Research Resources e-Newsletter (15Oct2020 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/.

**Research Resumption & COVID-19-Related**

**CLINICAL RESEARCH CURTAILMENT AND RESUMPTION**

- Please note the remote work policy remains in effect
- Site specific resumption processes have been finalized – see below

Review site-specific information here:

[UBC](#)  [VCHRI](#)  [PHCRI](#)  [FOM](#)

The process for applying for clinical research resumption has been finalized. Please review information specific to your research site. Please note that any clinical (human) research project involving on-site work that needs to resume or continue will require approval from the appropriate research institute. **Research that meets resumption criteria must be submitted to the appropriate research institute for review and approval PRIOR to resumption of any on-site research activities**, such as access of on-site resources/paperwork/databases and study visits for research participants.

**Stage 2 Research Resumption guidelines** announced by UBC FoM.
Review the [COVID-19 UBC FoM Guiding Principles](#) for research resumption.

Stage 2 allows more people to access research facilities, however it’s important to remember that those who can work remotely must continue to do so. For those who are planning to come on campus, the same rules as Stage 1 will apply: please do not come in if you’re feeling
sick; physical distancing is required while on campus; and PPE must be worn if physical distancing cannot be adhered to.

**VCHRI**
- Review the [VCHRI guidance](#).
- VCHRI Stage 2 research resumption guidelines will largely align with those of UBC FoM; however due to the unique research and operational requirements for VCH’s vast clinical and non-clinical facilities, VCHRI’s process is specific to our sites.
- Per [Stage 2 recommendations](#), all categories of human/clinical research may now be included for submission for review by VCHRI for research resumption approvals.
- Resumption requests for human research projects at VCH sites (including DHCC) are to be submitted using the [DHCC OBGYN Template – (Stage 2) VCHRI Human Subject Research Access Summary v17Aug2020](#) form. All submissions for OBGYN human/clinical research should be emailed to Mannie Fan (obgynresearch@vch.ca).
- Approved [Stage 1 Safety Plan for OBGYN (DHCC location)](#) will remain in effect in Stage 2; however Stage 2 will have allowance for some additional research personnel as long as the proposed work adheres to the Stage 1 safety plan as well as all safety measures and physical distancing requirements.
- DHCC site research personnel (including PI, staff, and trainees) of projects approved by VCHRI for research resumption should review the [OBGYN DHCC Research Resumption Safety Plan](#), obtain PPE and complete training as applicable prior to resumption of on-site research activities.

**PHCRI**
- Review the [PHCRI guidance](#).
- For PHCRI researchers with human subject research projects and activities at the Howe St. Campus, please complete the [PHCRI Human Subject Research Access Summary spreadsheet](#).

**PHSA/BCCHR**
- For PHSA/BCCHR researchers with human subject research projects and activities at the Oak St. Campus, please refer to research resumption information available at [https://hub.bcchr.ca/auth/login.php?origin=/](https://hub.bcchr.ca/auth/login.php?origin=/) (requires log in with BCCHR/PHSA/UBC credentials).

**For research planning, PI’s need to ensure appropriate safety protocols are in place for their staff and students to conduct research at their facility. Please review info at** [https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/safety-planning/ubcs-safety-planning-process/](https://srs.ubc.ca/covid-19/safety-planning/ubcs-safety-planning-process/)

Contact your site research manager ([Mannie Fan](#) for VGH/DHCC, [Nikki Koenig](#) for SPH, or [Ariadna Fernandez](#) for BCWH) if you have any questions or concerns.

For lab-based research, PI’s do not need to send new Access Request forms but must update their Excel sheet with any new trainees or staff that will be on campus. PI’s must also update this number on their VPRI access agreement. For clinical research, please see resumption
Mandatory Training for PIs, Staff, & Trainees Back On Site. All research personnel are required to complete mandatory training prior to resuming on-site research activities, or as soon as possible if they have been working on-site since the remote working arrangements were put in place. If you have not already done so, please complete this training as soon as possible. This includes mandatory UBC training, such as Preventing COVID-19 Infection in the Workplace; project- & task-specific training and building-specific training. These requirements are also specified in the approved safety plans.

