

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!

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Research Resumption & COVID-19-Related

COVID-19 AND RESEARCH ETHICS

Do you have questions about COVID-19 interpretations in the context of research ethics? The federal government's [Panel on Research Ethics \(PRE\)](#) has posted [COVID-19 Interpretations](#) on the following topics:

- * What additional risks can be considered research-attributable during the COVID-19 pandemic?*
- * Are researchers required to amend their applications and consent forms for REB review in light of additional research-attributable risks in a pandemic environment?*
- * What issues should REBs consider in assessing the researcher's plan to conduct research in a pandemic environment?*

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 as appropriate.

As of November 7th 2020 the BC **Provincial Health Office** (PHO) introduced a new **provincial masking policy for health care facilities**. Briefly, **this policy will be a change for clinical researchers as it requires all persons to wear a mask while working in a clinical/patient care area** including common areas and break rooms, unless eating or drinking.

NEW COVID-19 Self-Assessment Requirements from WorkSafe BC (as of November 26th 2020):

For staff - those who have been approved to enter the workplace either full time or as part of approved research resumption you are now required to let your supervisor know **at the start of each shift when you are on-site only** that you have completed a **self-assessment** and are free of COVID symptoms.

For faculty who are in a research setting - those who have been approved as part of approved research resumption could you please email **Andi Martin** directly **at the start of each shift when you are on-site only** that you have completed a **self-assessment** and are free of COVID symptoms.

For faculty in a clinical setting - until the FoM has confirmed otherwise, please continue to adhere to the Health Authority policies around COVID testing and reporting.

For staff who are working remotely no action is required. However, if you need **ad-hoc access** to your site please continue to email **Andi Martin** regarding the day, time and reason you require access. As an additional step please email Andi again on the day of entry to confirm you have completed a **self-assessment** and are free of COVID symptoms before entering the premises.

For more information, please see the UBC Broadcast of November 26th on **COVID-19 Update on Self-Assessment Requirements**, or email **Andi Martin** at **andi.martin@ubc.ca** with any questions.

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](#).

WHRI/BCCHR

- For WHRI/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=/> (requires log in with BCCHR/PHSA/UBC credentials).
- If you applied to resume on-site work during Stage 1, you do not need to apply again in Stage 2. Please email [Todd Jacques](#) with any updates to your on-site personnel and research team safety plans.
- For **new research activities** or **new resumption requests**, please submit a request through the [Oak Street Campus Research Institutes Return to Onsite Research Intake Form](#).
- If you have any questions, please email [Dr. Kathryn Dewar](#), WHRI Senior Research Manager.

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/>

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 info below.

[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.

For PHSA staff, if you are working on-site, please complete **[PHSA's staff self-screening assessment tool](#)** at home or on your mobile device before coming in. You can sign up for the new PHSA tool by **[downloading this Outlook invite](#)**.

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

- Network of Networks (N2) is working with Health Canada to assess what some of the challenges are in clinical trials both during these COVID-19 times and in general. **[Complete the survey here](#)**.
- The federal **[Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund \(CRCEF\)](#)**
- **[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

Events, Workshops, and Seminars

(1) CanCOVID: [CanCOVID Speaker Series](#). Find out what the research says on pregnancy and COVID-19. Weekly updates listed at <https://mailchi.mp/canCOVID/canCOVID-updates-10863276>.

Missed a Speaker Series presentation? Recordings of all sessions are available on [CanCOVID's YouTube channel](#). View them [here](#).

(2) (WHRI/BCWH) The next **BC Women's Research Rounds** features **Dr. Michelle Chan** speaking on "**Current Dispensing and Practice Use Patterns of Ulipristal Acetate (UPA) 30mg (Ella®), as Emergency Contraception in BC**". The virtual rounds will be delivered by Zoom on **December 18, 2020** from **8-9am**. For more information and/or Zoom link/meeting details, please email [Marsha Simons](mailto:marsha.simons@cw.bc.ca) at marsha.simons@cw.bc.ca.

(3) (UBC CPD) [Implants and IUDs: Comparing and Inserting Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives \(LARC\)](#). Register for one or both of our small (5 participants per instructor) hands-on workshops covering implants, insertions, and managing difficult insertions led by a team of local and experienced providers. Sign up for the opening lecture to be eligible to sign up for the workshops. **January 23 or 30, 2021**, from **9am-2pm**. Up to 15.0 Mainpro+ credits (3cr/hr). Pre-registration required – [register now](#).

