



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Action on Sepsis
Research Excellence Cluster

ACTION ON SEPSIS

THROUGH COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION WE WILL CONQUER SEPSIS

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Updates from our Members

Welcome to our newest member, [Dr. Fuchsia Howard](#)! Dr. Howard is an Associate Professor in the UBC School of Nursing whose research focuses on psychosocial cancer and critical care experiences through the use of arts-based qualitative methodologies. Patient Advisory Council members **Marie-Maxime Bergeron** and **Sue Korstad** recently participated in a study led by Dr. Howard that used photovoice to explore patients' experiences of critical illness and recovery at home following ICU admissions. You can view their photos and read more about their experiences [here](#).

In October, **Kristine Russell** presented, 'A Case Study Characterizing the Impacts of Engaging with Patient Advisory Councils on Long-Term Recovery for Sepsis Survivors and their Families', at the 2023 Northwest SPOR Collaborative Forum in Edmonton. This research study is co-led by **Kristine**, **Marie-Maxime**, and **Dr. Marianne Vidler**. View the poster [here](#).

Congratulations to **Dr. David Goldfarb**, who was awarded funding through the BC Ministry of Health's Innovation Pathway Program to explore the performance and acceptability of non-invasive self-collected samples for the diagnosis of COVID-19, RSV and Influenza. This will build on work underway with the BC Children's Hospital and First Nations Health Authority.

Congratulations to **Sahar Zandi Nia** (MSc student, Wiens Research Team), recipient of a BC Children's Hospital Research Institute (BCCHR) Masters Studentship, and **Dr. Kaitlin Winter** (Postdoctoral Fellow, Sadarangani Research Team), recipient of a Mining for Miracles Postdoctoral Fellowship at BCCHR!

The Randomized Embedded Multifactorial Adaptive Platform for Community Acquired Pneumonia (REMAP-CAP) Investigators, including **Dr. Srinivas Murthy**, have authored two new publications:

- [Intravenous Vitamin C for Patients Hospitalized With COVID-19: Two](#)

[Harmonized Randomized Clinical Trials](#), published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

- [Simvastatin in Critically Ill Patients with Covid-19](#), published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Publication Spotlights

Action on Sepsis Publication Spotlights showcase and summarize recent papers published within our research cluster in a blog-style format.



Study led by **Dr. Manon Ranger**, published in *Advances in Neonatal Care*:

[COVID-19 Pandemic Policies Pose Unique Challenges for Mothers of Preterm Infants in the NICU, UBC Study Finds.](#)



Study led by **Dr. Robert Hancock**, published in *Frontiers in Immunology*:

[Cracking the Code of Sepsis: How SeptiSearch is Changing the Game for Diagnosis and Treatment.](#)



Study led by **Drs. Jim Russell and Keith Walley**, published in *Intensive Care Medicine*:

[Revolutionizing Sepsis Treatment: How Mendelian Randomization Can Help Identify Causal Relationships](#)

Trainee Spotlight - Meet Ahmad Asdo

Ahmad is a fourth-year student at the University of British Columbia, studying Pharmacology and Global Health through the Integrated Sciences program. Having immigrated here from Syria to pursue his Bachelor of Science, Ahmad has been involved in various medical research programs throughout his time as a trainee with the cluster.

Ahmad recently published a paper in *Global Health: Science and Practice*, along with cluster members Dustin Dunsmuir, Dr. Mark Ansermino, Dr. Matthew Wiens, Dr. Yashodani Pillay and collaborators in Uganda and Kenya: [Repeatability of Pulse Oximetry Measurements in Children During Triage in 2 Ugandan Hospitals](#). Pulse oximetry is an important tool for identifying and managing care for children with sepsis,



particularly in low-resource settings. This paper provided new guidance for health workers to improve the repeatability of pulse oximetry readings and recommendations for device manufacturers to support these practices.

[View Ahmad's profile on our website.](#)

Highlights from World Sepsis Day 2023



Thank you to all who participated in events during Sepsis Awareness Month this past September!

Visit the [Global Sepsis Alliance's website](#) to read about the inspiring activities and initiatives that took place around the world.

You can also view recordings of events hosted by our partners:

- Transforming the Trajectory of Sepsis Research, a CIHR Café Scientifique featuring a moderated discussion between health care providers, sepsis survivors, and individuals who have lost loved ones to sepsis. Watch the recording [here](#).
- The Enactment of the WHO Sepsis Resolution on the National and International Level, a special event hosted by the Global Sepsis Alliance and featuring experts in sepsis research, care, and advocacy. Watch the recording [here](#).