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL GUIDANCE (UBC & VCH)

- COVID-19 physical distancing guidance
- General cleaning & disinfection of surfaces
- Ordering critical PPE
- COVID-19 PPE guidelines
- COVID-19 essential in-person meetings & trainings guidance
- COVID-19-screening script (ambulatory appointment reminders)
- COVID-19-screening script (ambulatory in-person at clinic reception)

For more info on COVID-19-related public health/infection control key principles, please visit https://med-fom-obgyn.sites.olt.ubc.ca/covid-19-public-health-infection-control-key-principles/.

OTHER COVID-19-RELATED

- NEW! In early October, UBC announced an open call for applications for Stage 3 funding from the federal Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF). Investigators interested in applying for Stage 3 CRCEF funding must submit applications at https://research.ubc.ca/CRCEF/Stage3 by November 30, 2020 (new deadline) at the latest. Find out more.

- UBC's most up-to-date COVID-19 information.
- UBC COVID-19 research information.
- COVID-19 page for graduate students.
- COVID-19 page for postdoctoral fellows.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has established a research network on COVID-19 for maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. Find more information on the working groups and how to get involved on the WHO MNCAH website.

- Thank you to all Canadian Child & Family Researchers who have entered study data into the COVID-19 Maternal, Child and Family Study Catalogue! The database is still open – submit your
current and future COVID-19-related projects and help continue to build this resource.

- UBC's plans for re-occupying and resuming activity on campus.
- Mandatory Training for UBC Faculty and Staff Back on Campus.
- Process for phased resumption of in-person behavioural research at UBC.
- UBC CREB Guidance for Resumption of Research version Jun 2020
- 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.
- 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)
- 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)
- BC COVID-19 Research Inventory
- Guidance Notes and Regulatory Requirements for Informed Consent in Research During a Pandemic from REBC, CTBC, and Fraser Health

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**Events, Workshops, and Seminars**

(1) BCCHR is offering a 4-part R Stats Crash Course as an introduction to statistics using R and RStudio at the beginner level. **October 8/15/29 & November 5, 2020** from 3-4pm. No prior experience in R is required. [Register now.]

- Part 1: “Introduction to R and data types” October 8, 2020 from 3-4pm
- Part 2: “Data transformation and descriptive statistics” October 15, 2020 from 3-4pm
- Part 3: “Hypothesis testing” October 29, 2020 from 3-4pm
- Part 4: “Multivariable modeling” November 5, 2020 from 3-4pm
(2) NEW! GCI: If you missed the province-wide Gynecologic Cancer Initiative Virtual Town Hall that took place on October 2, 2020, the recording of the event is now available. Watch the recording now to find out about some of the amazing resources available to researchers across the province. If you have questions about the resources presented, please email the GCI at info@gynecancerinitiative.ca.

(3) WHRI/BCWH: The next BC Women’s Research Rounds features Dr. Angela Kaida speaking on “Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on trainees engaged in women’s health research in BC”. Dr. Kaida will discuss how COVID-19 has yielded significant disruptions to trainees, explore trainee-led recommendations for supports, and discuss what we as stakeholders can do to ameliorate these impacts and to maximize trainee success. The virtual rounds will be delivered by Zoom on October 16, 2020 from 8-9am. For more information and/or Zoom link/meeting details, please email Marsha Simons at marsha.simons@cw.bc.ca.

(4) NEW! GCI: The Gynecologic Cancer Initiative (GCI) Research Rounds will feature researchers working on accelerating transformative research on prevention, treatment, and survivorship of gynecologic cancers. The series will be held every other Friday from 2-3pm on Zoom.

Inaugural Session: “Drug Targeting to Tumors in the Peritoneal Cavity” by Dr. Shyh-Dar Li happening October 16, 2020 from 2-3pm. Find out more, or email the GCI at info@gynecancerinitiative.ca for the Zoom meeting link/details.

(5) NEW! CRPBC: The Clinical Research Professionals of BC (CRPBC) is hosting a webinar on “Health Canada Inspection Findings” presented by Jean Smart (BC AHSN / CTBC) on October 21, 2020 from 5-6pm. Find out more, or register now.

