

Research Resources e-Newsletter (15May2020 edition)

Do you know of an OBGYN-related Research Resource, Funding Opportunity, or an Upcoming Workshop that is missing below? Please [write](#) to let us know!

For this and past editions of e-newsletters, please navigate to <https://obgyn.ubc.ca/research/research-e-newsletter/>.

COVID-19 Resources & Support

For updates and useful links on COVID-19 and evolving guidelines on research operations, the following resources are available:

Research

- **NEW!** [UBC Research Staff and Trainee Emergency Fund](#)
- **NEW!** Summary of [UBC Town Halls \(April 2020\) on Planning for a Phased Resumption of On-Campus Research](#).
- **NEW!** [UBC COVID-19 Working Group Summaries](#) – a summary of the working group findings & recommendations
- **NEW!** [COVID-19 Research Guide](#) (BC Ministry of Health: Health and Human Services Library)
- [Curtailing Research Activities on UBC Campuses](#)
- VCHRI Research Exemption Form ([PDF](#)) ([Word](#)) - Request to continue critical research or maintain critical research supplies at VCHRI
- [VCH/PHC Advisory on Clinical Trial and Clinical Research Operations](#)
- [Faculty of Medicine - Resources for Research](#)
- [OBGYN Useful Links on Research and COVID-19](#)
- [WHRI COVID-19 Researcher Resources](#)
- [BC AHSN's COVID-19 Response](#)
- [Updates for Clinical Trials BC regarding COVID-19](#)
- [Research Ideas in a Context of COVID-19](#)
- [Resources from CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network \(CTN\)](#) in the fight against COVID-19 (including [online research toolbox](#))
- [COVID-19 Research Underway at UBC](#)
- [BC COVID-19 Research Inventory](#)
- [Rapid Clinical Trials Training for COVID-19](#)
- [REBC's Rapid Ethical Review Process for COVID-19 Clinical Research](#)
- [Guidance Notes and Regulatory Requirements for Informed Consent in Research During a](#)

[Pandemic](#) from REBC, CTBC, and Fraser Health

Other

- **NEW!** [Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\) Outbreak Updates, Symptoms, Prevention, Travel, Preparation](#) - Canada.ca
- [PHSA COVID-19 Workplace Wellness Support Resources](#)
- [Expanded Access to COVID-19 Testing in BC](#). Anyone in the VCH region with cold, flu, or COVID-19-like symptoms can now be tested for COVID-19.
- Video of webinar now available for the [Virtual BC COVID-19 Symposium](#) that was jointly hosted by UBC and the BCCDC on April 9, 2020.
- UBC CPD online course: [Safe Surgical Care: Strategies during a Pandemic](#). Learn how to increase safety and maintain surgical services during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [UBC CPD COVID-19 Resource Hub](#)
- [UBC Strategic Investment Fund for COVID-19](#)

Events, Workshops, and Seminars

--> IMPORTANT NOTE: Events listed below are subject to change / may be cancelled without notice, due to the current ongoing situation with the COVID-19 outbreak. Please check with individual event's organizers for updates.

(1) Thursday BCWH Interprofessional Grand Rounds: Effective immediately, for the rest of the month of April, these will be "virtual". Options for participating as an attendee: *Option #1*, by **Zoom** – weekly email reminders from Kerrie Glover (CWBC) will contain the Zoom meeting info, which can be accessed via any web browser on your computer, laptop, or mobile device -- please ensure your microphone and video options are turned OFF when you connect; *Option #2*, via **Recording** – all sessions are recorded and are available for viewing after the session at <https://obgyn.ubc.ca/faculty-resources/rounds/med-video-on-demand/>. Password: obgynrounds.

Attendance Credit: As there won't be any sign-in sheets, if you attend via Zoom, please send an email to kglover@cw.bc.ca after the rounds session so she can track your attendance. Participants are also encouraged to complete the evaluation form (available on the weekly reminder email). Please check the Obstetrics and Gynecology website weekly for any updates for possible cancellations or changes at <https://obgyn.ubc.ca/faculty-resources/rounds/>.

