

Johnson, Teresa [CWBC]

From: Action on Sepsis <teresa.johnson@UBC.CA>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 10:57 AM
To: Johnson, Teresa [CWBC]
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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Action on Sepsis

Research Excellence Cluster

July
2020

In this Newsletter,

[The AoS Patient Advisory Council](#) | [REACH BC now includes 'SEPSIS'](#) | [Wellcome Trust Project Launch](#) | [Planning for World Sepsis Day 2020](#) | [COVID-19 Awards](#) | [Publication Highlights](#) | [Grant Opportunities](#)

Welcome our newly established Patient Advisory Council!

We are excited to introduce the newest members of the cluster and founding members of the newly established Action on Sepsis Patient Advisory Council members:

[Marie-Maxime Bergeron](#) | [Susan Korstad](#) | [Kristine Russell](#)

Last month, the council met for the first time and identified the priority areas they would like to support. They have been busy attending [BC SUPPORT Unit](#) seminars on Patient Oriented Research, helping update [our website](#), and begun disseminating research publications of cluster members. The council members also helped review and select a candidate for the Mitacs Research Training Award offered by the UBC VPRI. Working together we aim to better connect the research activities of the cluster to the patients, general public, and end users.

When patient experts are engaged in meaningful ways, all levels of research can benefit. Patient partners can help contribute to a broader understanding of treatments, better outcomes that are more relevant and responsive to patient caregiver needs, higher

enrollment and retention of study participants, and improved knowledge translation. The patient advisory council members can support your research activities.

- Are you looking for a patient expert to join your research project?
- Do you have a research proposal you would like the council to review?
- Are you interested in having a recent publication disseminated to the public?
- Do you have a proposal for another engagement opportunity?

We can help! Email us with your requests, Action.on.Sepsis@ubc.ca

REACH BC, a new online platform connecting you to health research opportunities in BC - now including 'SEPSIS'



REACH BC is a new online platform that connects 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. It is the newest trusted resource for finding both research studies and patient-partner opportunities. The platform launch was expedited in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic in an effort to support the recruitment of participants in COVID-19 related research.

New 'sepsis' sub-category - We've connected with the team at REACH BC to make sure that when you join the network, 'sepsis' is a field of interest that can be associated with your account.

Are you an investigator recruiting for a study? Get started by visiting [the researcher portal at REACHBC.ca](#).

Would you like to volunteer? Search the [public REACH BC Directory](#) or [sign up](#) to find research opportunities that matter to you and your family, with the possibility of becoming a research participant in a study, or collaborating with researchers as a patient partner.

For more information, contact REACH BC at info@reachbc.ca

Wellcome Trust Project Launch



In 2019, Dr Tex Kissoon established a new collaboration between UBC and the [Kenya Medical Research Institute \(KEMRI\)](#) to lead a health system strengthening project to improve the quality of care for children with sepsis. Working with co-applicants Drs Ansermino and Dumont, this quality improvement (QI) program will include qualitative analysis of barriers and facilitators for high-quality care and use a digital platform to collect standardized data to drive QI.

It's with great excitement that in collaboration with the Centre for International Child Health, we can announce the launch of the collaborative research study, "[*Saving young lives: Triage and management of sepsis in children using the point-*](#)

[*of care Paediatric Rapid Sepsis Trigger \(PRST\) tool*](#)". In partnership with the University of British Columbia, the Kenyan Medical Research Institute (KEMRI), and [Walimu](#) in Uganda, the study is funded through a \$1.5 million dollar Innovators Award from the Wellcome Trust.

Smart Triage aims to develop an easily accessible, affordable mobile PRST tool that can be used by health workers to rapidly triage pediatric patients in low resource settings. The study will focus on assessing the usability, feasibility, and acceptability of the PRST application at our partner institutions in Nairobi, Kenya and Jinja, Uganda. Beginning enrollment in March 2020, the study will continue through to January 2022.

