Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute Newsletter

Contact us

Weekly Newsletter

11.18.19

ACHRI RESEARCH RETREAT

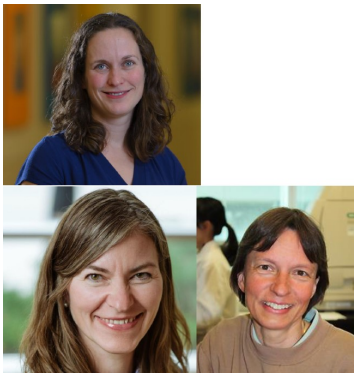
Thursday, December 12 and Friday, December 13!
Registration for members has been extended until November 25! Thank you for the fantastic response - we are almost fully booked for our first-ever ACHRI Research Retreat at the Banff Centre. The Child Health and Wellness strategy is first on the agenda – followed by superb keynote speakers, trainee talks and posters, an AGM and a fabulous evening social.
Read more: **program, sessions and talks.**

RECOGNITION

2019 Feature Grant - Brain Tumour Foundation
Dr. Fiona Schulte, PhD, is the recipient of a feature grant to improve the quality of life for children with cancer recovering from recurrent brain tumours. There are few effective treatments for these children at present. This research will measure outcomes from a new therapy, repeat irradiation, in 32 children across Canada receiving this therapy. The results will guide doctors in offering this treatment to those children who would derive the most benefit from it. Schulte is also supported by community donations through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation. **Read more**

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Award

AAP has recognized Dr. Jennifer Thull-Freedman, MD, for her leadership of the Alberta Emergency Department Commitment to Comfort Collaborative. She and her collaborator Dr. Antonia Stang, MD, were awarded the Best QI Presentation award from the Section of Emergency Medicine. The Commitment to Comfort is a program designed to reduce pain and distress experienced by children during emergency department visits. It has been extended to 50 Alberta emergency departments. For children with a fracture, this has meant the median time to receive a pain medication decreased from 60 minutes to 28 minutes. For young children receiving blood work, the proportion receiving topical anesthetic increased from 11 percent to 30 percent. This research is in part supported by the Vi Riddell Children's Pain and Rehabilitation Program.



Celebrating the 2019 Peak Scholars

President Ed McCauley hosted the Peak Scholars Celebration Luncheon on November 6, recognizing the achievements of scholars whose academic work in knowledge engagement, entrepreneurship and innovation has resulted in a positive social or economic impact in our communities. Congratulations to ACHRI members (left to right) Drs. Catherine Lebel, Cumming School of Medicine; Sarah Kenny, Faculty of Arts; and Ina Dobrinksi, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The president also recognized postdoctoral scholars in this year's celebration. Congratulations to postdoctoral scholars Drs. Nicole Racine, Faculty of Arts, supervised by Dr. Sheri Madigan, and Sarah Dewell, Faculty of Nursing, supervised by Dr. Karen Benzies. **Read more**

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Maternal Health Journal Club

The Maternal Health Journal Club is hosting its next meeting on **Friday, November 29 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, Foothills Hospital (main building) Room C400 (lunch will be served)**. Doctoral candidates Natalie Scime (photo) and Liz Bering will co-present two papers focused on intrauterine growth restriction from a mechanistic and population health perspectives. *To access this room, please take the elevator to the 4th floor of the main building, go through the doors marked Bronchoscopy Recovery/Fluoroscopy and the room will be on your right.* Please RSVP to Jill Vaughan. If you're a trainee and you're interested at presenting (or co-presenting) at our next journal club in February/March 2020 (specific date TBD) please contact Dr. Amy Metcalfe.
Discussion publications: Palatnik 2019 Am J Perinatol and Lean 2017 Scientific Reports

Don't Miss

Candy Cane Gala

Experience the magic of Candy Cane Gala: Home For The Holidays - a night we promise you, your family and friends will always remember. Featuring a festive, locally sourced meal, a family dance and inspiring entertainment for guests of all ages. Candy Cane Gala: Home For The Holidays is sure to create memories you will cherish for a lifetime!
Friday, December 6, 2019
BMO Centre at Stampede Park, Hall DE
5:30 pm Fireside Reception & Kidzone
6:30 pm Program, Dinner & Family Dance
More information

HIGHLIGHTS

2019 Gairdner International Symposium

We were honoured to host the prestigious 2019 Gairdner Symposium on Precision Child Health held on November 6 in the Libin Theatre. 240 guests attended the day of scientific lectures and networking. We thank all of our speakers for sharing their knowledge and expertise. We are especially thankful to our members who presented: Dr. Stephen Freedman, Dr. Susan Samuel and Dr. Scott Patten. We are also grateful to Ms. Bren Gairdner for attending the symposium and providing us with her thoughtful words on science and discovery. Photo (from left to right) Dr. Marinka Twilt, Scientific Director - Clinical Research, Dr. Benedikt Hallgrimsson, Scientific Director - Basic Science, Bren Gairdner, Dr. Dan Kastner, National Institutes of Health.

