The ACHRI team wishes you happy holidays!

One of the real joys this holiday season is the opportunity to say thank you and wish you the very best for the new year! We look forward to the many opportunities to support your child health research in 2019. We continue to welcome all your contributions to this newsletter and want to hear any of your ideas on how we can assist you in your research endeavours. Please drop by - our doors are always open. From all of us at the ACHRI team, happy holidays!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Myriam Hemberger appointed Theme Leader of the Genes, Development and Health Theme

A warm welcome to Dr. Myriam Hemberger on accepting this role. Dr. Hemberger is a professor in the departments of Medical Genetics and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. A new recruit to the Cumming School of Medicine, she recently won one of the world’s top prizes in women’s health and reproduction, the inaugural U.S. Magee Prize. Dr. Hemberger’s research is focused on the association between placenta defects and congenital heart disease.

We extend our thank you to Dr. Benedikt Hallgrimsson who has provided his service, guidance and advice to ACHRI as the GDH
Dr. Hallgrimsson has accepted a new role as ACHRI Scientific Director of Basic Science.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Canada-wide study led by Dr. Lodha confirms long-term benefits of caffeine therapy**

**Congratulations! Dr. Lodha** is lead of a Canada-wide follow up study to see how preemies are doing as toddlers. Dr. Lodha showed that early caffeine treatment has no long-term negative effects on neurodevelopment, and is actually associated with better cognitive scores, and reduced odds of cerebral palsy and hearing impairment. The findings are published in the journal *Pediatrics*. Dr. Lodha is an associate professor in the departments of Paediatrics and Community Health Sciences at the Cumming School of Medicine and a neonatologist with Alberta Health Services. [Read more] [Listen to interview]

**Dr. Gillian Tarr’s research indicates inadequate testing guidelines**

**Congratulations Dr. Gillian Tarr!** Dr. Tarr, an Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellow supervised by Dr. Stephen Freedman, enrolled 2,444 children from two emergency departments in Alberta and tested their stool for nine bacterial pathogens. The research found that the guidelines recommending when to test stool samples for gastroenteritis have low sensitivity, specificity, or both, highlighting the need for improved testing guidance. The findings are published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

**In leading research Dr. Walter Herzog shows how osteoarthritis may begin**

**Congratulations! Dr. Walter Herzog** and his team in the Faculty of Kinesiology examined why the majority of patients who had their meniscus removed developed knee osteoarthritis. The findings, published in the Nature journal *Scientific Reports*, show that when the meniscus is removed, extensive cell death occurs within hours during vigorous exercise. Using a powerful, customized microscope, researchers were able to watch what was happening to the cells in real time. [Read more]

**GRANTS**

**Dr. Gillian Currie and team win impressive Arthritis Society of Canada Grant**
Congratulations on this successful grant! Dr. Gillian Currie and Dr. Susa Benseler are the principal investigators on this strategic operating grant with a leading research team including the University of Calgary’s Dr. Deborah Marshall and ACHRI’s Scientific Clinical Director Dr. Marinka Twilt. The grant will build on the UCAN CAN-DU cohort with the aim of informing research that measures the quality of life for children with juvenile arthritis and identifying potential new treatments. Dr. Currie is a health economist in the departments of Paediatrics and Community Health Sciences with a research focus on modelling the cost-effectiveness of precision medicine approaches to tailored treatment strategies in juvenile arthritis. Dr. Benseler is currently heading a large interdisciplinary team of researchers at the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) implementing genomic medicine into care for children with arthritis.

IN THE NEWS

Dr. Sheri Madigan on the science behind generosity in Conversation Canada

Dr. Sheri Madigan explains how families can infuse the spirit of giving into Christmas in her article in the latest edition of Conversation Canada. Dr. Madigan is the holder of the Canada Research Chair in Determinants of Child Development and an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts. Dr. Madigan’s research is focused on the determinants of social, emotional and cognitive development in early childhood.

Dr. Benedikt Hallgrimsson consulted in dialogue over Canadian forensic techniques

Dr. Hallgrimsson provided his expertise in a conversation over the use of DNA phenotyping as a technique to help solve crimes. Dr. Hallgrimsson studies the significance of phenotypic variation and variability and commented that the portraits created by enforcement agencies based on DNA samples are not just potentially useless but could even be misleading. Dr. Hallgrimsson is the head of the Department of Cell Biology & Anatomy and is ACHRI’s Scientific Director for Basic Science. Read more

Popular morning show features Dr. Sarah Hall

Dr. Sarah Hall was recently featured on Breakfast Television, a popular morning show in Calgary. In the segment, Dr. Hall provided information to parents on the appropriate health care sites caring for sick children over the holidays. Dr. Hall is clinical assistant professor and a pediatrician in the Section of Hospital Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics at the Alberta Children’s Hospital. Dr. Hall’s research focus is on the use of simulation for professional
Dr. Paul Gordon delivers key talk at international conference

