

Department of Medicine

Information Bulletin

July 3, 2020

Calgary Hospitals Recognized for Choosing Wisely



Dr. Kelley De Souza and Carmella Steinke led the Calgary Zone application for the Choosing Wisely recognition. Photo by Leah Hennel, AHS.

Calgary area hospitals have earned a national distinction from Choosing Wisely Canada, an organization that advocates for reducing or eliminating tests and treatments that aren't supported by clinical evidence.

"Clinicians in Calgary have for some time supported many of the recommendations laid out by Choosing Wisely Canada," says Dr. Kelley De Souza, an orthopedic surgeon who, together with Carmella Steinke, Executive Director, Integrated Quality Management, Calgary Zone, led the Calgary application for the recognition.

"Unnecessary testing can be costly in terms of time and resources spent, can lead to false positives and more testing, and can even expose patients to unnecessary risk," Dr. De Souza says.

All four of Calgary's adult hospitals – Peter Lougheed Centre, Rockyview General Hospital, Foothills Medical Centre and South Health Campus – achieved the second of three Choosing Wisely rating levels.

Read the full story, written by Greg Harris, [here](#).

Awards & Accomplishments

Dr. Kara Nerenberg Receives Inaugural Todd Anderson Cardiovascular Research Award



On June 29, 2020, Dr. Kara Nerenberg was awarded the inaugural Todd Anderson Cardiovascular Research Award for her contributions to the Libin Cardiovascular Institute.

The endowed research award was created to honor Dr. Todd Anderson's contribution to the leadership of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute. Early career researchers with a primary appointment within the Libin Cardiovascular Institute who have demonstrated evidence of commitment to research in the area of cardiovascular health and disease are eligible for this award.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Nerenberg on this accomplishment!

Dr. Matthew James and ICDC Team Receives \$3 Million CIHR Grant



Dr. Matthew James and members of the Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration (ICDC) Research Team have received a \$3 Million grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to conduct three innovative, patient-oriented trials.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. James and the ICDC Research team on this accomplishment!

Read the full UCalgary News article [here](#).

Government of Canada CIHR Rapid Research Funding for COVID-19



Eight University of Calgary research teams have received funding from the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), to address the health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will support research that focuses on accelerating the development, testing, and implementation of measures to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19 and its negative consequences on people, communities, and health systems.

Department of Medicine members lead four of the projects:

- "The Anatomy, Determinants and Impacts of the Cargill COVID-19 Outbreak Among Newcomers and their Families in Canada", led by Dr. Gabriel Fabreau, MD
- "Serological Testing to Outline Protocols for COVID19 in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: STOP COVID-19 in IBD", led by Dr. Gilaad Kaplan, MD
- "[Wastewater surveillance of SARS-COV2 to enable real-time clinical case-finding in Calgary](#)", led by Dr. Michael Parkins, MD
- "Imaging COVID-19 Lungs to Uncover Therapies", led by Dr. Paul Kubes, PhD (*joint appointment*)

Please join us in congratulating Drs. Fabreau, Kaplan, Parkins, and Kubes on these accomplishments!

Read the full UCalgary News article [here](#), and the Government of Canada News Release [here](#).

IT access changes to Leaves of Absence (LOA) for AHS and AHS Affiliate Staff

On June 25, 2020, changes to IT access for Leaves of Absence (LOA) went into effect for AHS and AHS Affiliate staff managed through e-People.

Changes to IT access

- For those on short term LOA, IT access will now be maintained for **up to 180 days**, so the person does not need to reapply if they return to work before 180 days.
- Since some access is dependent on training being completed before the access is given, no new or refresher IT-access related training should be needed for an LOA under 180 days.
- As some IT access was previously removed on the first day of any short or long term LOA, this change benefits the person on LOA as well as their leader.
- If an LOA is known to be **greater than 180 days**, essential IT system access will be maintained to support the person on leave while other IT system access will be removed on the first day of the LOA for the privacy and security of the person and AHS IT systems.
- This applies to all AHS and AHS Affiliate staff managed in e-People, including staff with Alberta Precision Laboratories, Capital Care, Carewest, Covenant Health and the Foundations.