(2) International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) is offering the [COVID-19 Virtual Tumor Board Series](#). Information regarding the understanding of COVID-19 is continually evolving and its impact on the care of gynecologic oncology patients is rapidly changing. The IGCS is bringing together the global gynecologic oncology community in these unprecedented times to allow IGCS to learn the needs of members and further expand their education offerings. IGCS is extending an invitation to members to

come together to discuss gynecologic oncology cases with special considerations for COVID-19. Previous sessions' webinar slides & recording now available. Beginning in May, IGCS will begin holding COVID-19 tumor board sessions once per month. [Find out more.](#)

(3) The [Society of Gynecologic Oncology](#) (SGO) [2020 Annual Meeting Webinar Series](#) consists of virtual talks on a variety of topics, happening from **April 23 to May 28, 2020.**

* [Genetic Discoveries and Pathologic Variations in Ovarian Cancer](#), **May 22, 2020** from **1:30-2:30pm**

* [Developmental Therapeutics in Gynecologic Cancer](#), **May 28, 2020** at **2:00pm**

[Find out more!](#)

(4) **NEW! Save the Date!** The [Canadian Society for the Advancement of Gynecologic Excellence \(CanSAGE\)](#) is hosting a series of virtual webinar sessions. The next live webinar will take place on **May 25, 2020**, on "Managing AUB in Covid Times: A Canadian Perspective" with @TorontoMigs HCPs. More details available on the CanSAGE website soon.

(5) The [Modern Sex Therapy Institutes](#) presents "[Mindfulness based approaches for managing sexual concerns and genital pain in women](#)" with **Dr. Lori Brotto** on **May 29, 2020** from **9am-12pm**. There is a \$125 registration fee.

(6) **NEW! KT Connects webinar series.** (MSFHR) Next webinar is on "How to Do Knowledge Translation in a Pandemic", by **Dr. Sarah Munro**, on **May 29, 2020** from **12-1pm**. Register [here](#), or [Find out more...](#)

(7) **NEW! Gynecologic Cancer Initiative Trainee Webinar Series.** GCI has put together a free 8-week webinar series to provide an introduction to gynecologic cancers for interested grad students and postdoc fellows in Canada. The series will provide an overview of the molecular biology, epidemiology, prevention, and treatment of gynecologic cancers, including uterine, vulvar/vaginal, cervical, and ovarian cancers. Important considerations such as survivorship, incorporating the patient experience, and considering the intersectionality between sex and gender, and providing culturally and medical competent care, will also be discussed.

The first session will take place on **June 5, 2020**. Click here to register today: <https://bit.ly/2SV2lyy>

Please feel free to contact the GCI for more information, at info@gynecancerinitiative.ca.

(8) [Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference 2020](#). (SOGC) The [Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada \(SOGC\)](#) has decided to cancel the in-person portion of their meeting originally scheduled for **June 9-12, 2020**. **In lieu of the in-person abstract program, all of the presentations will be posted to the SOGC website.**

(9) [FPON Webinar: Breast Cancer Screening](#). (UBC CPD) BC breast screening guidelines will be discussed, along with investigations of patients with dense breasts & identifying at-risk populations. **June 18, 2020** from **8:00-9:00am**. 1.0 Mainpro+. [Register now](#).

(10) The [Global Experts Meeting on Frontiers in Gynecology and Obstetrics](#) is going to be held during **September 8-10** in **San Francisco, CA, USA**. Theme: "*Expedite the Future Frontiers in Gynecology and Obstetrics Care*". [Register now](#).

- (11) **SAVE THE DATE!** The [27th Obstetrics Update for Family Physicians](#). (UBC FoM CPD/CME) **October 22-23, 2020** at the **Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown**. This workshop is intended for family physicians, midwives, nurse practitioners who provide maternity care, residents, and medical students. Mainpro+ credits. . Registration to open soon.

