

University of Calgary Department of Pediatrics – Research Support Environment

This document can be used to help develop funding/grant applications where the application requires information regarding the internal resources and infrastructure available to support research within the applicant's academic department. The information herein can/should be combined with details regarding the [research support environment at the institutional level](#), and within the research institute(s) with which the applicant is affiliated.

Department Head: Dr. Antonia Stang

Research Leadership Team

Sr. Consultant, Child Health Research: Nicole Romanow

Research Assistant: Ashton Chugh

Department membership profile

University Faculty Appointments

Academic Status	Primary Appointments (322)			Joint Appointments (62)		
	Clinical Faculty	GFT Faculty	Adjunct/Research Faculty	Clinical Faculty	GFT Faculty	Adjunct/Research Faculty
Lecturer	90	0	0	12	0	0
Assistant Professor	100	3	13	18	0	1
Associate Professor	51	25	6	12	5	0
Professor	9	22	3	7	3	4
Totals	250	50	22	49	8	5

There are 2 additional members with emeritus or honorary university appointments.

Total research revenue

2016/17: 9.9 million

2017/18: 12.3 million

2018/19: 11 million

2019/20: 12.4 million

2020/21: 13.1 million

Research revenue per Full-time Equivalent (FTE)¹

2017: \$165K

2018: \$215K

2019: \$193K

2020: \$225K

2021: \$243K

¹Annual sum of research revenue for projects divided by the number of FTE

Publications & citations

Annual Publications per Full-time Equivalent (FTE)²

2016: 4.0

2017: 4.7

2018: 5.4

2019: 5.5

2020: 5.4

²Annual publications per FTE = Annual sum of unique FTE publications by divided by the number of FTE

Annual Publications³

2016: 366

2017: 460

2018: 487

2019: 530

2020: 483

³Annual sum of unique publications by UCalgary Faculty with an academic appointment in Pediatrics on March 31 of a given publication year.

Research methods expertise and support

The Child and Family Health Research Unit is an academic section in the Department that was established in 2018. The Unit's faculty members conduct their own research programs, as well as engage in productive research collaborations with colleagues in the Department. They are extensively involved in educational activities and methodological support within the Department, and across the Cumming School of Medicine.

The Unit's faculty have expertise in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Patient-Reported Outcomes and Patient Engagement research. Some members of the Unit are for research methods consultations. There is no fee for consultations, and in some cases, if appropriate, a consulting faculty member become contributing members of a research team (i.e., co-investigator).

Administrative data support

Members of the Department of Pediatrics have access to project data support from an AHS Sr. Analyst. This Sr. Analyst is within the AHS analytics portfolio, and their role is to help support child health researchers with navigating the AHS data environment, including support for data source identification, data linking and data extraction. The Analyst is familiar with AHS data repositories, where to find clinical data for research purposes, and how to identify cohorts within pediatric data sources among other things. This position is collaboratively supported by AHS and the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI).

Research operational support

The Sr. Consultant and the Research Assistant are available for guidance and to support the needs of researchers in Pediatrics. They provide resources, templates, and hands-on help to anyone in the Department to address questions, barriers, or to way-find when it comes to the operational aspects of conducting research studies in the context of the University of Calgary, Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Children's Hospital. Areas in which help is available include:

- Project feasibility
- Grant development and application support
- Training opportunities and workshops
- Research accounting support including project setup, purchasing, reporting
- Contracts, agreements and sub-grants through CSM Legal and Research Services
- Ethics processes and regulatory processes
- Monitoring
- AHS Provincial Research Administration approval support
- Budgeting
- HR processes for research
- On-boarding
- Funding updates and opportunities
- ConnectCare for research

Research assistant

In addition to providing support as outlined above, the Department Research Assistant is available to help research teams fill short-term, part-time research staff requirements. The Research Assistant is trained in basic research activities including ethics applications, contracts, data collection, data entry and systematic reviews. If a research team needs additional research support, they can request help from the Department Research Assistant. Requests are triaged based on the Research Assistant's availability, current workload and the staff/funding the team currently has in place to support research activities.

Requesting research support

Research methodology, Sr. Consultant and Research Assistant support are available on a consultation basis by completing an online request form:

<https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/departments/pediatrics/research/request-internal-support>. Sr. Analyst support is available via the ACHRI online webform: <https://research4kids.ucalgary.ca/admin-data-research-consult>. Individual requests are triaged and allocated to the most appropriate resource.

