

Research Resources e-Newsletter (17Jun2020 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!

Did you receive this email in error, or would you like to be removed from the mailing list? Please [write](#) to let us know, and we will be happy to update our records.

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

## *Surveys - Your Opinion Matters!*

**(1) UPDATED!** Thank you for providing your feedback on the survey "**How Useful is the OBGYN Research Resources e-Newsletter to You**"; the survey is now closed. The results have been recorded and are being compiled, and findings will guide the future directions of the e-newsletter. Thank you for your support and constructive feedback!

**(2) \*\*\*Sent on behalf of the Dr. Fred Bryans Faculty Forum Planning Committee\*\*\*** We've launched a survey ([Dr. Fred Bryans Faculty Forum - Survey of OBGYN Faculty Barriers & Facilitators to Forum Participation](#)) to find out how we can improve attendance in future Forums. We are interested in hearing from all of our department faculty, regardless of whether or not you have attended a Forum before. All department members were previously sent their own unique link to the survey, and a reminder email with the link will be sent to you again on June 3, 2020. Alternatively, if you prefer, you may access the survey via the public link [here](#). Questions? Please contact **Ariadna Fernandez**, Research Program Manager, at [afernandez@phsa.ca](mailto:afernandez@phsa.ca).

**(3) \*\*\*Sent on behalf of WHRI\*\*\* CALLING ALL TRAINEES!** Dr. Lori Brotto and Dr. Angela Kaida have launched a **survey to understand the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 on trainees** affiliated with the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI). WHRI is offering TEN \$100 gift card random draw prizes to WHRI trainees who complete the survey. Only trainees who are members of WHRI or whose supervisors/primary mentors are members of WHRI are eligible for this prize. Fill out the survey at <https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=NMCFP4WCCF>. Questions? Please contact **Nicole Prestley**, Manager Research & Knowledge Translation (WHRI), at [Nicole.Prestley@cw.bc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Prestley@cw.bc.ca).

**(4) Drs. Gillian Hanley and Tim Oberlander** have teamed up with University of Calgary researchers on a Canada-wide survey "[Pregnant During the Pandemic](#)". We need your help getting the word out to British Columbians: <http://whri.org/pregnant-during-the-pandemic/>

# COVID-19 Resources & Support

## Research & COVID-19

Please review site-specific research curtailment information for updates:

[UBC](#)

[VCHRI](#)

[PHCRI](#)

[FOM](#)

- **NEW!** [VCHRI Memo of 11Jun2020 on Resumption of Human Subject Research](#)
- **NEW!** Excel spreadsheet for VCHRI Human Subject Researchers to complete -- ONE (1) per research program or unit, not per investigator (deadline: June 26, 2020): [VCHRI Unit Level Research Access Summary](#)
- **NEW!** [UBC CREB Guidance for Resumption of Research version Jun 2020](#)
- The Canadian Medical Association is [surveying its members](#) on their experiences with federal support during COVID-19
- Prime Minister announces [support for research staff](#) in Canada
- The Faculty of Medicine (FoM) has [announced](#) a province-wide [COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative](#) to help coordinate research activities, identify research gaps, share resources and liaise with the BC health system.
- Applications for the [UBC Research Staff and Trainee Emergency Fund](#) are being accepted until **August 31**
- UBC has announced planning for [phased resumption of on-campus research](#), Read a summary of the [UBC Town Halls \(April 2020\) on Planning for a Phased Resumption of On-Campus Research](#).
- In the phased resumption of on-campus research, FoM is prioritizing work that cannot be performed off-site. **All activities require approval and [completion of the FOM Faculty-PI Access Request Form](#).**
- [UBC COVID-19 Working Group Summaries](#) – a summary of the working group findings & recommendations
- [COVID-19 Research Guide](#) (BC Ministry of Health: Health and Human Services Library)
- [Curtailing Research Activities on UBC Campuses](#)
- [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 COVID-19-Related

- [Government of BC website on COVID-19 \(Novel Coronavirus\)](#) - Orders, Notices & Guidance; Health Sector Resources; Letters
- [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.
- [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](mailto: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) CANCELLED** - June/July **VGH Medicine Grand Rounds**. Grand rounds will resume virtually on **September 3, 2020**. Questions? Email to [dom.research@ubc.ca](mailto:dom.research@ubc.ca)

**(4) NEW!** BCWH Interprofessional Grand Rounds. "**Cultural Safety During COVID-19**" by **Dr. Unjali Malhotra**, Medical Officer, Women's Health First Nations Health Authority. **June 18, 2020** from **8:00-9:00am**. **Zoom Online Participants** – click this link to join: <https://ubc.zoom.us/j/6632366502>. Please be sure to mute your microphone & turn off your camera.

**(5) [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](#).

**(6)** Ticketed event: "**Virtual Kegels & Cocktails**" hosted by **Kim Vopni**, taking place on **June 18, 2020** from **5-7pm**. Invited guest speakers include Dr. Kara Dionisio, Ms. Julia Di Paolo, Ms. Kendra Hamilton, Ms. Sarah Bellwood, Ms. Shirley Weir and Dr. Lori Brotto. Tickets are \$20 (USD) each.