Updates have been made to e-People and Identity & Access Management (IAM) to support this change. AHS HR and IT Access Services have made business process changes to also align. This change is still within the existing [Access to Information policy](#), but will be made more explicit in an upcoming update to the overall policy.

Additional information and support

More information is available in the [LOA Fact Sheet](#). For questions about LOAs, contact the [HR Contact Centre](#). For questions related to IT access, contact the [IT Service Desk](#).

This long-awaited strategic change benefits AHS and, particularly, staff who need our support during LOAs.

Virtual Health

Headset and Webcam Requests

Did you know that AHS physicians can request devices to support Virtual Health, including webcams and USB headsets? If you would like to request a Virtual Health device, please complete the short [DoM Information for Virtual Health Device Distribution](#) form:

Note: Please do not complete the above form if you already have a Skype headset or webcam, or if you have already submitted a [Skype for Business Peripheral Request Form](#) (Excel).

Resources:

- [AHS Healthcare Professional Considerations in Virtual Care](#) (V3.0_20200528)
- [Virtual Health / Zoom Resources](#) (COVID-19 AHS Virtual Health website)
- [Operational Guide: Technology for Video Virtual Healthcare Delivery in Congregate Living Sites during COVID-19](#) (12 May 2020)
- [Operational Guide: Technology for Social Connection in Congregate Living Sites During COVID-19](#) (11 June 2020)
- [Virtual Health – Zoom Patient Information for Virtual Care](#)

Your Parking Choices Matter

As clinical activity continues to increase on site with the phased resumption of surgeries and ambulatory clinics, your parking choices matter even more with each passing day.

We are hearing more and more about patients and families having difficulties in finding a parking spot in time for them to attend appointments and scheduled treatments.

Staff and physicians are asked to please park in their designated parking lot in staff/physician stalls, in order to enable patients/visitors to easily park in public stalls.

We do not yet have an update as to when parking fees will be reinstated.

Your consideration is appreciated as we need to work together to ensure everyone can access the sites appropriately.

Professional Development Funding for AHS Staff

The [Professional Development Fund](#) supports a wide variety of educational opportunities – from post-secondary diplomas, degrees and certificates to conferences, workshops and group learning initiatives.

Questions on the funding programs? Join one of our [Professional Development Funding Guided Tour Sessions](#), available through [MyLearningLink](#).

The [Learning Navigator](#) is a tool to help you explore Your Learning, Your Way. Use the Navigator search function to explore all your AHS Employee and Leadership Development learning options.

- Post-Secondary Education Funding
 - [Application Guide & Form](#)
 - Application Deadline: **28 August 2020**
- Conference & Workshop Funding
 - [Application Guide & Form](#)
 - Application period begins: 15 September 2020
- Group Learning Initiatives Funding
 - [Application Guide & Form](#)
 - Application period begins: 1 April 2020
- Health Care Aide Certificate Funding
 - [Application Guide & Form](#)
 - Application period begins: 1 April 2020

Please visit the [AHS Human Resources Professional Development Funding](#) website or contact professionaldevelopment.funding@ahs.ca for more information.

Upcoming Events

Knowledge Engagement Webinar

Introduction to Knowledge Engagement
July 8 10:30 – 11:30 am Register here

Join the Knowledge Engagement (KE) team for a webinar and discussion about knowledge engagement on the UCalgary campus and beyond. Attendees will have the chance to learn about services and supports offered by the newly formed team in Research Services. Whether you're a researcher or a member of a community organization, we invite you to attend and learn about how the KE team can support you in achieving your research goals!

Visit the [Knowledge Engagement website](#) to explore the team's service offerings.

