

Student Research News e-bulletin

March 12, 2021

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Funding Opportunities & Awards

Funding Reminders:

Deadline	Award
30-Apr-21	Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative

Events

Upcoming Events:

26-Apr-21 10:30am -1:00pm (Virtual)

Where are all the Black People? Underrepresentation in the Academy: "Black Underrepresentation in Medicine and Community Health"

The presence of Blackness in Canadian academia exists on a continuum of underrepresented, significantly underrepresented, to negligible. In light of 'race and ethnicity' studies existing in Humanities and Social Sciences, Black academics from this field have been at the forefront of examining the reproduction of racism in academe and making anti-racism calls to action. Rarely present in these conversations are Black academics in other fields, especially the hard sciences and STEM, whose struggles are both unique and overlapping, and who have limited space for contributing to academic activism generally, and the literature on race and racism specifically.

The purpose of this speaker series is to foreground Black voices in fields where Blackness is particularly underrepresented, and provide actionable and measurable strategies to UBC to increase Black representation and Black excellence in these fields. Speakers from Canada and abroad will be highlighted.

From being the first Black female interventional cardiologist in Canada to working closely with the Black medical pathway programs at University of Toronto and Black pre-Med students across the province, Dr. Bastiany and Dr. Omole will address the issue of underrepresentation drawing from their experience and expertise.

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27-Apr-21 10:00am -11:30am (Virtual)

[Pathways to Indigenous Equity: An Indigenous lens on health systems transformation and research](#)

Despite federal and global commitments to addressing and resolving health inequities, Indigenous Peoples in what is presently known as Canada continue to face persistent and pervasive barriers to accessing culturally appropriate care and achieving equity. With its roots in colonialism, the very system intended to support and heal people is failing Indigenous populations; in many instances it is causing harm. The recent review of the health care system in B.C. "In Plain Sight: Systemic Racism in Indigenous Health Care" documented that 84% of Indigenous participants described personal experiences of racism and discrimination that discouraged them from seeking necessary care and that reduced access to care. This talk will explore questions such as, how can we apply a decolonial lens to health research and, in doing so, challenge the systems and structures to transform? And, how can we ensure that systemic change is informed by Indigenous knowledge, voices and tradition? Leslie Bonshor, Brittany Bingham and Lindsay Farrell are all deeply invested in exploring these questions and have dedicated their careers to dismantling colonial approaches to health care and creating health equity for Indigenous Peoples. They will explore ways that collaborative approaches to research can bring about system-wide transformation and ensure Indigenous Peoples' human right to equitable health care is upheld.

29-Apr-21 4:00-5:00pm (Virtual)

[Virtual Brain Health Symposium- "Lifestyle Contributions to brain health- an overview"](#)

The Physical Activity for Precision Health at the University of British Columbia would like to welcome you to the 2021 Virtual Brain Health Symposium! This symposium will bring together internationally renowned experts in the fields of exercise, sleep, brain injury, microbiome, physical environment, social enrichment, and cognitive training. The importance of lifestyle risk factors for cognitive decline and risk of dementia will be examined taking a population health approach. This will demonstrate that a large proportion of cases of dementia may be attributable to lifestyle risk factors, providing a strong rationale for risk reducing interventions. The Cognitive Health Environment Lifestyle Model (CHELM) presents a way to conceptualise the complex range of risk factors for cognitive and brain health and this will be presented. Systematic review evidence for specific risk factors such as air pollution, diet, alcohol consumption, physical activity, and smoking will be briefly reviewed. Recent multidomain, randomised controlled trials to reduce risk of cognitive decline and dementia will also be critically discussed in light of their strengths, unintended benefits and also some limitations.

30-Apr-21 9:00-12:30am (Virtual)

[Virtual Brain Health Symposium- "Microbiome and Diet"](#)

Microbiome and Diet. Speakers: Speaker: Dr. Brett Finlay, PhD, University of British Columbia, Dr. Kirsten Berding, RD, PhD, University College Cork, Dr. Stephen Cunnane, PhD, Université de Sherbrooke. 30-minute panel Q&A with all speakers.

07-May-21 9:00-12:30am (Virtual)

[Virtual Brain Health Symposium- "Traumatic Brain Injury"](#)

Traumatic brain injury. Speakers: Dr. Shelina Babul, PhD, University of British Columbia, Dr. John Leddy, MD, University at Buffalo, Dr. Naznin Virji-Babul, PT, PhD, University of British Columbia. 30-minute panel Q&A with all speakers.

07-May-2021 10:00am-11:00pm (Virtual)

[Five Days in May: Where to go next: How the current pandemic has informed future public health research priorities](#)

Presented Dr. Réka Gustafson (Vice President, Public Health and Wellness, PHSA and Deputy Provincial Health Officer) moderated by Cindy Trytten (Director of Research and Capacity Building, Island Health)

This presentation will look at the current and emerging priorities in public health research in BC. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of health research for informing health care and health policies. Research evidence specific to COVID has informed various aspects of the public health response and identified ongoing public health challenges. Learn what was known from past pandemic responses, what was unique with COVID-19, and how that has shaped current public health research priorities. See [website](#) for details.