**(7)** Next BC Women's Research Rounds: "**A qualitative inquiry on pregnant and postpartum women's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic**" presented by **Dr. Hamideh Bayrampour** on **June 19, 2020** from **8-9am** by Videoconference.

**How to attend remotely:**

-Note: **Use a computer**. Mobile devices (smart phones, tablets) are not supported.

**Web-browser:** In **Chrome** browser, go to <http://meet.vc.ubc.ca> and enter the ID **30338**.

- o **Make a Test Call:** Go to <https://meet.vc.ubc.ca>. In the "Person or Conference to call" field, enter [test@vc.ubc.ca](mailto:test@vc.ubc.ca) and your name in the "Your name" field.
- o Click "Connect" and follow the on screen prompts. If you would like to join as a participant without video or audio, you must first join the meeting. Do not mute your Video or Audio until after you have joined the meeting.
- o If you experience any issues during the test call, or VC event, call the MedIT Service Desk at 1.877.266.0666 - option #2

**UBC Skype for Business** (account holders only): In the Contact box, enter < **30338**>@vc.ubc.ca to join the meeting. Refer to the [troubleshooting guide](#)

**Telephone** (Audio-bridge): Dial toll-free phone number, 1-844-651-2007, followed by ID ID **30338**, followed by #

MedIT Service Desk (Monday-Friday, 7am-5pm): For remote technical assistance during the session, please call 1-877-266-0666

**(8) Save The Date!** The **OBGYN Resident Research Project Fair** for Year 1 residents will be taking place on **July 8, 2020**; more details to follow. Are you a research faculty member looking for a resident to work on a research project? Do you have updates to share about your ongoing or completed resident research projects? Please email with details to your respective Site Research Manager (**Ariadna Fernandez** at [afernandez@phsa.ca](mailto:afernandez@phsa.ca) (BCWH); **Nikki Koenig** at [NKoenig@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:NKoenig@providencehealth.bc.ca) (SPH); or **Mannie Fan** at [obgynresearch@vch.ca](mailto:obgynresearch@vch.ca) (VGH/BCCA))

**(9)** 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](#).

## *Awards and Funding Opportunities*

**(1)** 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) UPDATED!** Review of the **Spring 2020 Project Grant competition** (CIHR) will proceed!

As you may be aware, CIHR [recently announced that it will reinstate the Spring 2020 Project Grant competition](#) with revised timelines to adjudicate the competition over the summer (June-August peer review process).

To be clear, all applications previously submitted to the Spring Project Grant competition will proceed to peer review, with only the following exceptions:

-Nominated Principal Applicants (NPAs) who were **offered a financial extension linked to their Investigator-Initiated research (IIR) grant or bridge grant** will need to take extra steps to keep their application in the Spring 2020 competition.

-For any NPA who **previously chose** to withdraw their application, CIHR will contact them in order to confirm if they would like it to remain withdrawn from this competition as we move forward.

\* [Read the full message from Dr. Michael Strong \(May 28, 2020\)](#)

\* [More Information for the research community](#)

\* [Frequently asked questions: Spring and Fall 2020 Project Grant Competition](#)

**(4) 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.~~ **FoM internal deadline: June 26, 2020. Full application deadline: June 30, 2020.**

(5) [Planning and Dissemination Grants -- Institute/Initiative Community Support \(Winter 2020 Competition\)](#) (CIHR). These awards are intended to provide support for planning and/or dissemination activities consistent with the mandate of CIHR and relevant to CIHR Institutes and Initiatives. Approximately 92 grants of up to **\$25,000** each (for a 1-year duration) will be awarded to successful applicants. **Deadline: July 2, 2020.**

(6) 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, 2020.** [Find out more...](#)

(7) 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...](#)

(8) 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.**

(9) 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.~~ **FoM internal deadline: July 6, 2020. Application deadline: July 17, 2020.**

(10) **[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. The LOI must be submitted using the following link: <https://rc.bcchr.ca/redcap/surveys/?s=LEMTKKYMW7>; please note you will not be able to save the LOI once it has been started so ensure you can complete the LOI in a single sitting. ~~LOI deadline June 11, 2020.~~ **Application deadline: July 15, 2020.** Application instructions are available [here](#).

(11) **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](http://planh.ca/funding) or email [grants@planh.ca](mailto:grants@planh.ca) for more information. **Application deadline: July 15, 2020.**

(12) **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. ~~NOI deadline: February 18, 2020.~~ **LOI deadline: July 15, 2020. Full application deadline: To Be Determined.**

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

(14) **[Faculty Research Awards](#)** (UBC FoM). Various awards available. UBC recognizes individual investigators who demonstrate excellence in research. **NOI deadline: July 31, 2020. Final submission deadline: October 15, 2020.**

(15) **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](#).

**(16) 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.**

**(17) 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...](#)

## *Research Resources*

**(1) [UBC SPARC](#)** is offering a variety of support services for [2020 New Frontiers in Research Fund Transformation competition](#) as well as the [Health Professional Investigator Award competition](#).

**(2)** 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](#).



**(3) [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.

**(4)** 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.

**(5) *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](mailto:kdewar@cw.bc.ca)).

**(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](#).

**If you have any news, events, or funding opportunities you would like to share please contact us at [obgynresearch@vch.ca](mailto:obgynresearch@vch.ca). We would love to hear from you!**