(6) Research Ethics BC (part of the BC AHSN) is hosting the 2-day Research Ethics Symposium: Ethical Implications of COVID-19 on October 21-22, 2020. Join us virtually by Zoom for engaging panel discussions on key ethical topics arising from COVID-19. Topics include “Societal Impacts” (9-11am Oct 21), “Indigenous Peoples’ Health” (1-3pm Oct 21), “Mental Health” (9-11am Oct 22), and “Vaccines and Treatments” (1-3pm Oct 22). Check out the full schedule here. To register for the event, please click on this link to sign up for Sched and use the online management tool to set up your own agenda and reminders. Please contact Aoife Kelly if you have any questions about registration.

(7) UPDATED! (UBC CPD) Implants and IUDs: Comparing and Inserting Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC). Please note the hands-on workshops are now full; you are welcome to register for the Virtual Lecture Session taking place on October 24, 2020 from 9:00am-10:30am. Up to 1.5 Mainpro+ credits. Pre-registration required.

(8) Thursday BCWH Interprofessional Grand Rounds: Grand rounds are starting again this week. We will continue to present grand rounds on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00 am:
• Broadcast via Zoom as virtual meeting;
• The sessions will be recorded for viewing after the session;
• We do NOT have any rooms booked so there will be no in-person sessions.

The email reminder containing the Zoom meeting link, the evaluation form link, and the poster will be sent every week as per usual. To receive credit for attending virtually, please either complete the evaluation form (via the link), or, send an email to Kerrie Glover at kglover-02@cw.bc.ca indicating the session you attended.

Please check the ObGyn website https://obgyn.ubc.ca/faculty-resources/rounds/ for the upcoming sessions – September and October schedules have been uploaded and will be updated weekly.

**NEXT Session:** “COVID Update” by Drs. Julie van Schalkwyk, Chelsea Elwood, & Deborah Money happening October 29, 2020 from 8-9am. Email Kerrie Glover for the Zoom meeting link/details.

(9) The 46th Annual D.A. Boyes Society Meeting & Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Review is taking place October 29-30, 2020 from 8:30am-12:30pm. We will have 22 national and international presenters, including Drs. Linda Bradley, Robert Casper, John Kingdom, Matthew Leonardi, Marie F. Paraiso, Sukhbir Singh, and Horace Roman, among others. Target audience: Obstetricians, gynaecologists, oncologists, reproductive endocrinologists, nurses and nurse practitioners, OB/GYN residents, & midwives. Up to 8.0 MOC Section 1 credits. Registration now open! Registration will include all course materials and access to the post-event recording. Find out more or register now!

(10) **UPDATED!** UBC Dept of Medicine is announcing a new CPD event / CME-accredited program to address the needs of health care providers and researchers at the intersection of health and data science: the interactive Data Science & Health 2020 program will be available November 3, 2020 by Zoom with content on Canvas. This event is MOC1/Mainpro+ accredited and will be the first of a series of annual conferences on this topic. The program is designed to enable engagement and collaboration with data scientists, and provide a practical roadmap for applying data science and analytics in health care and research. Find out more… or register now.

(11) **Call for abstracts!** (CNPRM) The 2021 Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting will be taking place virtually February 8-12, 2021. Abstraction submission is now open! Deadline to submit abstracts is November 14, 2020. Visit www.cnprm.ca/abstract-submission for more info.

(12) **(UBC CPD)** Implants and IUDs: Comparing and Inserting Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC). This is a virtual session (webinar) followed by 2 optional hands-on
workshops on IUDs and implants. Happening on **November 28, 2020**, from **9am-2pm**. Up to 15.0 Mainpro+ credits. Pre-registration required.

**Save the Date!** Our next annual faculty research forum, the **Dr. Fred Bryans Faculty Forum 2021**, will be taking place virtually over 2 days on **February 4-5, 2021**. Mark your calendars now! More information to follow.

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**Awards and Funding Opportunities**

**1** NEW! **Rivkin Center:** *Saving women’s lives through cancer research & education* is the mission of the Rivkin Center. The organization offers **multiple streams of funding to support ovarian cancer research**. Find out more or apply now. Upcoming ovarian cancer grants Application deadline: December 1, 2020.

