Dear child health & wellness family,
It was with deep sadness we learned about the passing of Charlie Fischer. A beloved champion of children and families, Charlie was the first and only Chair of ACHRI's Strategic Advisory Board, Chair of ACHF's Patrons' Council and past Chair of the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation Board. A founding member of the Dean's Advisory Council in the Cumming School of Medicine, he was also a passionate co-chair of the campaign to build the Alberta Children's Hospital at west campus – the first free-standing pediatric hospital built in Canada in 20 years.

Charlie and his wife Joanne Cuthbertson, who served as Chancellor at UCalgary from 2006 to 2010, have been tireless community advocates for child health across campus, at ACH and deep into the Calgary community. Together, they created the Cuthbertson & Fischer Chair in Pediatric Mental Health to help build a collaborative program in prevention, early intervention and treatment for children’s mental health. Their commitment to child health research has been monumental.

The ACHRI family will be forever grateful for three decades of Charlie’s leadership in building bridges between the university, Alberta Health Services, and the community, and his amplification of the voices of children, patients and families. He has touched so many of us through his dedication to our community.

Susa

Read Chancellor Deborah Yedlin's **Message**

**PHASED RETURN TO CAMPUS**

UCalgary has updated its COVID-19 web page with information about the university's phased return to campus. Visit [ucalgary.ca/covid-19](https://ucalgary.ca/covid-19) for updates, campus protocols, frequently asked questions and more. Weekly email posts on protocols sent by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) are posted [here](https://ucalgary.ca/covid-19).

**CIHR GRANT SUCCESS**

**CIHR Operating Grant: Mental Health & Substance Use**  
The CIHR awarded 45 grants in knowledge synthesis across Canada and of the three awards at UCalgary, two are in child and health wellness. These were rapid turnaround grants and we acknowledge everyone's hard work in responding. Congratulations!  
**Dr. Deinera Exner-Cortens**, PhD, with Co-Investigators Drs. Paul Arnold, PhD and
Kelly Schwartz, PhD  
School-Based Suicide Risk Assessment Using eHealth: A Scoping Review  
**Dr. Katie Birnie**, PhD, with Co-PI Dr. Melanie Noel, PhD and Co-Investigator Dr. Paul Arnold, PhD

Rapid evidence and gap map of virtual care solutions for youth and families to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on pain, mental health, and substance use.

**CIHR Rapid Fund**

The second round of rapid funding for COVID-19 research will fund eight CSM-led projects to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Three of these projects are in child and health wellness. Congratulations!

**Dr. Sheila McDonald**, PhD

Uncovering longitudinal patterns of resilience and vulnerability in a pandemic: The All Our Families COVID-19 Impact Study

**Dr. Quan Long**, PhD

Inferring undiagnosed sources of COVID-19 infections using viral genomes

**Dr. Stephen Freedman**, MD

Household Transmission Dynamics and Vial Load among Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infected Children [Read more]

**NSERC GRANT SUCCESS**

Child health & wellness researchers were highly successful at receiving 2020 Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) grants this year. These grants recognize the creativity and innovation that are at the heart of all research advances. Congratulations to all!

The next round of NSERC applications are due August 1 with a notification of an intent to apply. Apply [here](#).
More probable cases of an inflammatory syndrome in children related to COVID-19

Dr. Susa Benseler, MD, PhD, says parents should trust their instincts and come to hospital if their child has fever or belly pain. Benseler was interviewed for her expertise in MIS-C (multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children). Read CBC story.
Study shows interaction with bacteria and fungi essential to good health
Findings by Dr. Marie Claire Arrieta, PhD, show that fungi have a larger role in the development of the gut microbiome than researchers realized. Arrieta found that fungi in the gut microbiome shift the composition of the microbiome and also affect the immune system. “By further understanding the type of signals that our immune system 'senses' in the fungi and bacteria that live in the gut, the easier it will be to investigate ways to prevent inflammatory disorders such as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and asthma.” The findings are published in *Nature Communications*. Interview with Dr. Arrieta and video.

Discovery of Unique PV-10®-Induced STING Pathway Mechanism
Dr. Aru Narendran, MD, PhD, and his colleagues studied the effects of a drug called PV-10 on the treatment of cells from pediatric leukemia patients, presenting results to the American Association for Cancer Research in June. Narendran found that “classic STING activation did not occur through PV-10 treatment. Rather, STING forms a dimer
complex following PV-10 treatment, which may potentially lead to effective immune activation and anticancer activity."

**CANADIAN PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY AWARD**

Dr. Sarah MacEachern, MD, PhD, received the CPS Debbi Andrews Trainee Award for her research into neuroimaging biomarkers for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The findings may lead to more accurate diagnoses in complex cases. The study was a collaboration with Dr. Nils Forkert, PhD, ACHRI director of the Child Health Science Data Program, and colleagues at Stanford University. Read more

**SUMMER STUDENTS**

**Summer Student Symposium 2020**

We are pleased to announce that the Summer Student Symposium will be held on Friday, August 28. The symposium will be an opportunity for students to present, network and hear research talks virtually. More information and registration will be available and sent to trainees in upcoming weeks. If you have questions, please contact summer.research@ucalgary.ca

The **Summer Student Workshop Series** is well underway. We congratulate the 18 students presenting at the Journal Club.

**Next workshop:** Wednesday, July 15
**What you need to know about biostatistics**
Visit the workshop calendar and register here.
This series is hosted by ACHRI, the Owerko Centre and HBI.

**IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Grad biking 100 K each day for sick kids**

Malcolm Eaton just completed his PhD in the lab of Dr. Jay Cross, DVM, PhD. Instead of taking it easy, he decided to spin his life in a new direction, biking every day in July covering 2020 kilometres of Calgary to raise funds to support the NICU at ACH. Read story. Watch video

**COMPETITIONS**

**CCHCSP Competition** - Now accepting applications. 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 linda.pires@sickkids.ca

**2020 Peter Lougheed Research Award Competition** – Open to junior investigators
Deadline – September 1
Eligibility, guidelines and application [here](#)

For more funding opportunities, please view [here](#)

UCalgary has launched UCeed, a new pre-seed and seed funding program for child and general health research. This initiative is funded through philanthropic support from the **Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation** and the River Fund at the Calgary Foundation. UCeed will spur innovation, help commercialize new technologies, and accelerate University of Calgary startup companies.
Visit the UCeed [website](#) to apply for funding for child or general health projects.
[Read story](#)

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Research Management Systems Training
The Research Services team is offering training on the newly rolled out Research Management System (RMS) – the platform for processing grant applications through the University of Calgary.
10 am to 12 noon July 16 / August 13 / September 10
2 pm to 4 pm July 30 / August 27 / September 24
[Register](#)

The ACHRI Newsletter is publishing monthly in July and August. Please keep sending us your news! Email laperhen@ucalgary.ca