Awards and Funding Opportunities

- (1) **NEW!** Funding agency updates are available from the UBC Research Finance [COVID-19 Funding Agency Updates](#) page.
- (2) [COVID-19 Grant Program Update](#) research funding updates are also available from the WHRI website.
- (3) **NEW!** Following the cancellation of the Spring 2020 Project Grant competition, the [CIHR Fall 2020 Project Grant competition](#) will be going ahead – more details to come.
- (4) **NEW!** [2020 Women's Health Research Institute Catalyst Grants](#) (WHRI/BCWF) These pilot grants will go towards funding projects in women's and/or newborn's health. A total of six awards at **\$25,000** each will be available. Must be a member of the WHRI to apply. **LOI deadline June 10, 2020. Application deadline: July 31, 2020.** Application instructions are available [here](#).
- (5) **CCHCSP:** [Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program – Training Paths](#). These awards are directed at candidates with an interest in child and youth health research. Various levels of awards are available (doctoral, post-doctoral, career development, career enhancement). **Application deadline: November 1, 2020. [Read more...](#)**
- (6) **CIHR:** [CIHR Early Career Investigators in Maternal, Reproductive, Child and Youth Health \(2020\)](#). IHDCYH in collaboration with the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addictions (INMHA) is pleased to pre-announce the 2020 funding opportunity of the [CIHR Early Career Investigators in Maternal, Reproductive, Child and Youth Health](#) program. The program funds research across the four CIHR pillars that has the potential to have a significant impact on maternal, reproductive, child and youth health outcomes according to the relevant research areas identified by the participating CIHR institutes. Ultimately, the program aims to strengthen Canada's capacity and knowledge to respond to challenges and needs by providing important early career development support to researchers in these fields. ~~Registration deadline: May 5, 2020.~~ **Application deadline: Jun 16, 2020.**
- (7) **GCI:** [Accelerating Grants Program](#). The Gynecologic Cancer Initiative (GCI) Clinical Trials Group is pleased to launch another round of funding for the Accelerating Grants program. This program provides funding for interventional, observational, and translational clinical research studies focused on gynecologic cancers. The intent of these grants is to support research related to patients. ~~LOI deadline: May 5, 2020.~~ **Full application deadline: July 6, 2020.**
- (8) **VCH:** [The VCH Research Challenge](#) supports point-of-care staff to improve practices and learn about the research process. Discover how you can get involved! ~~A Q&A session will be held on January 16,~~

2020, [more info here](#). ~~Registration deadline: February 5, 2020.~~ Full day workshop on February 28, 2020 is mandatory for all registered teams. **Application deadline: June 3, 2020.** Half day (morning) workshop in September 2020 is mandatory for all teams who are awarded funding.

(9) PHC: [The PHC Practice-Based Research Challenge](#) supports point-of-care staff to improve practices and to learn how to design and implement a research project. Participants will learn basic research skills and compete with other teams for funding to conduct a small-scale research project. ~~LOI deadline: February 12, 2020.~~ **Full proposal deadline: June 15, 2020.**

(10) OvCAN/OCC: [LeadAction Ovarian Cancer Competition](#). In an effort to develop and highlight scientific research excellence in ovarian cancer on a path towards commercialization of innovative therapeutic solutions, [Ovarian Cancer Canada](#) (OCC) is partnering with [IRICoR](#) to hold the LeadAction Ovarian Cancer Competition with a focus on Priority 2 of the OvCAN initiative to support the advancement of hit-to-lead targets and novel therapeutic approaches through preclinical trials, and to identify and prioritize the development of the most promising new treatments for ovarian cancer. Award recipients will be funded at **up to \$500,000 for 2 years for translational research activities** i.e. from hit to lead and/or lead optimization, or **up to \$1 M for 2 years for preclinical research activities**. NB. Allocated funds must be spent in Canada. ~~NOI deadline: March 17, 2020.~~ **Full application deadline: June 16, 2020.** [Find out more....](#)

(11) MSFHR: [2020 Innovation to Commercialization \(I2C\) Competition](#). MSFHR is introducing a number of changes across their competitions for 2020, including a new equity and diversity survey, and a new, user-friendly interface for [MSFHR ApplyNet](#) (their online grants management system). MSFHR is also providing additional funding for the I2C Program to support maintaining a minimum success rate of ~20 percent while encouraging and supporting more female applicants. ~~LOI deadline: January 27, 2020.~~ **Full application deadline: June 30, 2020.**

