

University of Calgary Department of Pediatrics - Research Support Environment

Department Head: Dr. Mark Anselmo

Research Leadership Team

Deputy Head, Research: Vacant

Program Manager, Child Health Research: Nicole Romanow

Research Assistant: Ashton Chugh

Department membership profile

University Faculty Appointments

Academic Status	Primary Appointment (333)			Joint Appointments (63)		
	Clinical Faculty	GFT Faculty	Adjunct/Research Faculty	Clinical Faculty	GFT Faculty	Adjunct/Research Faculty
Lecturer	91	0	1	13	0	0
Assistant Professor	105	8	15	14	5	0
Associate Professor	53	25	5	7	11	0
Professor	6	20	4	1	10	2
Totals	255	53	25	35	26	2

There are 4 additional members with emeritus or honorary university appointments.

Total research revenue

2012/13: \$6.9 million

2013/14: \$8.0 million

2014/15: \$9.7 million

2015/16: \$9.9 million

2016/17: \$9.9 million

2017/18: \$12.3 million

2018/19: \$11 million

Publications & citations

Publications per Research Equivalent (RE)¹

2014/15: 8.7

2015/16: 8.9

2016/17: 11.2

2017/18: 13.1

¹Annual publications per RE = Annual number of unique publications divided by the number of RE in the same year. RE = Average research time allocation divided by 100 and multiplied by the number of FTE faculty.

Annual citations²:

2014: 5.5K

2015: 6.1K

2016: 7.4K

2017: 7.9K

2018: 9.1K

²The number of times that unique publications by FTE faculty of a given year have been cited in the same 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 available to members of the Department of Pediatrics for research methodology 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 within the framework of the MyCHILD Alberta data repository, collaboratively supported by AHS, the Maternal Newborn Child and Youth SCN (MNCY), the Department of Pediatrics and the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI).

Program manager operational support

As part of the Child Health Research Leadership Team, the Program Manager is available on a consultation basis, 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 and IRISS
- AHS Provincial Research Administration
- Budgeting
- HR processes for research
- On-boarding
- Funding updates and opportunities

Research assistant

As part of the Child Health Research Leadership team, 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 internal research support

Research methodology, Sr. Analyst, Program Manager and Research Assistant support are available on a consultation basis by completing an online request form: https://www.ucalgary.ca/paed/files/paed/research-consultation-form_jan_8_2020.pdf 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. Four or more awards of up to \$25,000 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

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
- CCHCSP: The Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP) is a trans-disciplinary training program for the next generation of clinician-scientists in child and youth health research in Canada. CCHCSP provides support for these highly-qualified child health clinician candidates to develop their requisite knowledge and skills for a career as an independent scientist in child health research. Trainees engage in research training and a core curriculum that delivers a common multidisciplinary language of research, while imparting professional skills and values. Research training is supervised by a research mentor and advisory committee and is structured to facilitate excellence in research with an interdisciplinary focus. There are currently 17 participating Child Health Research Training Centres within the CCHCSP, providing education and collaborative experiences across Canada. The University of Calgary is one such centre.

Mentorship

- Faculty: The Department of Pediatrics Faculty Mentorship program is an opportunity for Department members across all activity domains and career stages to engage in mentor-mentee relationships around a defined objective, project, role, or development focused mentorship.

- Project focused mentoring: The mentee identifies a project they want to focus on from any area – research, clinical care, education, career development, quality improvement. As part of the program, ideas are refined within the project and an area of mentorship is identified. The mentee is then matched with an appropriate mentor.
- Professional development curriculum: Nine seminar sessions are held over a year-long period. The topics cover a wide range of subjects from project management to wellness. In addition, the group of mentees who meet monthly at these sessions provide a peer group for conversation, troubleshooting and making connections.
- Research staff: Implemented in 2017, the research staff mentorship program operates in tandem with the Faculty program. Research staff (e.g., Research Assistants, Coordinators, and Project Managers) at any career stage are invited to participate in the program by identifying an area of focus for mentorship. This program includes guidelines and a framework for one-on-one meetings, as well as educational sessions supporting the outcomes of the program, which runs on an annual cycle.

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 Research Rounds: 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 at the ACH and are available to stream online via Adobe Connect.
- Health Research Lunch & Learn: The Lunch & Learn 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 (U of C login required: <https://intranetqa.ucalgary.ca/medicine/research/ipr/SitePages/Home.aspx>), click on “Resources and Links: Grant Writing Help” on the right hand side, and download the document called “Research Support Environment”