**2** Funding agency updates are available from the UBC Research Finance COVID-19 Funding Agency Updates page.

**3** WHRI: COVID-19 Research Funding Update research funding updates are also available from the WHRI website.

**4** WHRI: Check out funding opportunities in the WHRI Grant Chart, updated weekly.

**5** VCHRI: Check out a variety of funding opportunities here.

**6** NEW! GCI: With generous support from philanthropic donors, the Gynecologic Cancer Initiative (GCI) is pleased to offer multiple grant funding opportunities for the gynecologic cancer research community in BC. Current funding opportunities include:

- GCI Clinical Trials Group Accelerating Grants Program;
- Carraresi Foundation OVCARE Research Grants;
- Sumiko Kobayashi Marks Memorial OVCARE Research Grants;
- Miller Mindell Gynecologic Oncology Academic Excellence Fellowship Awards; and
- Division of Gynecologic Oncology Research Awards (upcoming Application deadline: December 4, 2020 – see below).

**7** UPDATED! CIHR: IHDCYH in collaboration with INMHA is pleased to pre-announce the re-launch of the 2020 funding opportunity of the CIHR Early Career Investigators in Maternal, Reproductive, Child and Youth Health program. Registration deadline: December 2020. Application deadline: January 2021. Stay tuned for more details to come.
(8) CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC: **Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral Program (CGS-D)**. Each award valued at $35,000 per year for up to 3 years. **Application deadline: October 17, 2020** for direct applicants or **November 21, 2020** for university applicants. **Find out more**...

(9) SSHRC: **New Frontiers in Research Fund 2020 – Exploration competition**. Valued at up to $125,000 per year for up to 2 years for research teams of 2 or more, the NFRF 2020 Exploration competition is intended to support high-risk, high-reward & interdisciplinary research. Apply now if you have a bold, new research idea that is risky but has the potential to deliver game-changing impacts. **NOI deadline: August 18, 2020. Application deadline: October 20, 2020.**

(10) The **PHC and VCH Knowledge Translation (KT) Challenge**. Have you identified a need for practice improvement? Your KT project can help you integrate evidence into best practices! **Find out more**... **LOI deadline: October 22, 2020. Application deadline: April 22, 2021.**

(11) UBC FoM: **Fall 2020 Strategic Investment Fund (SIF)**. The SIF enables the Faculty to invest in projects that advance the objectives of FoM’s strategic plan, **Building the Future**. **Application deadline: October 31, 2020.**

(12) 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**...

(13) **NEW!** UBC: Fostering collaboration is a central priority in UBC’s new strategic plan (**Shaping UBC’s Next Century**). The **Grants for Catalyzing Research Clusters (GCRC)** competition was jointly created by the VP Research & Innovation and the Provost & VP Academic to enable the formation and growth of interdisciplinary research excellence clusters. The 2021/2022 GCRC competition is now open. **NOI deadline: November 2, 2020. Find out more**...

(14) CIHR/NSERC/SSHRC: **Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS)** doctoral research award. Each award valued at up to $50,000 per year for up to 3 years. **Application deadline: November 3, 2020. Read more**...

(15) BCCHR: **2020/2021 Clinical & Translational Research Seed Grant** competition. This funding opportunity has been developed to promote research collaborations between postdoctoral fellows and clinical trainee/clinical investigators in clinical and translational research projects. The intent is to (a) support well-defined research projects that may not otherwise receive funding, (b) foster new areas of research, (c) enhance research partnerships, and (d) build leadership capacity for both research clinical trainees. Support is available for 2-3 grants with award values of up to $10,000 each. **Application deadline: November 20, 2020.** For more info please contact resinfo@bcchr.ca.
Our department is pleased to launch a round of funding to support research in GyneOnc. Two (2) awards of up to $20,000 each are available to fund research proposals that would not be eligible to receive funding at the national level. Engagement of collaboration with junior faculty is strongly encouraged. Application deadline: December 4, 2020. For more information, please see the GyneOnc award TOR document or contact Dr. Janice Kwon, OBGYN Associate Head of Research, at Janice.Kwon@vch.ca.