(12) **UPDATED!** CIHR/SPOR: [SPOR National Training Entity](#). The [Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research \(SPOR\)](#) is a national coalition of federal, provincial and territorial partners (patients and informal caregivers, provincial health authorities, academic health centres, charities, philanthropic organizations, private sector, etc.) dedicated to the integration of research into care. Patient-oriented research refers to a continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focuses on patient-identified priorities and improves patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams in partnership with relevant stakeholders, aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practices. The aim of the SPOR National Training Entity (NTE) is to support capacity development in the broader patient-oriented research community by leveraging existing training efforts, supporting the career development of patient-oriented researchers in a systematic manner, and supporting implementation specialists who will integrate patient-oriented research into the health system. This work involves moving beyond common and/or siloed approaches to training by engaging stakeholders and/or community members from all relevant disciplines, sectors, geographies and cultural perspectives. ~~LOI deadline: December 10, 2019.~~ **Full application deadline: July 2 June 30, 2020.** [Find out more...](#)

(13) MSFHR/CIHR: [2020 Health System Impact Fellowship](#). The MSFHR is partnering with CIHR's Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR) on its Health System Impact Fellowship Program to support the development of BC's health policy research talent and build capacity for the integration of policy research into decision-making. The Program provides PhD trainees and post-doctoral fellows studying health services and policy, or related fields, with a paid experiential

learning opportunity within health system organizations including health authorities, as they apply their research and analytic talents to specific health policy challenges faced by their host organizations. Awards are valued at \$50,000 for 1 year for PhD trainees, or \$155,000 over 2 years for post-doctoral fellows. Successful applicants will benefit from protected time for academic research in addition to PD opportunities and mentorship with health system and academic leaders. **Application deadline: July 2, 2020.** [Find our more...](#)

(14) **PlanH:** [2020 PlanH Grant Streams](#) are now accepting applications. [PlanH](#) is distributing 20 grants across 2 streams: Social Connectedness (15 grants of \$5,000 each), and Health Community Engagement (5 grants of \$15,000 each). For more information about the grant streams and to access the application guide, visit planh.ca/funding or email grants@planh.ca for more information. **Application deadline: July 15, 2020.**

(15) **SSHRC:** [New Frontiers in Research Fund. 2020 Transformation Competition](#). Supports large-scale, Canadian-led interdisciplinary research projects. The objective of the Transformation stream is to support large-scale, Canadian-led **interdisciplinary** research projects that address a major challenge with the potential to realize **real and lasting change**. The challenge may be fundamental, leading to a scientific breakthrough, or applied, with a social, economic, environmental, or health impact. Projects are expected to be world-leading, drawing on **global** research expertise, when relevant. Value ranges from \$2 million to \$4 million per year (including indirect costs) for up to 6 years. Number of awards depends on the amounts requested in successful applications. ~~NOT deadline: February 18, 2020.~~ **LOI deadline: July 15, 2020. Full application deadline: To Be Determined.**

(16) **MSFHR:** [Health Professional-Investigator Competition](#). The MSFHR Health Professional-Investigator (HP-I) Program is designed to help close the gap between health research and its implementation by supporting health professionals who are actively involved in patient care to conduct and apply research relevant to health and/or the health system. To be eligible, applicants must commit to spending a minimum of 50% of their time conducting research for the duration of the award (up to 5 years). New for the 2020 competition, two separate applicant streams have been introduced: a **physician stream** and a **non-physician stream**. Applicants must select the most applicable stream for their application. ~~LOI deadline: February 10, 2020.~~ **Application deadline: July 17, 2020.**

(17) **US Department of Defense (DOD) Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP):** [FY20 Ovarian Cancer Research Program \(OCR\)](#) -- various funding opportunities are available. ~~Pre-application deadline: April 30, 2020 &~~ **Application deadline: July 30, 2020.**