Congratulations Action on Sepsis trainee [Alishah Mawji](#) and the team for their first project [publication](#) including the PRST [Data Dictionary](#)

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World Sepsis Day 2020!



[World Sepsis Day 2020](#) is just over 2 months away and this year, we're going VIRTUAL. Action on Sepsis is currently planning a day of WSD events that will be held entirely online.

Want to be part of action? Do you have ideas for interesting online engagement opportunities to support sepsis advocacy? Do you have a great idea for a public session? Would you like to be involved in planning? Contact Teresa.Johnson@cw.bc.ca to connect with the WSD 2020 planning committee.

AWARDS (COVID-19) - Congratulations!

Dr Bob Hancock

**Dr Manish
Sadarangani**

Dr Srinivas Murthy



Dr Hancock received a **CIHR COVID-19 Rapid Response Grant** to investigate which patients with COVID-19 are at higher risk of developing life-threatening sepsis, based on the gene expression profiles of severely ill patients.

[Read More](#)



Dr Sadarangani receiving a **MSFHR COVID-19 Research Response Fund Award** to evaluate the epidemiology of COVID-19 in children and young adults in BC.

[Read More](#)



Dr Murthy received additional funding from **CIHR** to scale-up the Canadian arm of the WHO Solidarity Trial, a multi-country clinical trial to identify an effective treatment for COVID-19.

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PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Neonatal Sepsis in Low-Income Countries: Epidemiology, Diagnosis and Prevention.

This review highlights the current limitations of diagnostic and management options for neonatal sepsis, in the context of emerging antimicrobial resistance. The authors call for a multifaceted approach that addresses major diagnostic issues as well as underlying socio-economic disparities to help reduce the devastatingly high rates of neonatal sepsis globally

Popescu CR, Cavanagh MMM, Tembo B, Chiume M, Lufesi N,

Prioritizing Maternal Sepsis: National Adoption of an Obstetric Early Warning System to Prevent Morbidity and Mortality.

Delayed recognition and management is a key contributor to the majority of maternal sepsis deaths. In this recent commentary, Dr Julie van Schalkwyk and co-authors discuss early warning systems for maternal sepsis and how Canada can best implement these tools.

Edwards W, Dore S, **van Schalkwyk J**, Armson BA. J Obstet Gynaecol Can. 2020 May;42(5):640-643.

Whole blood transcriptional responses of very preterm infants during late-onset sepsis.

Preterm infants are particularly vulnerable to sepsis, yet the molecular mechanisms that underlie sepsis are unknown. This recent study provides new insights to guide future research and ultimately improve the diagnosis of neonatal sepsis.

Ng S, Strunk T, **Lee AH, Gill EE, Falsafi R**, Woodman T, Hibbert J, **Hancock REW**, Currie A. PLoS One. 2020 Jun 1;15(6):e0233841

[Read More](#)

Goldfarb DM, Kissoon N, Lavoie PM.
Expert Rev Anti Infect Ther. 2020
May;18(5):443-452.

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GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Operating Grants for Early Career Investigators in Maternal, Reproductive, Child & Youth Health

Funding for \$105,000 over 3 years for Canadian investigators who have held their position for less than 5 years. Registration deadline delayed due to COVID-19.

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CIHR Planning and Dissemination Grants - ICS

Up to \$25,000 to support planning activities, partnership development, and dissemination events and activities that focus on the communication of health research evidence to the appropriate researcher or knowledge-user audiences.
Registration deadline delayed due to COVID-19.

[Read More](#)

CIHR Hepatitis C Research Initiative

Funding to support a national hepatitis C public health research program that leverages existing networks and research programs to reduce the burden of hepatitis C infection.

[Read More](#)

Do you need support with a grant application? Contact Stefanie.Novakowski@bcchr.ca to discuss how Action on Sepsis can support you.

Do you have news you'd like to share with the cluster? [Email us!](#)

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#305 - 4088 Cambie St

[604-829-2632](tel:604-829-2632)

Action.on.Sepsis@ubc.ca

sepsis.ubc.ca