PUBLICATIONS

Researcher provides evidence to prevent 6,000 injuries

University of Calgary researcher finds thousands of injuries — including concussions — could be avoided across Canada if body checking were fully eliminated in non-elite bantam hockey. Over 6,000 injuries could be prevented in one season in just 13- and 14-year-olds nationwide, according to Dr. Carolyn Emery, PhD, chair of the Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre and a kinesiology professor. The two-year study included 1,000 players from B.C. and Alberta, some in leagues with hitting, some without. Emery is supported by the National Football League's scientific board, the CIHR, and community donations through Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation. **Read more** **Article and radio interview**

Improving the survival rate of myeloid leukemia

Dr. Faisal Khan, PhD, and his lab have developed a new method of sequencing the tumours of those suffering from acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Roughly 200 Albertans are diagnosed with AML each year. The survival rate is very low. Khan's new sequencing

method is now used to evaluate treatment options for every new AML patient in the province. Read more

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Gates Foundation study to help save children's lives

An international team led by Dr. Stephen Freedman, MD, an emergency pediatrician at the Alberta Children's Hospital and professor in the Cumming School of Medicine, and Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta, MD, a senior scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children, are working to save children with vomiting and diarrhea, the cause of over half-a-million deaths a year in young children. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Thrasher Research Fund, and the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, the team studied children brought into the emergency department of two hospitals in Karachi, Pakistan. They found that the antiemetic ondansetron, used commonly in high-income countries, can be safely used to prevent vomiting and the use of intravenous rehydration. The research team notes this therapy has the potential to save lives in remote regions around the globe where intravenous therapy is unavailable. Freedman holds the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Professorship in Child Health and Wellness. The study is published in *Pediatrics.*

NEW MEMBER

Dr. Amanda Black, PhD, is an assistant professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology. Her research in sport injury prevention and management develops, implements, and evaluates strategies to keep people active. Core projects include developing optimal sport injury surveillance methodology, concussion education and management strategies in high school and community sport, and behaviour change interventions. Welcome!

TRAINEES

ACHRI STEP is accepting applications for the following competitions:

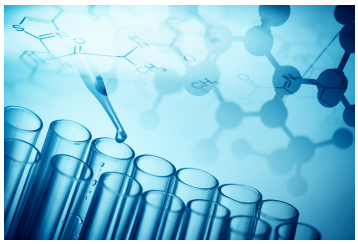
- ACHRI Travel Awards - Deadline December 1, 2019
- ACHRI Trainee Research Visits and External Course Awards - Deadline December 2019

Please visit the ACHRI Trainee Funding page for more information. Please review terms of reference and application requirements

before applying. Contact ACHRI STEP office with any questions at achri.training@ucalgary.ca

For more information about our training program, please visit ACHRI Trainees.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES



The 8th annual Pediatrics Innovation Awards are now open:

- Friday December 20, 2019: E-mail of intent to apply deadline
- Friday January 31, 2020: Full submission deadline
- March 2020: Outcome of competition announced

All forms and relevant information can also be found on the Department of Pediatrics website.
Questions about the award can be directed to Nicole Romanow, Program Manager Child Health Research
ntr.romanow@ucalgary.ca
Drop-in information session: December 10th from 8:30 am to 9:00 am in conference room #10 at the Alberta Children's Hospital. This session will address frequently asked questions about the application and review process and provide tips for developing a strong submission. Anyone interested in applying to the competition is strongly encouraged to attend.

GRAND ROUNDS, CONFERENCES and LECTURES

Developmental Neurosciences Grand Rounds

8:30 am - 9:30 am ACH Auditorium

November 18: Dr. Mark Sabbagh, PhD, *How children's brains change their minds*

November 25: Dr. Brian L. Brooks, PhD, *Mental Health Considerations in Children and Adolescents with Concussion*

December 2: Dr. Jane Shearer, PhD, *A Gut Feeling: Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Brain-Gut-Microbiome Axis*

December 9: Dr. Davide Martino, PhD, MD, *Deciphering the effects of environmental factors in tic disorders: the long and winding road*

Developmental Biology and Genetics Series

November 21: Dr. Emma Farley, PhD, *Regulatory principles governing enhancer function in development and disease*

11 am - 12 pm Theatre 3, Health Sciences Centre, Foothills Campus

November 21: Dr. William Pastor, PhD, *Transcriptional Regulation During Epiblast and Trophoblast Development*

3 pm - 4 pm TRW 2E23, Foothills Campus

November 28: Dr. Arnar Pálsson, PhD, *Transcriptional co-option, transcriptional decay and evolution of regulatory and developmental systems*

11 am - 12 pm Room G832, Health Sciences Centre, Foothills Campus

Child Health Research Rounds

8:30 am - 9:30 am ACH Conference Room 1/3/4

November 21: Dr. Katie Chaput, PhD, *Perspectives on parenting in recovery from addiction: informing a novel support intervention*

November 28: Dr. Nils Daniel Forkert, PhD, *Machine Learning for Precision Medicine*

December 5: Dr. Sheri Madigan, PhD, and Dr. Brae Anne McArthur, PhD, *What are the Benefits and Risks of Screen Use in Young Children?*

CONFERENCES & LECTURES

NEW Thursday, November 21 **-** *SEMINAR Options for methylome Analysis & RNA Depletion*

1 pm - 2 pm

Theatre Three, Health Sciences Centre, Foothills Campus

Amanda Hoppers, Applications Scientist at New England Biolabs

NEW Monday, November 25 - *Health Research Platform Lunch and Learn*

12 pm – 1 pm

Theatre Four, Health Sciences Centre, Foothills Campus

Jackie Busheikin - Clinical Research Consultant - GCP & Monitoring

Thursday, December 12 & Friday, December 13 - *ACHRI Research Retreat*

Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity

9 am - 10 pm (Dec 12) and 8:30 am - 12:15 pm (Dec. 13)

Register

Sunday, January 26 - Thursday, January 30, 2019

Pediatric Emergency Research Canada (Perc) Scientific Meeting

Fairmont Hotel, Mont Tremblant, Quebec

Register

February 11 & 12 - *DOHaD Annual Scientific Meeting*

Banff, Alberta.

ACHRI is pleased to be a sponsor.

Register

Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute is supported by generous community donations through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation. We believe in a healthier and more prosperous future for children through research.

research4kids.ucalgary.ca

This message was sent to deanna.kweens@ucalgary.ca because you are listed as a student, faculty, staff, alumni, donor or partner of the University of Calgary.

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