Weekly Newsletter

Welcome to 2019

Happy New Year! This is a truly special year for us. It marks the 10th anniversary of our institute. We are planning to celebrate this milestone throughout 2019 in many ways: special events, lectures, symposia and workshops. We are pleased to announce that\n
**ACHRI's 2019 Symposium 'Discovery and Care Innovations for Children'** will be held **May 29** with distinguished keynote speaker **Dr. Janet Rossant**, Chief of Research Emerita, The Hospital for Sick Children and President and Scientific Director of the Canada Gairdner Foundation. We will be sharing more details of the year’s events in this newsletter, so please stay in the conversation. It is because of your commitment and active participation in child health research that we are making such great strides together!

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**GRANTS**

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**Dr. Stephen Freedman co-lead on Alberta team to improve mental health care for youth**

**Congratulations!** **Dr. Stephen Freedman** and an Alberta-wide research team have received an Alberta Innovates PRIHS grant to introduce an innovative model of acute pediatric mental health and addictions care to the province. The study lead is Dr. Amanda Newton, University of Alberta. The team’s care model will introduce triage tools for healthcare providers and new services and
processes to improve healthcare system efficiencies, navigation and transitions. Dr. Freedman is the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation Professor in Child Health and Wellness. The ACHRI members who are part of this 31-member team are: Drs. Frank MacMaster, Gerald Giesbrecht, Maria Santana, Gina Dimitopolus, Antonia Stang, and Jennifer Thull-Freedman.

Dr. Karl Klein and European partners awarded Personalized Medicine Grant

Congratulations! Dr. Karl Klein, a new recruit to the Cumming School of Medicine and ACHRI, is the coordinator of a $1.5 million European Personalized Medicine grant. The funding will be used to improve the accuracy of drug therapies for adults diagnosed with epilepsy. The aim is to predict the anti-seizure drug with the highest likelihood of success in an individual patient. One of the strategies is to use big data analysis in collaboration with neurologist Dr. Colin Josephson to combine information on the patient's genetic data, brain wave signals and brain imaging to predict treatment effect. Dr. Klein is an epileptologist in the departments of clinical neurosciences, medical genetics and community health sciences. Prior to his appointment at the University of Calgary, Dr. Klein was a consultant neurologist at the Epilepsy Center, Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

Dr. Tim Shutt awarded grant for research in autism spectrum disorder

Congratulations! Dr. Tim Shutt is the successful recipient of a Scottish Rite Foundation grant to better understand the connection between autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and mitochondria dysfunction. An estimated one in 66 children is diagnosed with ASD in Canada. Dr. Shutt will investigate how the ketogenic diet (KD) and its metabolic products may improve mitochondrial function and have a positive impact on ASD behaviours in mouse models. Dr. Shutt is an assistant professor in the Department of Medical Genetics and a member of the Behaviour and the Developing Brain Theme.

AWARDS

Drs. Suzanne Curtin and Deb Dewey honoured by Association for Psychology Science

Congratulations to Dr. Suzanne Curtin and Dr. Deb Dewey on being elected as Fellows in the Association for Psychology Science. Fellow status is awarded to APS members who have made sustained outstanding contributions to the science of psychology. As APS Fellows, Drs. Curtin and Dewey have now become part of a distinguished group of peers whose work has
influenced the field of psychological science in important and lasting ways.

IN THE NEWS

**Dr. Juliet Guichon consulted in dialogue over Calgary water fluoridation**

Dr. Juliet Guichon, assistant professor in the Cumming School of Medicine, spoke with the director of Knowledge Networks at the Canadian Dental Association about her advocacy efforts to reinstate water fluoridation in the City of Calgary. Dr. Guichon's work focuses on issues arising at the intersection of law, health care, ethics, religion and journalism.  Read more

**Research by Drs. Raylene Reimer, Jane Shearer and Silviu Grisaru profiled by university: how diet can fight disease**

Drs. Reimer, Shearer and Grisaru provide their expertise in a recent article published in Explore UCalgary, investigating how we can use food to fight against chronic diseases. The research shows that the connection between the gut and the brain provide novel targets for therapies to treat chronic disease. Dr. Reimer investigates the full potential of nutrition to prevent and treat obesity and type 2 diabetes through influencing the gut microbiome. Dr. Shearer examines the interactions between nutrition, genes and the development of metabolic diseases including diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Dr. Grisaru's research focus is on pediatric kidney disease and the potential to control some autoimmune disorders through diet change.  Read more

**Dr. Bonnie Kaplan describes benefits of whole food diet on mental health**

Dr. Bonnie Kaplan, a professor emerita of pediatrics and community health sciences at the Cumming School of Medicine, authors an op-ed article for the Calgary Herald describing the benefits of whole foods to prevent and treat mental illness. Dr. Kaplan has a long-standing interest in nutrition studied from two perspectives: how nutrients contribute to brain development, and how they can be used to ameliorate mental health symptoms. Dr. Kaplan was the founding team lead of APrON (Alberta Pregnancy Outcomes and Nutrition), a multidisciplinary effort to determine the role of prenatal nutrient exposure in determining neurodevelopmental outcomes and maternal mental health.  Read more
New member: Dr. Julio Garcia Flores

