Dr. Aneal Khan performs Canada’s first gene therapy for urea cycle disorder

A huge congratulations! Dr. Aneal Khan is the lead of a study that is offering new hope to those who are seriously ill with urea cycle disorder. Performing the first direct intravenous gene therapy to treat the rare genetic disease, Dr. Khan says it holds tremendous promise as an effective treatment for a number of disorders. The genes needed to process ammonia were delivered to Josh McQuillin’s liver intravenously. A virus, modified to be harmless, was used as a transmitter. Dr. Khan is leading the Canadian portion of an international clinical trial on gene therapy for urea cycle disorder. He is an associate professor in the departments of Medical Genetics and Paediatrics.

Snyder, ACHRI and HBI host joint research day

Join us today Theatre One, HSC March 18 | 9:15 am - 3:30 pm
The Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases, the Alberta Children’s Hospital Research Institute and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute are hosting an inaugural research symposium to build new relationships and collaborations. Registration required for lunch. Opening remarks by Dr. Paul Kubes and Dr. David Park at 9:15 am. See you there!

Dr. Bousman awarded Alberta Innovates grant in precision medicine and mental health care

Congratulations! Dr. Chad Bousman has been awarded a $750,000 grant from Alberta Innovates to develop and pilot Alberta’s first pharmacogenomic testing in mental health. More than half of Canadians carry at least one genetic variant which would lead to an adverse reaction to the commonly used medications in mental health care. In collaboration with Dr. Katherine Aitchison at the University of Alberta, the interdisciplinary team will identify and validate a core set of genetic variants for clinical lab implementation, design resources to inform clinicians, and pilot a study at an addiction and mental health clinic to collect outcomes. The study is called Pharmacogenomics for the Prevention of Adverse Drug Reactions in Mental health or PRIME. Dr. Bousman is an assistant professor in the Department of Medical Genetics.
Dr. Guang Yang recipient of CFI-JELF award

Congratulations! The prestigious Canada Foundation for Innovation - John Evans Leaders grant was recently awarded to Dr. Guang Yang. The funding is designed to help scientists undertake leading-edge research by providing them with the foundational infrastructure required to be innovators in their field. Dr. Yang is shown beside some of the new CFI equipment that will give insights into neurodevelopmental disorders. Dr. Yang's research is focused on understanding how genetic and environmental disturbances affect the molecular and cellular mechanisms of neurons. Dr. Yang is an assistant professor in the departments of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Medical Genetics at the Cumming School of Medicine.

Dr. Jeff Biernaskie’s groundbreaking research receives $1 million boost

Congratulations! Dr. Jeff Biernaskie and a multidisciplinary team including Dr. Vincent Gabriel have received a further pledge of $1 million by the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society to support the Chair in Skin Regeneration and Wound Healing. Dr. Jeff Biernaskie, inaugural holder of the Chair, is an associate professor of stem cell biology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine with a joint appointment at the Cumming School of Medicine. The team’s groundbreaking dermal stem cell research is aimed at regrowing healthy new skin after severe burns. One-third of burn patients are children. Read

Dr. Charlene Elliott assesses Health Canada's nutrient profiling model for children

Dr. Charlene Elliott has published an assessment of how Health Canada’s proposed nutrient profiling model (designed in the context of Bill S-228, The Child Health Protection Act) would impact the marketing of child-targeted supermarket foods. The research is published in the Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. The findings show that across all models studied, nearly 60% of child-targeted products would be not permitted on the basis of nutritional quality, with sugar as the most common threshold exceeded. Dr. Elliott, a professor in the Department of Communications and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Food Marketing and Policy, explores food marketing, packaging, and policy in the context of children’s health.

ACHRI 10th ANNIVERSARY

This week on our ACHRI 10th anniversary celebration series, we showcase the outstanding child health research of Dr. Deborah Kurrasch and Dr. Jong Rho, holder of the Dr. Robert Haslam Chair in Pediatric Neurology. Their collaboration has led to the development of a drug screening platform that efficiently and rapidly finds new drug treatments for children who don’t respond to current epilepsy medications. Their top drug is now being tested in clinical trials. You are welcome to share on social media. READ

NEW ACHRI STEP and HBI REALISE Workshop: Social Media and Science: March 27 | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

This session will explore how social media is relevant to scientists, outline specific UCalgary regulations around social media use, and provide examples and tips on using various social platforms to promote academic work/research and engage with others. Register

March 31 Deadline Vi Riddell Pediatric Rehabilitation Research Studentships. Apply to tanya childs2@ucalgary.ca
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

CIHR - Operating Grant: Early Career Investigator Grants in Maternal, Reproductive, Child & Youth
Registration: April 2, 2019
RSO Internal Deadline May 9, 2019 at noon
Contact: Anna LeMarquand

SickKids Foundation New Investigator Research Grants
RSO Internal Deadline: April 17, 2019 at noon
Contact: Katie Ryan

For more information on these opportunities and others, visit Child Health Research Funding

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS and LECTURES

Lectures
NEW March 19 | 3:30 - 4:30pm  Candidate Lecture - Tenure Track in Cognitive Science
Title: Space as a Scaffold for Episodic Memory and Imagination
Speaker: Dr. Jessica Robin, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Rotman Research Institute
Location: Sciences Theatre ST 147

March 19 | 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  Child Health Rounds
Title: Overuse Tendon Injuries in Youth Basketball: Two Tendons, Two Problems, Two Solutions
Speaker: Dr. Oluwatoyosi Owoeye, PhD
Location: ACH Conference Room 3

March 25 | 8:30 am to 9:30 am  Developmental Neurosciences Grand Rounds
Title: Strategic Clinical Networks
Speaker: Tracy Wasylak, Chief Program Officer, Strategic Clinical Networks™ with Alberta Health Services
Location: Auditorium, 4th Floor ACH

March 28 | 11:00 am to 12:00 pm  Genes, Development and Health Lecture
Title: Regulatory principles governing enhancer function during development
Speaker: Dr. Emma Farley, PhD
Location: Theatre 1, Foothills Campus

NEW April 18 | 11:00 am to 12:30 pm  AHS Community Education Service Lectures
Title: Optimal Parenting in the First 2000 Days
Speaker: Dr. Sheri Madigan
Location: Auditorium, 4th Floor ACH

Conferences and Workshops
April 23-26
Childhood Arthritis & Beyond Meeting
Lessons learned in childhood arthritis and the future of research
Location: Chateau Lake Louise

May 29
Child Health Research Symposium
Speaker: Dr. Janet Rossant, PhD, FRS, FRSC
Location: Theatre Four, HSC Foothills Campus

May 30
ACH Quality Forum
Deadline for abstracts March 15
Contact: ach.qualitycouncil@ahs.ca
Location: ACH 4th floor Amphitheatre 8am-2:30pm
June 5
Owerko Centre Conference
Speakers: Dr. Yona Lunksy, PhD and Dr. Russell Schachar, MD
Location: Theatre Four, HSC Foothills Campus

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

research4kids.ucalgary.ca

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