



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

April 27, 2020

ACHRI EXTENDING FUNDING FOR ACHRI TRAINEES

Dear child health and wellness researchers,

We hope you are all doing well despite the tough times we are all in.

We are very happy to share some good news with you: to address challenges our research community is facing during COVID-19, ACHRI is making additional funding available to support ACHRI trainees. This investment will support current holders of ACHRI graduate scholarships and postdoctoral fellowship awards. The new support will cover stipends / salaries (both the ACHRI portion and the supervisor portion) for eligible ACHRI trainees for four months beyond the original ACHRI award term.

We are so grateful for the generous support of our community through the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation for making this possible during challenging economic times. ACHRI contacted eligible trainees and their supervisors about this funding last week. [Julia Klenin-MacLock](#) is happy to provide more details or answer any questions you may have.

Dr. Susa Benseler, ACHRI Director

Dr. Benedikt Hallgrímsson, Scientific Director (Basic Science)

Dr. Marinka Twilt, Scientific Director (Clinical Research)

EXTENDING DEADLINE TO MAY 15 FOR NEW APPLICATIONS

ACHRI has extended the deadline for the ACHRI Graduate Scholarships, ACHRI Postdoctoral Fellowships, and ACHRI Trainee Small Research Grants

competitions to May 15. The ACHRI Clinical Fellowships deadline is still May 1. We welcome your applications.

You can find more information on how to apply and guidelines for these competitions [here](#).

If you have any questions, please email jklenin@ucalgary.ca.

Visit our [Trainee web site](#) for all funding and training opportunities.

MESSAGE FROM VP RESEARCH

The Office of the Vice-President (Research) is hosting three online sessions for early to mid-career researchers impacted by COVID-19.

Registration is required.

[April 30 Sciences and Engineering](#)

[May 4 Social Sciences and Humanities](#)

[May 7 Health](#)

CIHR GRANTS



Helping families of first responders

ACHRI's Dr. Kelly Schwartz, PhD (PI) and Dr. Carly McMorris, PhD (Co-PI) have been awarded a \$1 million CIHR team grant to help first responders understand the effects of operational stress on their families. The study takes place in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. Operational stress has a negative impact on first responder mental health, but too often programs and supports are either unavailable or don't include family members. This study will evaluate the *Before Operational Stress* (BOS) program, a group-based program designed to build strength and resiliency. The study will also develop a new method of objectively measuring response-to-intervention through wearable technology. The diverse study team includes members from the Werklund School of Education, nursing, social work, kinesiology and the Cumming School of Medicine.

"We are humbled to be leading a research project focused on building the strengths of family members, including children and spouses, as they understand and cope with the unique stressors of living in a first responder family. They really are the first responders to the first responder."



Helping children at risk

Dr. Nicole Letourneau, PhD, (PI) and **Dr. Khara Ross, PhD**, (Co-PI), are leading a CHIR-SPOR Innovative Clinical Trial Grant to scale and spread their successful intervention program called ATTACH™, designed to help vulnerable mothers and their preschool children.

They will train health and social service professionals in community agencies across Canada, and examine program impacts on parent-child relationship quality, child development, and biological biomarkers of children's immune function. Drs Letourneau and Martha Hart, PhD, developed the intervention program to promote healthy serve-and-return relationships in families affected by toxic stress (family violence, additions, low-income) . Letourneau holds the ACHF Chair in Parent-Infant Mental Health. [Details](#)

CIHR FELLOWSHIPS



Fellowship recipient

Brooke Allemang, a PhD Student in the Faculty of Social Work, supervised by Drs. Gina Dimitropoulos, PhD, and Susan Samuel, MD, is one of 17 recipients across Canada of a CIHR Patient-Oriented Research Transition to Leadership Fellowship.

Allemang investigates transition readiness among adolescents with chronic health and mental health conditions as they are exiting pediatric services.

"This fellowship will boost our program capacity as we aim to provide more resources to adolescents facing mental health challenges to live healthier lives in our community," she says. "It is truly a privilege to partner with young people with lived experience in designing studies that align with their priorities, and I look forward to continuing to develop my skills in this area."

