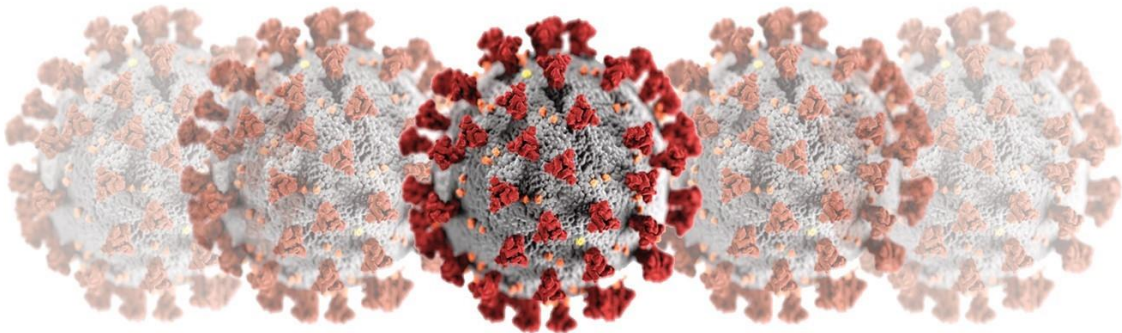




WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

March 16, 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE



Child health and wellness researchers,

We are all very concerned about COVID-19. Our shared goal is to support each other and keep each other safe.

To help prevent the spread of this pandemic, we are asking you to hold virtual meetings instead of in-person gatherings. Unfortunately, **we are cancelling Grand Rounds** in March including: Developmental Neurosciences Grand Rounds, Child Health Research Rounds, Owerko Neurodevelopmental Research Rounds, Precision Medicine and Disease Mechanisms Rounds as well as Developmental Genetics Research-in-Progress Rounds. We will have exclusively virtual rounds and meetings in April and May.

The University is purchasing a Zoom license. The ACHRI team will support you to get set up for virtual meetings. If you need help, please contact us at r4k@ucalgary.ca or call 403-220-6898.

Please carefully review what you would consider critical in-person attendance of your team members in wet and dry labs. AHS and ACH leadership are mandating patient face-to-face contacts at ACH only. Please consider deferring bringing healthy research volunteers to our health facilities.

We are grateful for the hard work of our colleagues and partners across campus, Alberta Children's Hospital, Alberta Health Services and throughout our community.

Visit research4kids.ucalgary.ca to get **COVID-19 updates** from the University of Calgary and Alberta Health Services.

Event planning during COVID-19

For events you are planning later in the spring, summer or even fall, please consult with [Supply Chain Management](#) before signing any contracts. To ensure that UCalgary is approaching COVID-19 in a consistent, evidencebased fashion, please **use this tool** when making event decisions.

Special Webinar on COVID-19

March 18 at 7 - 9 pm

Get an update on several aspects of the emerging pandemic including the current state of the outbreak and up-to-date information. To register please visit [here](#)

RESEARCHERS BRING EXPERTISE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK



Collaboration with Alberta Precision Labs to develop point-of-care testing

Dr. Dylan Pillai, MD, PhD, leads one of three University of Calgary teams receiving \$1.6 million in federal funding to accelerate the development, testing and implementation of countermeasures to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19, and its consequences on people and communities. "UCalgary researchers are bringing evidence-based scholarship to this public health emergency," says Dr. Ed McCauley, PhD, president and vice-chancellor at the University of Calgary. "This accelerated funding will enable them to mobilize quickly to support the safety and well-being of Canadians." Pillai is in Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Medicine, and Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases. He is a member of the Snyder

Institute for Chronic Diseases and ACHRI. [Read more](#)

IN THE COMMUNITY



Rapid genetic testing becomes available to Calgary community

5-year-old Madden Ellis Garraway and

Dr. Francois Bernier, MD, at the Alberta Children's Hospital. (Photo: Riley Brandt) Access to gene sequencing early in the medical journey can pinpoint the best treatment approaches and therapies to target complex illnesses.

RESEARCH LEADERS

"There are so many families waiting for answers to serious medical conditions," says Dr. Francois Bernier, head of the Department of Medical Genetics, a professor in Paediatrics, and the lead of a Genome Canada GAPP grant to bring rapid diagnosis to clinical care. Generous support from our community over the last decade has sparked these federal investments into advanced technologies and research of rare diseases. [Watch Madden's story here](#) [CTV](#)



Leaders in formation of Concussion Network

The University of Calgary, in association with a nationwide group of partners, has been awarded a \$1.5 million, five-year Canadian Institutes of Health Research Network Catalyst Grant to establish the Canadian Concussion Network (CNN).

CCN's goal is to establish a coordinated national research agenda to get research into practice, faster. Dr. Keith Yeates, PhD, is head of the

Integrated Concussion Research Program (ICRP) and will govern the network. [Read more](#)

The ICRP is a university-wide initiative to study concussion, bringing together experts from the Cumming School of Medicine, Faculty of Kinesiology, and

Faculty of Arts, with support from the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI) and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute (HBI). Community donations through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation funded the creation of the ICRP and provide continuing support.