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07-May-2021 3:00pm-4:00pm (Virtual)

Five Days in May: Relational Roots of Indigenous COVID Research

Presented by Dr. Danièle Behn-Smith (Deputy Provincial Health Officer, Indigenous Health, Ministry of Health) and Dr. Charlotte Loppie (Professor in the School of Public Health and Social Policy and Associate Dean-Research for the Faculty of Human and Social Development, University of Victoria; Nominated Principal Investigator, British Columbia Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research); moderated by Dr. Diane Sawchuck (Lead, Evidence, Evaluation, and Knowledge Translation, Island Health)

In this talk, we will engage in a form of visiting to share our thoughts and perspectives about the vital role relationships play in research involving Indigenous Peoples. We will use the recent surge of Indigenous COVID research as an example of the critical role of established, meaningful relationships in facilitating rapid research opportunities. We will also describe how the absence of pre-existing relationships can lead to distrust and lack of motivation to engage in research partnerships. See [website](#) for details.

10-May-2021 5:30-6:30pm (Virtual)

UBC MD/PhD “Building Bridges” Seminar Series

Invited speaker: Dr. Michael Hayden, University Killam Professor, Department of Medical Genetics, UBC
Dr. Michael Hayden’s research focus is primarily on genetic diseases, including gene therapy, Huntington disease, predictive and personalized medicine and drug development. Along with his research team, Dr. Hayden has identified 10 disease-causing genes, which includes the identification of the major gene underlying high-density lipoprotein (HDL) in humans. This gene, known as ABCA1, has major implications for atherosclerosis and diabetes. Dr. Hayden also identified the first mutations underlying lipoprotein lipase deficiency (LPL) and developed gene therapy approaches to treat this condition, the first approved gene therapy in the western world. The ultimate goal of Dr. Hayden’s research in HD is to develop new therapies that slow down or reverse progression of HD and lead to preventative therapy for pre-symptomatic individuals. Dr. Hayden will talk about his career as a clinician scientist and what he would recommend for clinician scientists trainees.

12-May-2021 11:00am-12:00pm (Virtual)

Five Days in May: In a pandemic and beyond: Engaging patients as partners for hospital at home

Presented by Dr. Sean Spina (Principal Investigator of AT-HOME; Co-Lead of Hospital at Home Evaluation; Clinical Coordinator, Department of Pharmacy, Island Health); and Beth Bourke, Patient Partner for Hospital at Home; moderated by Tara McMillan (Manager of Patient and Public Research Engagement and Regional Centre Lead, BC SUPPORT Unit Vancouver Island Centre)

In fall 2020, Island Health debuted a prototype of a Hospital at Home (HaH) program based at Victoria General Hospital. HaH allows for a subset of acutely ill, clinically stable patients to choose a safe and effective alternative to traditional facility based in-patient treatment. HaH patients have 24/7 access to treatment, diagnostics, and hospital-level expertise from the comfort of their own home. HaH puts patients first, and includes patient engagement as an integral part of program design, implementation, and evaluation. Launched during the pandemic, HaH can keep beds free in case of future surges in COVID-19 and help ease the additional strain placed on the hospital system.

This presentation will discuss the use of Patient Oriented Research during a pandemic, the patient and public engagement methods to inform its design and evaluation, and outline the integral role of patients and families within this program.

14-May-21 9:00-12:30am (Virtual)

Virtual Brain Health Symposium- “Physical Environment”

Physical environment. Speakers: Dr. Payam Dadvand, MD, PhD, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Dr. Michael Brauer, ScD, University of British Columbia, Dr. Andrea Rosso, MPH, PhD, University of Pittsburgh. 30-minute panel Q&A with all speakers.

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15-May-2021 8:00am-3:45pm (Virtual)

2021 Virtual Brain Tumour Research Symposium

Our virtual lab tours will put attendees directly into the laboratories of change-makers in the pediatric brain tumour research field. We have three virtual lab tours, including: Dr. Sheila Singh Lab – McMaster University (Hamilton, ON) “The Singh Lab Brain Tumour Research Program” Dr. Marshall Pitz Lab – CancerCare Manitoba (Winnipeg, MB) “A day in the life of a data scientist” Dr. Lisa Porter Lab – University of Windsor (Windsor, ON) “Discovering New Treatments for Glioma Lab Tour”. PRESENTERS: Dr. Derek Tsang – “Re-irradiation for childhood brain tumours”; Dr. Vijay Ramaswamy – “What is ependymoma in 2021?”