Welcome! Dr. Julio Garcia Flores, an assistant professor in the departments of radiology and cardiac sciences, joins ACHRI as a full member and will participate in the Genes, Development and Health theme group. Dr. Garcia Flores has a research focus in pediatric cardiac imaging, experimental modelling for the assessment of cardiovascular hemodynamics, and imaging oriented to personalized diagnostic and surgical planning. Dr. Garcia Flores completed his PhD in experimental medicine at Laval University and his postdoctoral training in cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging at Northwestern University, Chicago and at the Stephenson Cardiac Imaging Centre at the University of Calgary.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Dr. Catherine Lebel gives back to community

Dr. Catherine Lebel has found a special way to thank families and children who participate in her MRI research studies. Using data from the MRI scans, 4G Vision Tech, a Calgary company, has been able to create 3D models of participants' brains. Children are given a model of their own brain as a special thank you. The response has been overwhelmingly positive for the 14 children who have been recipients, including Andrew, age 4 (photo). Research associate Mercedes Bagshawe has been instrumental in the printing process. Dr. Lebel's large ongoing study of brain development in young children has included over 178 children aged 2-7 years and has collected almost 500 MRI datasets.

TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

Trainee Amit Kalra recipient of the American Society of Hematology Achievement Award

Congratulations! Amit Kalra holds the Dr. Grant Gall Graduate Trainee Scholarship supervised by Dr. Faisal Khan. Kalra presented his research on predicting graft-versus-host disease (GvHD) at the society's annual meeting in San Diego. Kalra identified 12 genes in a panel of 579 that reliably predict patients at one month post transplant who would develop the disease. Kalra's research was chosen from among 3,000 abstracts presented. The team plans to validate this research in a larger pediatric population. Dr. Khan is the holder of the Barb Ibbotson Chair in Pediatric Hematology. Watch video For more success stories, refer to our website Trainee success stories
NEW ACHRI is pleased to announce an open invitation to trainees to participate in ACHRI's Research Training Executive Committee.

We are seeking your participation to represent the trainee population of ACHRI, participate in regular meetings of the committee and assist with trainee program direction and development. Interested trainees may submit their current CV and a short statement of interest to achri.training@ucalgary.ca

Trainee funding: ACHRI Summer Studentship Award Competition is now open. Deadlines February 8 (student portion) and February 15 (supervisor portion) Apply

ACHRI STEP and HBI REALISE Workshop: Conflict Resolution
Jan. 15  9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  HSC G750 Register
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ACHRI Trainee Weekly Bulletin

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Child Health Research Funding Opportunities

CIHR - TRAVEL AWARDS  Institute Community Support (Winter 2019)
RSO Internal Deadline: January 22, 2019 at noon
Contact: Anna LeMarquand
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ANESTHESIA PATIENT SAFETY FOUNDATION Annual Investigator Initiated Research Grants
RSO Internal Deadline: January 30, 2019 at noon
Contact: Lisa Singh
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CIHR Operating Grant Early Career Investigator Grants in Maternal, Reproductive, Child & Youth Health
Registration Deadline: April 2, 2019
RSO Internal Deadline: May 10, 2019
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For more information on these opportunities and others, refer to our web site Child Health Research Funding

IN THE LAB

In the Lab: Dr. Edwin Wang's lab

Dr. Edwin Wang's lab is focused on developing novel algorithms for modeling of molecular networks. The lab is also developing new concepts for data analysis toward interpreting data, generating, prioritizing and testing new hypotheses. Dr. Wang holds the Alberta Innovates Health Solutions (AIHS) Chair in Cancer Genomics and Informatics. Dr. Wang's pioneering work of cancer network motifs has been featured in the college textbook GENETICS written by Nobel Laureate Dr. Hartwell and Dr. Hood. Dr. Wang's lab space is under renovation but will be open mid-January located in the Centre for Health Genomics and Informatics, room 1151.
CONFERENCES, MEETINGS and LECTURES

Feb. 3
Pediatric Emergency Research Canada Annual Scientific Meeting
Registration is now open for the PERC Annual Scientific Meeting  Feb. 3 - 7
Location: Fairmont Banff Springs, Alberta

Feb. 11
Panel discussion on Women's Cardiovascular Health
Speakers include ACHRI's Dr. Jennifer Thompson on cardiovascular health of infants
Location: Central Public Library
Register

June 5
Owerko Centre Conference
Speakers: Dr. Yona Lunksy, PhD and Dr. Russell Schachar, MD
Location: Theatre Four, HSC, Foothills Campus

Lectures

Jan. 21  (8:30am - 9:30am)
Developmental Neurosciences Grand Rounds - Neuroimaging analysis methods data management, quality control and outcome measures
Speaker: Dr. Naomi J. Goodrich-Hunsaker, PhD
Location: ACH Auditorium

Feb. 6  (12:00pm - 1:00pm)
Owerko Neurodevelopmental Rounds - Neuroimaging research and translation to clinic
Speakers: Dr. Helen Carlson, PhD and Brandon Craig
Location: CDC Room 100

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.