(4) UPDATED! [Event agenda](#) now available. (CTBC/BC AHSN) The [Modernization of Clinical Trials](#) conference will be held virtually on **January 26, 27, & 28, 2021**. The main forums will include: Innovative Trials; Diverse Clinical Trial Populations; Pragmatic Clinical Trials; Participant Experience and Voice; Regulatory and Leadership; Town Hall on Change and Modernization; Clinical Trial Market Place; and Keynote Address. [Find out more...](#) or [register now](#).

(5) (UBC/BCCH) [Global Health Conference 2021](#). "*Global Child Health: Beyond the Pandemic*", happening on **January 28, 2021** from **8:30am-1:00pm**. UBC's School of Population and Public Health (SPPH) and the Centre for International and Child Health (CICH) at BC Children's Hospital are joining forces to bring you the 3rd Annual Global Health Conference. This will be a virtual Zoom conference. [Registration](#) is FREE. Now accepting [poster presentation submissions](#) (open until **December 18, 2020**) – this year there will be an online poster competition.

(6) Save The Date! (UBC CPD) [Victoria Gynecology Update 2021](#). The Victoria Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists will be hosting its annual Gynecology Update as a virtual one-day conference for primary care providers, with updates on a wide range of topics, including chronic pelvic pain, cervical lesions, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic floor dysfunction, vulvar lichen, and more. Happening on **January 30, 2021**, from **9:00am-3:45pm**. Up to 5.5 Mainpro+ credits. Pre-registration required. [Find out more](#), or [view the agenda](#).

(7) Save The Date! Our next annual faculty research forum, the [2021 Dr. Fred Bryans Faculty Forum](#), will be taking place virtually over 2 half-days on **February 4-5, 2021, from 9am-12pm**. Objectives of the 2021 FBFF are to: (a) highlight the opportunities and innovation that Patient-Oriented Research and Patient Engagement can bring to our specialty; (b) showcase the spectrum of research of our faculty; (c) share lessons learned from engaging with community

members and policy makers; and (d) cultivate new collaborations across specialties. Mark your calendars now! [Find out more](#). Full program and registration details coming soon.

(8) Save The Date! (CNPRM) The [2021 Canadian National Perinatal Research Meeting](#) will be taking place virtually **February 8-12, 2021**. Visit www.cnprm.ca/abstract-submission for more info.

(9) Save The Date! (WHRI) The 6th Annual Women's Health Research Symposium will be taking place virtually **March 3, 2021**. Registration details to come soon.

Awards and Funding Opportunities

(1) Funding agency updates are available from the UBC Research Finance [COVID-19 Funding Agency Updates](#) page.

(2) WHRI: [COVID-19 Research Funding Update](#) research funding updates are also available from the WHRI website.

(3) WHRI: Check out funding opportunities in the [WHRI Grant Chart](#), updated weekly.

(4) VCHRI: Check out a variety of [funding opportunities here](#).

(5) 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](#).

(6) CIHR: IHDCYH in collaboration with INMHA is pleased to re-launch the 2020 funding opportunity of the [CIHR Early Career Investigators in Maternal, Reproductive, Child and Youth Health](#) program. **Registration deadline: December 15, 2020. Application deadline: January 26, 2021.** *In recognition of the challenges of the 2020 funding cycle, CIHR has [extended early career researcher status for one year](#) past the current definition of a researcher in the first five years of a full-time, independent research appointment.*

(7) UBC FoM OB/GYN: [D.A. Boyes Memorial Award](#). The D.A. Boyes Society, in honour, and memory, of Dr. David Alexander Boyes' lifetime commitment to teaching and engagement, announces the 3rd year of the Memorial Research Award. The award is open to all learners

within the Department. **TWO (2) awards of up to \$5000 each** will be available. **Application deadline: January 29, 2021.** [Find out more...](#)

(8) CanSAGE: [CanSAGE Research Grants 2020](#). Are you an early-career clinician-scientist conducting pilot research in gynecology that will produce data for a future larger grant application? The [Canadian Society for the Advancement of Gynecologic Excellence \(CanSAGE\)](#) wants to support your research! Submit your proposal by **January 31, 2021** for a chance to receive one of two **\$2,500** grants. Visit cansage.org/grant2020 for more details.

(9) UPDATED! Deadlines extended. **MSFHR:** Guidelines are available for the [2021 Scholar and Research Trainee competitions](#). **LOI deadline (extended): ~~December 7, 2020~~ February 8, 2021.**

[MSFHR Scholar awards](#) help BC researchers build leading-edge health research programs, train the next generation of scientists, and make significant contributions to their field. Scholar awards provide salary support to early-career researchers, allowing them to dedicate 75% of their time to health research activities. **Full application deadline: March 22, 2021.**

[MSFHR Research Trainee awards](#) support health researchers-in-training to build health research capacity and contribute to the success of BC's health research landscape. Post-doctoral fellows or health professional researchers are provided with salary support through this award for dedicated research activities. **Full application deadline: March 29, 2021.**

Questions? Email helpdesk@msfhr.org

(10) 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.