17-May-2021 10:00am-11:00am (Virtual)

Five Days in May: Building a knowledge enterprise for long term care in British Columbia

Presented by Dr. Kelli Stajduhar (Professor, School of Nursing; Research Fellow, Institute and Aging and Lifelong Health, University of Victoria); moderated by Dr. Miranda Cary (Regional Practice Lead in Research and Knowledge Translation in Long Term Care, Island Health)

The BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee (SRAC) was established to serve as a bridge between the Provincial Health Officer, government decision-makers and the BC health research community with regard to COVID-19 research. This presentation will outline findings from the SCRA’s Long Term Care Working Group. It will highlight why now, more than ever, we need to build capacity for research in the sector if we are to avoid the unintended consequences that were brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic and allow us to better prepare for pandemics of the future.

17-May-2021 3:00pm-4:00pm (Virtual)

Five Days in May: Can asking just one question inform better responses to the current drug-poisoning emergency?

Presented by Dr. Bernie Pauly (Scholar in Residence, Island Health; Professor, School of Nursing; Scientist, Canadian Institute for Substance Use; Community Engaged Scholar, University of Victoria) and Fred Cameron (Community Researcher, Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research; Operations Coordinator and Harm Reduction Manager, SOLID Outreach Society; Patient Council, BC Support Unit)

In light of the growing complexity of the drug-poisoning emergency in an evolving pandemic, we asked service users the following question: “Safer Supply would work well if...” We used the process of community-based concept mapping to answer this question through a series of focus groups with people who are potential service users. The outcome was a model of Effective Safer Supply from the perspective of people with lived and living expertise. The model includes six key components with more than 65 potential actions or strategies generated from a service user perspective. The Effective Safer Supply model provides valuable insight on harm reduction during dual public health crisis.

18-May-2021 8:00am-3:45pm (Virtual) Deadline to register is May 15, 2021

10th Annual Norman Bethune Symposium

We have a fabulous program this year, with speakers from across the world! Some of the highlights: Keynote presentations on advances in patient blood management, challenges in trauma-induced bleeding, blood type and COVID-19 risk, disorders of RBC metabolism, new approaches in blood products, and blood products in traumatic brain injury. Lots of opportunities for presentations by students and trainees... from anywhere in the world! A draft event program is available [here](#). Please revisit the page for program updates.

21-May-2021 10am-5pm EST (Virtual)

International Cardiovascular Student Research Symposium

Brown University Alpert Medical School and Yale Biological and Biomedical Science students are hosting the first established Cardiovascular Student Research Symposium (CSRS). The conference will take place **from 10am to 5pm EST on Friday, May 21st**. **Signup to Attend:** Throughout the day, there will be three Brown University and Yale University guest speakers who

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are global leaders in the field: **10am EST Dr. Frank W. Sellke, 1:30pm EST Dr. Alexandra Lansky, 4pm EST Dr. Athena Poppas**. Please sign up to receive the zoom information for these three guest speaker events.

To learn more about the 2021 conference signup, coordinators, and guest speakers, please visit: cardioresearchsymposium.squarespace.com

Ongoing Events:

Date	Time	Where	Affiliation
Mondays	12:00pm-1:00pm	Virtual	Comparative Physiology Invited Speaker Seminar Department of Zoology
Wednesdays	4:00pm-5:00pm	Virtual	Evening Comparative Physiology Seminar Department of Zoology
Wednesdays	12:00pm-1:00pm	Virtual	Biodiversity Research Seminar Series Department of Zoology
Wednesdays	11:00am-12:00pm	Virtual	Centre for Blood Research Virtual Seminar Series Centre for Blood Research
Wednesdays	8:00am-10:00am	Virtual	Neuroscience Grand Rounds Schedule Department of Neurology
Thursdays	12:45pm-1:45pm	Virtual	Cellular & Physiological Sciences Departmental Seminars Cellular & Physiological Sciences Departmental Seminars
Fridays	3:30pm-5:00pm	Virtual	Research Seminars and Colloquia Department of Language Sciences
Fridays	11:00am-12:00pm	Virtual	Neuroscience Research Colloquium Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health
Fridays	4:00pm-5:00pm	Virtual	BLISS: Biodiversity Legendary Internal Seminar Series Department of Zoology

Other Research Opportunities

New Announcements:

[Psychiatry Undergraduate Education Committee- call for student representative](#)

Application deadline: April 30th, 2021

The Psychiatry Undergraduate Education Committee (UGEC) is seeking expressions of interest from incoming Year 2 medical students to serve as a student representative in our Education Committee starting June 2021 to May 2022. If you have an interest in contributing to the Education Program and/or see yourself pursuing a career in Psychiatry, email uge.assistant@ubc.ca with your statement of interest in 250 words or less by **Friday April 30th, 2021**.

The UGEC meetings are held every third Thursday of the month from 8:00 am to 9:00 am. The Psychiatry UGEC is responsible for planning, implementing and evaluation the Psychiatry curriculum across all medical programs, which includes Vancouver-Fraser (VFMP), Island (IMP), Northern (NMP) and Southern (SMP) medical programs.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact uge.assistant@ubc.ca.

Announcement Reminders:

[Amplitude Ventures Summer Fellowship Program- Call for applications](#)

Application deadline: April 30th, 2021