Presenters: UCalgary Knowledge Engagement Team: MacKinley Darlington, Alyse Pearce, Rand Al-Hashmy

Attendees must register in order to receive a Zoom URL

For any inquiries, please email knowledge.engagement@ucalgary.ca

NSERC Webinars

How to submit a Notification of Intent to apply – Discovery Grants (DG) Program

Pre-Recorded Video: [NOI Overview and Tips](#)

July 9 1:00 – 2:00 pm (ET) [Link to Live Q&A](#)

Due to COVID-19, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) is replacing live webinars with pre-recorded videos followed by live Q&A sessions. This series is meant to assist the research community on how to complete an application using the Research Portal and the NSERC Canadian Common CV (CCV).

NSERC requests that the pre-recorded videos are viewed prior to attending a Q&A session. New Q&A session dates will be added as they become available. Consult the [NSERC Webinars page](#) regularly to learn about upcoming information sessions.

Contact: [Danielle Demiantschuk](#)

COVID Corner Webinar

The COVID-19 Pandemic: A Test of System-Level Physician Wellness

July 15 7:00 – 9:00 pm

This session is in partnership with Well Doc Alberta and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

Visit <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/cme/COVID-19-Resources/COVID-Corner> for more information and to register.

Recordings, handouts, and resources from previous COVID Corner webinars can be found at <https://ecme.ucalgary.ca/covid-19-cme-resources/covid-corner/>

RMS Pre-Award Training Sessions

In preparation for the fall grant season, pre-award RMS training sessions will continue to be held on Thursdays from May through September.

Given that there will be a number of competitions opening soon that will be administered through RMS, **it is strongly advised that you enroll in a remote training session if you have not already done so.** We also encourage you to sign up early, as spots are limited and we anticipate an increase in RMS users in the coming weeks.

If you would like to attend one of the training sessions below, please email rms@ucalgary.ca with the date of the session in the subject line.

Morning sessions (10 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

- July 16
- August 13
- September 10

Afternoon sessions (2 - 4 p.m.)

- July 30
- August 27
- September 24

Self-guided training documents are also available on the [RMS website](#). If you are unable to attend any of these sessions, please contact rms@ucalgary.ca to arrange training.

Research Office

2020 The Peter Lougheed Research Award Competition

The Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) welcomes applications for **The Peter Lougheed Research Award Competition**. Funds will benefit excellence in health research in Alberta, by providing salary and research support to exceptional young researchers thereby encouraging them to continue their career in the province. The competition is open to junior investigators at or coming to the Cumming School of Medicine at the time of the application deadline. Junior Investigator as defined by Tri-Council (CIHR) is “a researcher who has held a full time research appointment for a period up to 60 months from their initial faculty appointment (excluding maternity leave).” Postdoctoral fellows or graduate students are not eligible to apply for this award. Eligible applicants must have their primary academic appointment (or be recruited to a primary appointment) in Cumming School of Medicine.

Award criteria:

- Proposals that support novel research project aligned with CSM research priorities (see Strategic Priority Areas) available at: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/19/policies-forms/stratplan1-9-15.pdf>
- Preference will be given to proposals that foster collaboration across multiple CSM priorities

Proposals will be assessed on the quality of the applicant, including publications, grants and students in the research program being proposed for funding. The funds can be utilized to cover salary and research activities such as support for research activities including consumables, travel, equipment and other relevant costs. The funds awarded can be applied towards the salary of a new researcher as a salary recovery only. This award cannot be used as a salary top-up.

Amount: up to \$42,622

Deadline for submission to the Office of the Associate Dean Research: Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Guidelines, Application form and **Frequently Asked Questions** can be found on Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) website under [Research & Institutes Overview – Funding Opportunities – Endowments](#).

Contact: Applications and questions about this competition must be submitted to: medendow@ucalgary.ca for the attention of [Patty Beug-Jang](#).