(11) 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.**

(12) NEW! CIHR: [Health System Impact Fellowship](#) for doctoral trainees and post-doctoral fellows provides highly-qualified research trainees who are studying health services and policy research (HSPR) or related fields a unique opportunity to apply their research and analytic talents to critical challenges in health care that are being addressed by health system and related organizations outside of the traditional university setting, and to also develop professional experience, new skills, and networks. **Application deadline: February 18, 2021.** [Find out more...](#)

(13) CIHR: [Spring 2021 Project Grant competition](#). **Registration deadline: March 4, 2021. Application deadline: April 1, 2021.** [Find out more...](#)

(14) 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.**

(15) 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.**

Research Resources

(1) **NEW! Call for Researchers:** Over the past 2 years the [Gynecologic Cancer Initiative \(GCI\)](#) has grown into an amazing community of researchers, clinicians, patient partners, and community members. As we prepare our renewal application to our core funding program, we would like to take the opportunity to profile your work! Please let us know of any new partnerships, educational initiatives, leveraged funding, industry support, and/or knowledge exchange/translation activities that you have been a part of over the past year, so that we can highlight them in our application. Please support the GCI by providing as much detail as possible on this [form](#). Feel free to contact us at info@gynecancerinitiative.ca for more info.

(2) 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.

(3) Call for Researchers: Join “[CanCOVID powered by REAL + COVID19Resources](#)”. By joining CanCOVID, you are agreeing to share your research expertise. “CanCOVID powered by REAL and COVID19Resources” are three powerful platforms coming together in a single platform. We will provide trans-disciplinary networking opportunities, matchmaking through databases of expertise and funding opportunities, and forums for posting and sharing information.

CanCOVID membership benefits include:

- Search research products
- Opportunities for co-authorship
- Notification of government questions for contribution (opportunity to use your research to affect policy)
- “My Citations” credential listing of all contributions within CanCOVID
- Access to Speaker Series and other knowledge sharing events
- Opportunities for networking
- Opportunities to have collaborative space
- Email updates to stay informed of network happenings

[Find out more...](#)

(4) The [GOSH Podcast](#) has launched! Are you interested in hearing the stories of gynecologic cancer patients and survivors? Would you like to hear from researchers and clinicians who are working behind the scenes to improve the lives of patients with gynecologic cancers? The [Gynecologic Cancer Initiative \(GCI\)](#) brings you the [Gynecologic Oncology Sharing Hub \(GOSH\) Podcast](#), an open space for real and evidence-based discussions on gynecologic cancers. The Podcast is co-hosted by **Nicole Keay**, patient partner and cervical cancer survivor, and **Stephanie Lam**, GCI Research Coordinator. [Listen to the Podcast now.](#)

(5) Do you have questions about COVID-19 interpretations in the context of research ethics? The federal government’s [Panel on Research Ethics \(PRE\)](#) has posted [COVID-19 Interpretations](#) on the following topics:

** What additional risks can be considered research-attributable during the COVID-19 pandemic?*

** Are researchers required to amend their applications and consent forms for REB review in light of additional research-attributable risks in a pandemic environment?*

** What issues should REBs consider in assessing the researcher’s plan to conduct research in a pandemic environment?*

(6) [REACH BC](#) is an online platform that will connect the public and patients 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.** Reach the volunteers you need with the over 1400 people registered as REACH BC Volunteers, searching for health research opportunities in BC. REACH BC is free and easy to use:

1. Sign up for a Researcher account at REACH BC
2. Submit your active research project(s) to the public directory
3. Find volunteers that are matched using the eligibility criteria

4. Follow up with interested volunteers

We invite the academic research community to post their health research opportunities related to COVID-19 or other clinical or behavioural research opportunities (including those that can be done remotely via telephone or online) that are actively recruiting. Create your Researcher account [here](#).

* **Volunteers: Connect to health research opportunities as either a patient partner or as a research participant.**

Visit <https://www.reachbc.ca/> today to find out more.

(7) [Clinical Trials BC](#) (part of the [BC AHSN](#)) has updated their [Education Programming for 2020-2021](#) (formerly known as the Syllabus)? A range of training, guidance and resources are available to assist clinical trial team members with their development of skills and knowledge to conduct clinical trials in BC. [Find out more...](#)

(8) **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](#)

(9) **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.

(10) 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](#).

(11) [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...](#)

(12) **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...](#)

(13) [Resources from CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network \(CTN\)](#) in the fight against COVID-19 (including [online research toolbox](#)). [Read more...](#)

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