(18) **CFWH:** [2020 CFWH Awards, Fellowships, and Grants](#). The [Canadian Foundation for Women's Health \(CFWH\)](#) and its partners are pleased to promote and support research initiatives in the field of women's health. The **CFWH General Research Grants** (of up to \$20,000) are awarded to those committed to finding solutions to the reproductive health issues that face women both in Canada and around the world. Open to any area within the field of obstetrics and gynaecology, these grants aim to help make further advancements in women's health treatment, research, and education. The **Duchesnay International Elective Fellowships** (of between \$2,500 and \$4,500 per fellowship x 2 fellowships awarded per year) are available to OBGYN residents who desire to complete an elective of 4-8 weeks in duration in a healthcare centre in a developing country. The **Dawn Walker Grant** (in the amount of \$5,000) is awarded to one or more individuals (HCPs or students) in support of

health policy training and development for HCPs to better prepare them to contribute to the development of health care policy for children and women. The **Andre Lalonde Bursary** is awarded to up to 2 individuals each year to support the work of Canadian physicians within Canada in areas of special needs (i.e. aboriginal women's health, under-service groups, nutrition in pregnancy and newborns) – the award will consist of \$1,500 to the applicant and \$1,000 to the host institution. **Application deadline: September 21, 2020.** Guidelines and application forms are available [here](#).

(19) MSFHR: 2020 Convening & Collaborating (C2) and Reach Competitions. Guidelines are now available for the [2020 C2 Competition](#) and the [2020 Reach Competition](#). These KT-focused competitions will open in early March, and will aim to help ensure research has the maximum impact on health and the health system by (a) fostering collaboration between researchers and research users, (b) supporting the co-development of research questions and dissemination of research evidence. The C2 and Reach Competitions are being held concurrently, with each award providing a maximum of \$15,000 over a 1-year period. **Application deadline: September 28, 2020.**



Research Resources

- (1) NEW!** Introducing the [Canadian COVID-19 in Pregnancy Surveillance \(CANCOVID-Preg\)](#) program. Globally, there are significantly limited data on COVID-19 to inform recommendations for pregnant women and their care providers. The effects of COVID-19 in pregnancy on both the mother and fetus are largely unknown. This multi-provincial surveillance project serves to better

understanding of COVID-19 in pregnancy, to increase understanding of the epidemiology of COVID-19 in pregnancy, and to provide critical data to inform recommendations for pregnant women and their infants. The project will determine the burden of COVID-19 among pregnant women in Canada, as well as maternal and infant outcomes associated with infection, including whether the virus may be transmitted from mother to fetus in pregnancy. A pan-provincial approach, with regional leadership across Canada, is in progress with provincial data collection to be combined for a national dataset of cases of COVID-19 in pregnancy. Read the [full news story by WHRI on CANCOVID-Preg](#).

(2) **NEW! REACH BC Launch.** REACH BC is a new online platform that will connect the public with research opportunities related to their health conditions and/or interests, to ultimately advance health care and improve health outcomes in British Columbia.

➔ **Researchers: Submit your research opportunity.** We invite the academic research community to submit their health research opportunities related to COVID-19 or any other clinical or behavioural research opportunities that are actively recruiting. Create your Researcher account [here](#).

➔ **Volunteers: Connect to health research opportunities**

We are populating the REACH BC Directory with various research opportunities. There are currently research projects recruiting for COVID-19, Autism, Emergency Medicine, Reproduction and Sexual Health. Opportunities will be continually added. Visit <https://www.reachbc.ca/> to learn more.

(3) Check out the [BC COVID-19 Research Inventory](#). In response to the rapidly-evolving pandemic, BC AHSN and its three operational units have created a single inventory of current COVID-19-related research projects based in BC. This inventory is intended to foster as much connection, coordination, and collaboration as possible to avoid any unnecessary duplication of research effort.

(4) ***Do you need help with research tasks that can be carried out remotely?*** Qualified WHRI research staff are available to offer assistance to investigators who are looking for support with tasks that can be carried out in a remote work environment. Examples of such research tasks include would include protocol development, drafting funding grant and ethics applications, data entry and data cleaning, creating online surveys, social media-based recruitment, among others. For more information about the personnel supports that are currently available, please contact **Kathryn Dewar** (kdewar@cw.bc.ca).

(5) **Have you wondered how your research ethics may be affected due to COVID-19?** Check out the [FAQ](#) from the UBC REB.

(6) Who is [Research Ethics BC \(REBC\)](#)? How does REBC facilitate health systems change in the province? What is their role inside the [BC Academic Health Science Network \(BC AHSN\)](#)? Watch the [short video](#) that answers these questions and more – [watch now on the BC AHSN's YouTube Channel](#).