AWARD**



### Congratulations!

A big shout out to ACHRI trainee Aya Ebdalla, a recipient of a UCalgary Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team Award along with her colleagues at Black Medical Student's Association. This past summer the association released a call to action to address institutional racism in medical education and health. Ebdalla also works on Dr. Morris Scantlebury's research team studying epilepsy. [Watch](#) Ebdalla's acceptance speech. Congratulations!

### BCI-CAN SYMPOSIUM: HOPE ON THE HORIZON



**BCI4Kids Calgary** strives to provide children with severe neurological disability access to cutting-edge brain-computer interface (BCI) technology to help them achieve greater independence and quality of life. The BCI program is supported by the community through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation.

Explore how pediatric Brain Computer Interface (BCI) has evolved, from responding to COVID-19 to BCI advances, and discuss where the field is headed.

Keynote talk: Dr. Jon Wolpaw, MD

Family panel: hear from families and children using BCI

Friday, March 12

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

[Details and registration](#)



## GRANT AND RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

### SURVEY TO SUPPORT RESEARCH DATA METHODS

We are exploring ways to support qualitative and quantitative research data methods and we want to hear from you! Please complete the following brief survey by March 1st. Your responses will help ACHRI better support your research. [Survey](#)



**CIHR Project Grant Spring 2021**

Grant Development Office Information session

February 17, Noon - 1:30 pm

[Register](#)

### **CIHR Health Research Training Platform Pilot Funding**

[Details](#)

Deadline April 21

Contact your Department Head and Institute to apply

### **New Frontiers in Research Fund Information Session**

Wednesday, February 24, 10 - 11 am

Dr. Penny Pexman, Associate Vice-President (Research)

Contact [ipd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ipd@ucalgary.ca)

### **Pre-announcement: CIHR Early Career Investigators Reviewer in Training Program**

The RiT program offers early career researchers a learning opportunity to better understand the elements of high quality review and the peer review process through direct participation in the Project Grant competition with the support of a mentor.

Deadline February 26

[Learn more](#)

Contact Jenna Slobozian [jslobozi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jslobozi@ucalgary.ca)

### **New Precision Health Program for Graduate Education**

Deadline: April 15, 2021

[Learn more](#)

## EVENTS AND SEMINARS

**COVID Community**

**Keeping your kids healthy and happy during the pandemic**

Mental Health, Pregnancy and Vaccines

Register Now!  
February 22, 2021

[cumming.ucalgary.ca/cme](http://cumming.ucalgary.ca/cme)

**Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute**

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development

ACHRI is proud to partner with Continuing Medical Education & Professional Development (CME) to offer the next Cumming School of Medicine's **COVID Community** on February 22 at 7 pm.

Dr. Susa Benseler and CME Associate Dean Dr. Kelly Burak will moderate this special

public event with presentations by ACHRI investigators **Drs. Carly McMorris, Catherine Lebel and Jim Kellner.**

Please join us for "Keeping your kids happy and healthy during the pandemic - Mental health, pregnancy and vaccines."

Register [here](#)

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### **Child Health and Wellness Seminars**

*Mondays at 8:30 am*

The next talk will be February 22

### **CCHCSP and WCHRI Learning Session**

Sumedh Bele, Assistant director, SPOR Patient Engagement Platform

Engaging patients as partners in research

February 17

Noon to 1:30 pm

[Register](#)

**For all events visit the ACHRI [calendar](#)**

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[Key resources](#) | [Updated Isolation Guidance](#) | [Procedure for sick students](#) |

[Procedure for sick employees](#) | [Dashboard of cases on campus](#)

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**Do you have news to share?**

Please email [laherper@ucalgary.ca](mailto:laherper@ucalgary.ca)

**Visit us:**

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

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