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The CIHR announced several programs last week for health researchers:

New support for research trainees whose training programs are affected by the pandemic

COVID-19 Rapid Research Funding Opportunity (May 2020)

WHO Solidarity Trial Scale-Up Funding Opportunity

Extended deadlines

Early Career Investigator Grants in Maternal, Reproductive, Child & Youth Health

Registration: July 2, 2020

[Details](#)

SickKids Foundation-CIHR-IHDCYH New Investigator Grants in Child and Youth Health

Agency Deadline: July 8, 2020

[Details](#)

For more grant opportunities, please visit [ACHRI Research Funding](#).

PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS



Wednesday, April 29
8:30 am - 9:30 am
Register via zoom [here](#)

Psychogenic Nonepileptic Seizures (PNES) in Youth: Diagnosis & Management

Dr. Tyson Sawchuk, RPsych, Children's Comprehensive Epilepsy Centre (CCEC),
Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute
[Details here](#)

OWERKO NEURODEVELOPMENTAL TALKS



Wednesday, May 6
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Register via zoom [here](#)

Prenatal exposure to plastic chemicals affects children's brains and behaviour

Dr. Deborah Dewey, PhD, Dr. Gillian England-Mason PhD, and Melody Grohs, MSc.
[Details here](#)

COMMUNITY GIVING



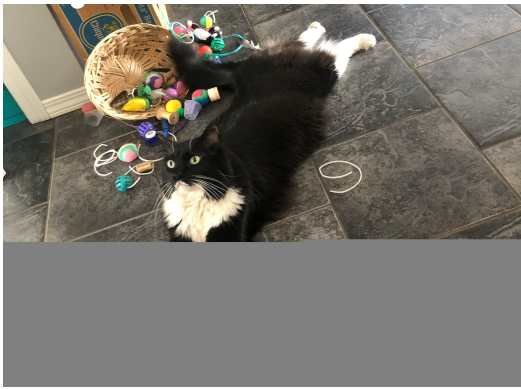
the world has changed, but its needs have not...
help us get books into the hands of kids who need them most

Calgary Reads needs our help

Calgary Reads continues to provide books to children and families during COVID-19. They have an immediate need for your donations of new and “like-new” children's books. Please contact info@calgaryreads.com for instructions on how to donate. All books and book bags are carefully cleaned and quarantined before being sent to families. "Thank you for helping to 'spread the words', and keep families reading, singing, talking, playing, and loving every day," says CEO Steacy Pinney (Collyer).

calgary **reads**™

A LITTLE DOSE OF HAPPINESS



Relaxing cat!

Ninja, this four-year-old furball, belongs to ACHRI program administrator Linda Cosway. Ninja enjoys being a 'Supercat' on the floor with his toys. "He has a language and personality unlike any cat I've had before," says Cosway.



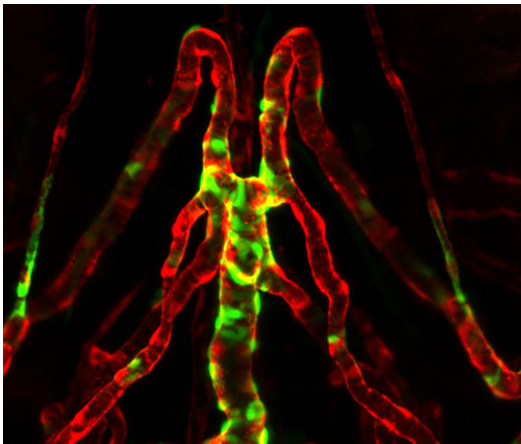
Working from home!

This is how Dr. Frank MacMaster, PhD, greets his afternoon — with a Delgona whipped coffee.

Send us a screenshot of your zoom meetings, photos of your art, children, pets — things to make us all smile.

Email laherper@ucalgary.ca

COLOURING FUN



This [picture](#), taken by researcher Dr. Tom Whitesell, PhD, in Dr. Sarah Childs' lab, shows vascular smooth muscle cells developing in high resolution. These cells regulate vascular tone to maintain intravascular pressure and tissue perfusion. Childs' team works to discover angiogenesis, a process by which new blood vessels develop to determine how they are customized to deliver oxygen and nutrients to different organs.



Click [here](#) for the colouring page and then save the image on your device. You can print the page to colour by hand OR colour digitally by following the instructions [here](#). Happy colouring!

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