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Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute Newsletter

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[Weekly Newsletter](#)

12.20.19

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE



Happy Holidays!

The ACHRI family wishes you a wonderful holiday filled with joy and happiness!

The ACHRI Newsletter will resume in 2020 with a fresh look. Thank you for all your submissions throughout 2019. Please continue sending your news, publications, grant notices and trainee successes!

ACHRI RESEARCH RETREAT

A big thank you to the outstanding researchers and trainees!

The first-ever all-member ACHRI Research Retreat was a huge success with more than 300 participants attending at the Banff Centre! A huge thank you to our brilliant researchers and trainees. Incredible child health research from across the academy and into the community was shared with such passion at our retreat.

[View photo reel here](#)





ACHRI 2019 and Beyond and AGM

Dr. Susa Benseler, ACHRI Director, and Drs. Marinka Twilt (Scientific Director – Clinical Research) and Benedikt Hallgrímsson (Scientific Director - Basic Science) presented to you, our members, exciting opportunities to accelerate research and outcomes for children and families in our community and far beyond. Saifa Koonar, President and CEO of the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, shared highlights of four decades of community support for child health research in Calgary. She shared her excitement and support for our future journey together. We are deeply grateful for the generous support of our community enabling and fueling research through donations to the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation. Thank you!



Research from across the academy in child health!

The Performance Theatre at the Max Bell was packed full with 300 child health researchers gathered to network and share their science. Research highlights: three superb keynote speakers, 14 brilliant ACHRI investigators, 18 stellar trainee talks and 160 excellent poster presentations. Here's the full retreat [program](#).



New ACHRI Programs

To take child health and wellness research to the next level, ACHRI has introduced seven new research programs replacing the three ACHRI themes. The new programs reflect our areas of strength in child health and wellness research.

The programs are: Care Transformation for Children, Child Brain & Mental Health, Child Health Data Science, Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders, Healthy Children, Families & Communities, Maternal & Child Health, and Precision Medicine & Disease Mechanisms. Directors for each of these new programs presented at the retreat.

[Read more here](#) on new programs and directors.



Health equality, cilia signaling and pregnancy complications!

The retreat featured three outstanding keynote speakers: **Dr. Stephen Gilmour** (photo), senior investigator in the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute at the National Institutes of Health, is a co-investigator of the New England Family Study, a three-generation cohort. **Dr. Jeremy Reiter**, researcher at the University of California San Francisco, shared with us how altered cilia function causes diseases such as neural tube defects, inherited forms of obesity and polycystic kidney disease. **Dr. Sandra Davidge**, Canada Research Chair in Maternal and Perinatal Cardiovascular Health and a Fellow in the Canadian Academy of Health Science, shared how complications in pregnancy change the course of adult cardiovascular disease. Thank you to our three ACHRI members: Dr. Amy Metcalfe, Dr.

Jiami Guo and Dr. Myriam Hemberger, for hosting these wonderful keynotes!



Congratulations to poster winners!

The ACHRI retreat featured 160 posters - thank you trainees for your hard work! The poster winner: Bryce Geeraert, a biomedical engineering graduate student investigating brain development in childhood and adolescence using MRI. He is supervised by Dr. Catherine Lebel. Honourable mentions: Kathryn Manning and Jess Reynolds, supervised by Dr. Catherine Lebel, and Nikki Stephenson, supervised by Dr. Suzanne Tough and Dr. Amy Metcalfe.

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

Please share your thoughts on the retreat. [Click here](#) for the five-minute survey!



All the very best over the holidays, and we will see you in 2020!

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.

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Room 293
Heritage Medical Research Building
3330 Hospital Dr. NW
Calgary, AB T2N 4N1

403-220-6898
r4k@ucalgary.ca
www.research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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