Congratulations! Dr. Paul Gordon is a bioinformatics researcher in the Centre for Health Genomics and Informatics at the Cumming School of Medicine. Dr. Gordon is developing innovative usages for a genetic sequencing device called nanopore, a technology from Oxford Nanopore. The device is capable of direct sequencing of very long DNA fragments with immediate results. Dr. Gordon’s presentation to the international audience gathered in San Francisco focused on an algorithm used in aligning two sequences to each other to advance research. Video

NEW MEMBER

Welcome new member: Dr. Lara Leijser

Dr. Leijser is a new recruit to the institute and joins as full member of the Behaviour and Developing Brain Theme. Dr. Leijser’s research focuses on brain injury and consequent neurodevelopmental deficits in preterm infants, in particular injuries associated with intraventricular hemorrhaging (IVH). Dr. Leijser completed her Clinical Fellowship in Neonatology at the University of Medical Centre in Utrecht, The Netherlands and her Clinical and Research Fellowship in Neonatal Neurology at The Hospital for Sick Children. Join us in welcoming Dr. Leijser to the institute.

TRAINEEs

ACHRI Trainee Update

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
Trainee Sydney Riglin launches social media campaign to help cancer patients

Congratulations Sydney Riglin! Riglin started a new initiative that encourages cancer survivors to get physically active and participate in cancer-specific exercise programs that are tailored to their needs. Riglin is a practicum student with Dr. Nicole Culos-Reed in the Thrive Centre, Faculty of Kinesiology. Dr. Culos-Reed is a professor in health and exercise psychology. Participants in the research program report improved fitness, including cardiovascular, flexibility and strength gains, as well as improved mental well-being and overall enhanced quality of life. (Photo)

Riglin shown right with Dr. Nicole Culos-Reed. Read more

Trainee success stories

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Child Health Research Funding Opportunities

NEW New Frontiers in Research Fund - Exploration

If you intend to apply to this opportunity please advise of your intent by emailing both Ryan Gabel rgabel@ucalgary.ca and Jenna Slobozian j.slobozian@ucalgary.ca so that you can be updated on this competition as information is released.

Details here

AHS Calgary Quality Improvement Grants: Deadline Jan. 8

Details here to access the Project Charter Research Enhancement program. The OADR provides support for principal investigators or lab members to obtain training in new techniques/methodologies.

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SSHRC – Insight Development Grant: Deadline Jan. 31

Details here

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AMA Section of Pediatrics Grant: Deadline Feb. 15

Details here

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT Child Health Research Funding

Vi Riddell Pain Program Retreat

An 18-member multidisciplinary team of basic, clinical and translational child health researchers met Dec. 14 to present their
research and celebrate their achievements at the annual Vi Riddell Pain Program Retreat. The Children's Pain Research Program, part of the Vi Riddell Children's Pain and Rehabilitation Program, aims to better understand the mechanisms of pain and seeks novel ways to mitigate the pain burden on children. The retreat received a program update from Dr. Naweed Syed and heard presentations from the biomedical research team: Drs. Tuan Trang, Darren Derksen, Gerald Zamponi and Patrick Whelan. These expert talks were followed by presentations from the clinical and translational child pain team: Drs. Nivez Rasic, Melanie Noel and Jillian Vinall.

IN THE LAB

In the Lab: Dr. Amanda Melin’s lab

Dr. Amanda Melin’s lab is focused on in a broad range of research situated at the intersection of behaviour, sensory ecology, and dietary outcomes of nonhuman and human primates. The lab takes an integrative approach to answering questions about primate origins and evolution, melding study of sensory systems with molecular ecology, microbiome analysis, metagenomics and field observations of primates. Dr. Melin holds the Canada Research Chair in Anthropology and Archaeology & Medical Genetics.

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS and LECTURES

Dec. 17

NEW Resources to recruit study participants

Speaker: Jenny McLean - Senior Marketing Specialist in Office of the VP Research

Noon to 1 pm UCalgary Foothills Campus Theatre 4 and Video conference ACH C2-143

Register

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

NEW Panel discussion on Women's Cardiovascular Health

Speakers include ACHRI's Dr. Jennifer Thompson on cardiovascular health of infants

Location: Central Public Library

Register

Lectures

Jan. 7

Developmental Neurosciences Grand Rounds - Diet-induced synaptic changes in neural circuits underlying reward valuation and reward seeking

Speaker: Dr. Stephanie Borgland, PhD

8:30 am to 9:30 am, ACH Auditorium, 4th Floor
PLEASE NOTE: The ACHRI newsletter will be on a break until the new year.

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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