TRAINEE EXCELLENCE



Alberta Innovates Fellowship

Dr. Erin Heatherington, PhD, is the recipient of an Alberta Innovates Postgraduate Fellowship in Health

Innovation. She is supervised by Dr. Amy Metcalfe, PhD.

Preterm birth is a major health concern, leading to health problems, developmental delays and in some cases death. "Using data collected by Statistics Canada on the census, and hospital records, this research project will look at whether immigrants have a higher risk of preterm birth depending on their country of origin and time in Canada," says Hetherington. "This research will provide important information to physicians to better understand who might be at risk for preterm birth in order to provide them with the additional care they need to prevent or manage having a baby born too early."

CANCELLED Graduate Science Education Recruitment Night March 17

Faculty registration 5:15 pm

Event 6:00 - 7:30 pm HRIC Atrium, Foothills Campus

Please note this event has been cancelled.

POSTPONED Neuro Nexus Competition

The 2020 Neuro Nexus Competition is held in early May. Please note the deadline for a submission is April 3. Learn more at [\[email protected\]](#)

Please note this event has been postponed until further notice.

Cancelled Information Session March 26 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Foothills Campus, Health Sciences Centre (HSC) Room 1500

ACHRI TRAINEES

Visit the ACHRI Weekly Training Post on the [ACHRI website](#) to learn about the educational and funding opportunities available for trainees.

Better understanding of prolonged migraines in youth

Dr. Serena Orr, MD, is the lead of a landmark study investigating migraines lasting 72 hours or longer. Researchers collected data from over 5,300 children, adolescents and young adults between 2006 and 2017 at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre, in the largest clinical study on migraines ever conducted. The researcher team concluded that young people with prolonged headaches were a distinct group and had an unfavourable short-term prognosis related to a higher chance of more frequent headaches in months following the initial attack. This group suffered significant disability and had an elevated risk of suicide. The study is published by the American Headache Society in its *Journal of Head and Face Pain*. Orr is the director of the Pediatric Headache Program at the Alberta Children's Hospital. The clinic opened in May 2019 and sees an average of 25 families per month. Orr is in Pediatrics, Clinical Neurosciences and Community Health Sciences at the Cumming School of Medicine.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Kids Cancer Care Nursing and Allied Health Research Grant

The focus is to encourage staff at a novice level to engage in research initiatives with the potential for significant impact on clinical care.

The total funding amount available for this grant is \$25,000.

Letter of Intent: Deadline: April 15

Notice of Decision for Letter of Intent: May 1

Full Application Deadline: June 15

Request application forms at [\[email protected\]](#)

ACHRI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ACHRI is cancelling its Grand Rounds in March. Grand Rounds in April and May will take place virtually.

GRAND ROUNDS & LECTURES

CANCELLED Mar. 19 | Dr. Charlene Elliott, PhD

Child Health Research Rounds

8:30 - 9:30 am, ACH Conference Room 4

Tracking kids' food: On trends, transformations, policy and probing the 'grey zones' of children's packaged foods

CANCELLED Mar. 23 | Dr. Meredith O'Connor, DEdPsych

External Speaker - Murdoch Children's Research Institute

Developmental Neurosciences Grand Rounds

8:30 - 9:30 am, ACH Auditorium

Intergenerational effects on social-emotional development: Findings from the Australian Temperament Project

CANCELLED Mar. 26 | Dr. Signe Bray, PhD

Child Health Research Rounds

8:30 - 9:30 am, ACH Conference Room 3

The brain in early childhood

CANCELLED Mar. 30 | Dr. Jillian Vinall Miller, PhD

Developmental Neurosciences Grand Rounds

8:30 - 9:30 am, ACH Auditorium

Mechanisms underlying the chronification of pain in youth

CONFERENCES

CANCELLED Mar. 19-22 | [Canadian Developmental Biology Meeting](#)

Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

POSTPONED Mar. 23 | [APrON 10th Anniversary Research Day](#)

Alberta Children's Hospital Auditorium

Please note this event has been postponed until further notice.

Apr. 21 | Friesen International Prize Lecture

3:30 - 4:30 pm, Libin Theatre, Foothills Campus

Dr. Bartha Knoppers, PhD, Ad.E., O.C., O.Q.

POSTPONED Apr. 22 | [All in Creating Synergy in Pediatric Complex Care](#)

The Hotel Arts

Please note this event has been postponed until further notice.

May 5 | Doug Lockhart Memorial Oncology Research Day

Alberta Children's Hospital Auditorium

CANCELLED May 14 | [ACH Quality Forum](#)

Alberta Children's Hospital Auditorium

POSTPONED May 6-7 | [Improving Youth Transitions to Adulthood Conference](#)

MacEwan Hall

Please note this event has been postponed until further notice.

June 4 | [28th Annual Cumming School of Medicine Symposium](#)

Drs. Deborah Sloboda, Barbel Rohrer, Ami Bhatt, Jie Shen & Jenn Haverfield
Foothills Campus

June 10 | Owerko Centre Conference

Drs. Joanne Weinberg, PhD and Michael Kobor, PhD
Theatre Four, Health Sciences Centre

Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 | ACHRI All Member Retreat

Banff Centre of the Arts

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