Events on the Radar



November 24–25, 2023
Volkshaus Jena, Germany

International Conference for Specialists,
General Practitioners and Affected Individuals



November 24, 2023 | 4:30-8:30 AM PST | Free Virtual Livestream

The 2nd Long COVID Congress will feature two sepsis-related sessions and the plenary lecture:

- 4:30-5:45 AM PST: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic for Reducing Mortality and Prevention of Long Term from COVID and Sepsis
- 6:00-7:30 AM PST: Pathophysiology – Differences and Similarities of Sepsis, COVID-19, and Other Inflammatory Conditions
- 7:45-8:30 AM PST: Plenary lecture by Dr. Uzma Syed, infectious disease expert and dedicated advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

For these sessions, the conference organizers have waived the attendance fee and will be hosting a free livestream.

Livestream Link

Learn More



Global
Sepsis
Alliance

Lessons From the COVID-19 Pandemic

November 27, 2023 | 7-9:30 AM PST | Free
Virtual Livestream

This event, hosted by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berliner Medizinische Gesellschaft, the Global Sepsis Alliance, Sepsis Stiftung, Virchow Foundation for Global Health, and the World Health Summit, will feature a keynote lecture from Dr. Uzma Syed, a presentation from Prof. Konrad Reinhart, as well as a panel discussion on "Key Lessons on Pandemic Preparedness and Response to Non-Covid Sepsis", featuring Global Sepsis Alliance's new Designated CEO, Dr. Mariam Jashi. Dr. Jashi will also deliver greetings and closing remarks.

Learn more about the event [here](#).

Livestream Link

View the Program

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Co-hosted by the BCCHR Healthy Starts Research Theme, the Institute for Global Health at BCCWH, and the Women's Health Research Institute

December 4, 12:00 - 1:00 PM

BCCHR Chan Auditorium or Zoom



Perinatal Cytomegalovirus Transmission in Uganda and the PACO (Placentas, Antibodies and Child Outcomes) Study

Dr. Lisa Bebell, MD, MSc

Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School
Associate in Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases,
Massachusetts General Hospital

 Zoom Meeting ID: 92927 687268; Passcode: 687268  healthystarts@bcchr.ca

December 4, 2023 | 12-1 PM PST | In-Person & Virtual

Jointly hosted by BC Children's Hospital Research Institute's Healthy Starts Theme, the Institute for Global Health at BC Children's Hospital & Women's Hospital + Health Centre, and the Women's Health Research Institute.

Dr. Lisa Bebell is a Critical Care Medicine and Infectious Diseases specialist based out of Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital. She is a global health researcher who focuses on the role of the placenta in transplacental antibody transfer and early-life health outcomes.

Attend the seminar in-person at the BCCHR Chan Auditorium or online via Zoom.

[RSVP Here](#)

February 9, 2024 | 9 AM - 5 PM PST | In-Person & Virtual

Join us for BCCHR Healthy Starts Research Day, featuring oral presentations from trainees and investigators from the Healthy Starts Theme, a catered

networking lunch, poster presentations from trainees, and travel awards, presented to the day's best trainee presentations. Information on how to RSVP will be released shortly.

[Learn More & Submit Your Abstract Here](#)

Abstract submissions will close at 12PM PST on January 11, 2024.

Funding Opportunities

Health Research BC Research Trainee Award



LOI Due: Dec 12, 2023

Full Application Due: Feb 23, 2024

Funding Amount: \$180,000 CAD over 3 years

Salary support for post-doctoral fellows or health professional researchers in BC at the early stage of their career. Details [here](#).

SickKids Foundation Community Conference Grants



Due: Jan 31, 2024

Funding Amount: \$5,000 CAD

Support for conferences, workshops, or symposia which are relevant to the health of Canada's children and organized by and/or for families with children with health challenges. Details [here](#).

Science for Africa Epidemic Science Leadership and Innovation Networks



Due: Jan 31, 2024

Funding Amount: \$4,000,000 USD over 5 years

Aims to establish research networks that will nurture and promote world-class epidemic and pandemic sciences research and innovation in Africa. Must include 3 African universities or research institutions (including the lead organization), up to a maximum of 6 institutions. International partners are allowed. Details [here](#).

RCCBC Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative



Due: Apr 30, 2024

Funding Amount: \$10,000 CAD

Support projects led by rural BC physicians or medical trainees that foster reciprocal learning in diverse health systems and community contexts. These projects should aim to support the development of innovative solutions to healthcare challenges and improved health outcomes, especially for underserved, marginalized, and Indigenous populations. Details [here](#).

Action on Sepsis is based in the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the

Coast Salish Peoples – SKWXWÚ7MESH (Squamish), STÓ:LŌ and SƏ́ÍŁWƏTÁʔ/SELILWITULH (Tseilim-Waututh) and XʷMƏΘKʷƏÝƏM (Musqueam) Nations. We also invite everyone to reflect on the land they currently work and live on.

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