Internal funding opportunities

- Innovation Award: Since 2012 the Department has held an annual funding competition, the Department of Pediatrics Innovation Award. The intent of the award is to support an individual or group engaged in innovative projects in provision of clinical care, research or education within the Department of Pediatrics. Ten or more awards of up to \$10,000 each are available to be awarded in the competition.
- Department of Pediatrics Graduate Studentship: In 2017, the Department of Pediatrics launched a graduate studentship in collaboration with the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI). The intent of the Department of Pediatrics Graduate Studentship program is to support trainees (Master's or PhD) undertaking child health research. There are two funding streams:
 - Matching funds: ACHRI offers funding for MSc (\$11,000/year) and PhD (\$13,000/year) students through the ACHRI Graduate Studentship Support funding stream. The Department of Pediatrics will provide matching funds of \$9,500/year (MSc), or \$13,000/year (PhD) to eligible applicants successful in the ACHRI Graduate Studentship competition. In addition, matching studentships will include a research allowance from the Department of Pediatrics of \$1,000 per year.
 - Other awards: Applicants who are not eligible for ACHRI awards (i.e., supervisor is not a full member of ACHRI) may apply for support from the Department of Pediatrics. The value of these awards is \$20,500/year (MSc) or \$26,000/year (PhD).

Facility

The Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH) is the largest public hospital for children in Alberta. The current facility opened in 2006, and services patients and families from southern Alberta, southeastern British Columbia, and southwestern Saskatchewan. ACH is an accredited level 1 trauma centre. ACH admissions are over 8,000 annually. At ACH, most inpatient rooms are private rooms. The hospital has over 90 outpatient clinics for patients who come to the hospital for appointments, but who do not need to stay overnight. ACH also runs clinics in other locations across Calgary and southern Alberta. Amenities and services available at ACH include a Family and Community Resources Centre, a Sacred Space, therapeutic arts programs, multiple outdoor play spaces, food services and an outpatient pharmacy. Calgary Laboratory Services also has a clinic located within the hospital.

Training

- Resident Research Course: This 4-week course is designed to teach medical residents the fundamentals of developing and conducting a research study. The course consists of a combination of didactic lectures and small group workshops. Topics covered include:
 - Defining a research question
 - Choosing the appropriate study design
 - Searching the medical literature
 - Defining hypotheses, objectives and outcome measures
 - Refining methods
 - Analyzing data – an introduction to biostatistics
 - Research Ethics - overview of the application process for scientific and ethical review
- [ENRICH](#): Empowering Next Generation Researchers in Child Health is a trans-disciplinary training program for the next generation of clinician-scientists in child and youth health research in Canada. ENRICH provides training in advanced competencies for a select group of learners, offering personalized mentorship, and experiential learning opportunities. The Department of Pediatrics is proud to be a supporter of the ENRICH program, and provides financial support annually for up to two department members to participate in the [PILLAR](#) pathway.

Mentorship

- Faculty: The Department of Pediatrics Professionals Engage with Purpose (PEP) is a novel framework for a faculty career planning and development. The program is built upon the concept that meaningful work is essential for professionals to fully engage in their work, with benefits in fulfillment and productivity for individuals and the collective alike. This framework puts the individual faculty member at the centre, rather than designing a program to fit a certain faculty profile. Faculty members are encouraged to participate in the PEP program, with research as an area of focus for growth.
- Research staff: Research staff (e.g., Research Assistants, Coordinators, and Project Managers) at any career stage are invited to reach out to the Department Research Leadership Team to explore opportunities for mentorship. The Department has also established a Community of Practice for research staff, in partnership with the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute. The goal is to help staff feel better supported and to foster inclusivity and connectedness. This community of practice also provides opportunities for networking and peer-to-peer support.

On-boarding

A streamlined on-boarding process is in place for Department of Pediatrics Faculty, research staff, and trainees. The process includes all requirements from Alberta Health Services, the University of Calgary, and the Alberta Children's Hospital, for those working in research roles. Checklists and on-boarding support are provided by the Department.

Seminar series

- Child Health and Wellness Seminars: These rounds are for Faculty members and their research teams to learn about the breadth of child health research within the Department as well as the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI). The rounds are jointly organized with the ACHRI. The speaker include internal and external child health researchers, trainees (post-doctoral fellows and research fellow) and various individuals/groups providing research support. The seminars occur weekly.
- CCCR Health Research "How to" webinar series: These sessions are primarily targeted to research staff and are designed to provide information and tools for overseeing the day-to-day details of research projects. Attendance certificates are issued to be used for credit towards

professional designations (e.g., Society of Clinical Research Associates). The sessions are hosted either at the Alberta Children's Hospital or Foothills Medical Centre, and broadcast via video link to 2-3 other sites. Topics include: AHS Research Administration processes, contracts and agreements, library resources, study recruitment, auditing and compliance. The presentations are video recorded and available online.

Rounds

Each week the Department hosts multiple clinical, educational and research rounds. Regular rounds and special events are posted on the Department of Pediatrics homepage and circulated through the weekly Department of Pediatrics Bulletin, which is distributed by email. All members of the Department are encouraged to attend and in many cases rounds are accredited.

For more information on Cumming School of Medicine research support at the Faculty level, please visit the Internal Peer Review site (UCalgary login required: <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/research-institutes/csm-research-services/internal-peer-review>) and click on the document called "Research Support Environment"