CSM Service Centers – Annual Authorization Forms (AAF)

The Annual Authorization Forms (AAF) for the following CSM Service Centers need to be renewed for the period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021, by **deadline July 15, 2020**:

1. Centre for Health Genomics (CHGI) – includes Sanger Sequencing, formally under UCDNA
2. Flow Cytometry Services (FLOW)
3. Heritage Medical Research Clinic (HMRC)
4. Health Sciences Animal Resources Centre (HSARC)
5. Southern Alberta Mass Spectrometry Facility (SAMS)

If you use the service of any of the above mentioned centers, please:

- access the [online AAF form](#) (enter UCalgary login and password)



- click on “New”
- fill in the required information for the relevant service centre

HSARC Users – note that if animal fees are charged to the account provided, then you also need to fill in the Animal Care Certificate / Protocol number associated with the account.

Each centre must have an AAF on file for you to receive services.

Price lists for 2020-2021 are available on the site for consultation.

If you have any questions, please contact the Service Centers directly using the e-mail provided under **Contacts** on the site.

Remember – no form, no service.

DOM COVID-19 Research Opportunities

[Canadian Treatment of COVID-19 Trial \(CATCO\) / WHO Solidarity Trial](#)

(ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04330690)

- Antiviral treatment trial available for any adult patient admitted with COVID-19 illness to Calgary Adult hospital sites. Please **page 01815** during daytime hours 7 days a week if your patient is agreeable to be contacted by our team to get more information about enrolling.

COVID & SGLT2-i Study (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04350593)

- The [Dapagliflozin in Respiratory Failure in Patients With COVID-19](#) clinical trial is looking for potential collaborators in the Department of Medicine. If you are interested in collaborating on this trial, please contact Sofia Ahmed at sofia.ahmed@ahs.ca.

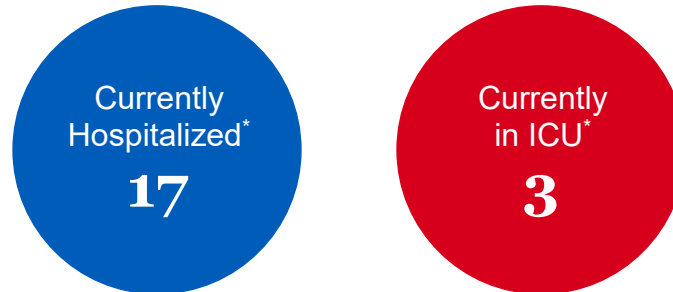
Are you a Department of Medicine member looking to enrol patients or health care workers in your COVID-19 Research Project? If so, please complete this [short online form!](#)

CIHR Institute Advisory Boards (IABs) – 2020 Membership Renewal Cycle

CIHR has launched the 2020 IAB membership renewal cycle, and a number of CIHR Institutes are looking for new members to fill gaps on their IABs. Submit your web [application form](#) by July 6, 2020 to be considered for the 2020 cycle.

Please visit <https://cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/18156.html> for more information and a list of CIHR Institutes looking for new IAB members.

Calgary Zone COVID Case Report – July 2, 2020



Calgary Zone Capacity Assessment – July 2, 2020*

Urban Inpatient Sites	Current Hospitalization	Currently in ICU
ACH	0	0
FMC	5	0
PLC	3	2
RGH	6	1
SHC	3	0

Calgary Zone Historic Summary (previous 5 days)*

	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1
# COVID+ admitted	20	19	18	17	18
Total ICU Cases	5	5	5	4	4

* Data from [Provincial COVID 19 Hospitalizations: Daily Census Counts Tableau Database](#) updated to: 2020-07-02 11:59 pm

MEOC Update: Important COVID-19 Resources and Information

Visit AHS' **COVID-19** page for the latest updates and accurate information: ahs.ca/covid

AHS COVID-19 Staff & Physician Resources

[Healthcare Worker / Staff Q&A novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (Updated 30 June 2020)

[AHS Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing Infographic](#) (30 June 2020)

[Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) FAQs for Public](#) (Revised 26 June 2020)

[Medical Staff Daily Update](#) (26 June 2020)

[Letter to people being tested for COVID-19 who have no symptoms: Caring for yourself at home while awaiting COVID-19 test results](#) (25 June 2020)

[COVID-19 Resources for Specific Health Conditions](#)

[Family Support & Visitation of Patients & Residents](#) (Last Updated 29 June 2020)