NEW! OCC: Ovarian Cancer Canada (OvCAN) Priority 3 focuses on Advancing Clinical Trials Using a Personalized Medicine Approach. Funding is available to support up to 4-5 early-phase clinical trials to bring the best new treatments to women living with ovarian cancer. LOI deadline: February 15, 2021. Application deadline: May 8, 2021. Stay tuned for more details to follow.

NEW! NIH: Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Award (R21). The R21 grant mechanism is intended to encourage exploratory/developmental research by providing support for the early and conceptual stages of project development. Up to $200K/yr for up to 2 years will be awarded to the successful applicant. Application deadline: February 16, 2021.

NEW! 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: April 13, 2021.

Research Resources

NEW! The Gynecologic Cancer Initiative (GCI) provides selected research and support services that are available to any researcher in BC who is conducting work on gynecologic cancers. Currently available resources and competencies include:

- Molecular & Advanced Pathology Core (webpage under construction);
- Clinical Informatics & Outcomes Research Core;
- Gynecologic Cancer Tissue Bank;
- Clinical Trials Group;
- Patient & Family Advisory Council; and
• **Knowledge Translation** (webpage under construction).

If you are interested in using any of the above resources, please email the GCI at info@gynecancerinitiative.ca for more information.

(2) **Are you resuming research activities but want to adapt to remote administration of assessments?** Will you need to do e-consenting and/or work with participants via videoconferencing? If so, check out these helpful links:

- UBC IT Zoom and Privacy guidance
- UBC Office of Research Ethics Zoom guidance
- UBC Office of Research Ethics e-Consent guidance

(3) **Research Facilitation Support (WHRI).** Is your research stalled due to COVID19? Are you looking for research funding opportunities? Do you need assistance with developing a research idea or reviewing your proposal? Email Eric Lussier at eric.ducharmelussier@cw.bc.ca to set up a virtual meeting.

(4) **KT Grant Application Review Support (WHRI).** Are you applying for a knowledge translation grant through the MSFHR Convening & Collaborating or Reach application due Sept 28th? Would you like some review support? Email Nicole Prestley, WHRI’s KT Manager, at nicole.prestley@cw.bc.ca to set up a virtual meeting.

(5) The **WHRI (@WomensResearch) podcast** has a new episode out! Nicole Prestley, Brynn Lavery, and Melissa Nelson share their insights into the uses of social media for disseminating research results and supporting knowledge translation work. Find out more, or listen to the podcast here.

(6) The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has established a research network on COVID-19 for maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health. Find more information on the working groups and how to get involved on the WHO MNCAH website.

(7) Thank you to all Canadian Child & Family Researchers who have entered study data into the **COVID-19 Maternal, Child and Family Study Catalogue**! The database, organized jointly by the Maternal Infant Child and Youth Research Network (MICYRN) and CIHR’s Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (IHDCYH) in collaboration with Children’s Healthcare Canada (CHC) and the Pediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC), is still open – submit your current and future COVID-19-related projects and continue to help build this invaluable resource!

(8) **Did you know?...** HealthChat is an online platform for groups of health care professionals (HCPs) to connect and collaborate. Whether you are a member of a network, community of practice, or administering a program, you can create a profile and create or join a secure
group space to share and develop your work. Open to clinicians, administrators, and health leaders. **Find out more...**

**Announcing the CHIWOS Women Centred-HIV Care Toolkits.** Around 14,500 women live with HIV in Canada, and delivering integrated care that responds to their needs & priorities is essential. Based on findings from the Canadian HIV Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS) and an extensive community-collaborative research program, 2 new toolkits have been developed on Women-Centred HIV Care.

* **Toolkit for women living with HIV** as a self-management and health self-advocacy tool.
* **Toolkit to support HIV clinicians and community-based organizations** to deliver Women-Centred HIV Care

Both of these toolkits are now available online! **Read more...**

**Resources from CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN) in the fight against COVID-19**

(10) **Resources from CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN)** in the fight against COVID-19 (including online research toolbox). **Read more...**

**REACH BC** is an 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 you 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/](https://www.reachbc.ca/) to learn more.

(12) 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.

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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!