[COVID-19 Essential Visitor and Designated Family/Support Guidance](#) (Updated 26 June 2020)

- also in: [Arabic](#) | [Blackfoot](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#) | [French](#) | [Hindi](#) | [Punjabi](#) | [Somali](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tigrinya](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Physician Wellness Resources Infographics:

- [Infographic 1: We are Here to Support You, but What Does Support Look Like?](#)
- [Infographic 2: Supporting team members with COVID-19 related losses](#)
- [Infographic 3: Focusing on What You Can Control](#)
- [Infographic 4: Wellness in Transition From Work to Home](#)
- [Infographic 5: Tips to Reduce Stressors Associated with Virtual Encounters](#)
- [Infographic 6: Physicians Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence](#)
- [Infographic 7: Supporting physicians acculturating to Canadian medical culture](#)

Canadian Thoracic Society

[Canadian Thoracic Society Position Statements](#)

- Also in [French](#)

[CTS – recommendations regarding the use of face masks by the public during the SARS-CoV-2 \(COVID-19\) pandemic – June 2, 2020](#)

- Also in [French](#)

Infection, Prevention & Control

[Respiratory \(ILI\) Algorithm: Assessing the Need for Additional Precautions \(Isolation\)](#) (Revised 26 June 2020)

[Hand Sanitizer Made with Technical-Grade Ethanol Safety Considerations](#) (25 June 2020)

[Airborne Acetaldehyde Assessment AHS Southport Office, Calgary](#) (June 2020)

N95 Fit Testing

[N95 Respirator Fit Testing for Students and Instructors during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (26 June 2020)

[Calgary Zone Fit Testing Clinics](#)

- Sites might have additional fit testing sessions not included in the above schedule, please contact your WHS advisor or your fit test designate for more details.

[RGH N95 Fit Testing for July 2020](#)

- Fit test sessions are open to all AHS staff; however, please prioritize staff who are currently fitted to the 1870+, 9105 and 9105s and need to be refitted to another mask.
- All sessions are drop-in. Please note that it will take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete the fit testing cycle, so arrive ahead of time to allow for this.
- Staff must be clean shaven where the respirator seals to the face.
- No smoking, chewing gum, eating food, drinking flavoured beverages at least 15 minutes prior to qualitative test as it is a taste test.

It is critical that staff who require a fit test according to the [Who Needs an N95 Respirator Algorithm](#) are in fact fit tested to the 3M8210N, 3M8110s, or 3M1804 models as inventory of other models decreases.

AHS will be moving from the **3M1870+ and 3M9105** N95 respirator models to the **3M8210N, 3M8110S** and the **3M1804** models.

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) is working through a fit testing strategy prioritizing areas that perform aerosol generating medical procedures (AGMPs). Once these areas are successfully Fit Tested, all other areas will follow until the conversion is complete.

Based on supply the strategy is to fit test to:

- Option 1 – 3M8210N
- Option 2 – 3M8110S
- Option 3 – 3M1804

If there are AHS employees fit tested to the 3M1870+ or 3M9105 respirator who require immediate fit testing, please contact your local WHS advisor or fit test designate for your area.

Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) Rapid Reviews

[What factors predict the likelihood of testing positive for COVID-19?](#) (29 June 2020)

[Effectiveness of Remdesivir](#) (25 June 2020)

[Starting or resuming cancer treatment after COVID-19 infection](#) (23 June 2020)

[Effectiveness of Wearing Masks to Reduce Spread of COVID-19 in the Community](#) (19 June 2020)

[COVID-19 Models, Scenarios and Thresholds](#) (2 June 2020)

Completed COVID service? Please give us [feedback](#) on your experience!

Fit for Work

Fit for Work: [Online Questionnaire](#)

Fit for Work: [Protocols](#) | [Questionnaire](#)

Fit for Work: [Screening Implementation Guide](#)

Poster: [Fit for Work Screening](#)

Poster: [Fit for Work Online Screening Tool](#)

Poster: [Welcome to Work](#)

Communications Team

Department of Medicine

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