Happy International Women’s Day!

Each year, March 8 is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women and renew our efforts in achieving gender equality – in Canada and around the world.

In Canada, this year’s theme for International Women’s Day, #InnovateForChange, is a call to action, asking everyone to harness the power of technology to create a more equal world. By removing the barriers facing women in STEM, we can unleash new ideas and solutions that will transform our society and strengthen our economy.

In Canada, only a third of graduates in STEM are women, a difference that’s magnified in fields such as engineering and computer science. Meanwhile, Canada and other countries face major job shortages in many STEM fields. When women are held back from filling high-quality jobs like these, Canada’s economy is also held back.

Join the conversation #InnovateForChange

Spotlight on Global Health

Mama na Mtoto and Global Affairs Canada have generously supported the CICH to engage Canadians and inform them about global maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) initiatives. With the help of many collaborators and colleagues we’ve created a series of videos about all the amazing global MNCH activities happening at BC Children’s and Women’s Hospitals.

Just in time for International Women’s Day, this latest video, featuring former Vice President of Medical Affairs at BC Women’s Hospital Dorothy Shaw, highlights the work of 3 amazing maternal focused projects. One of these initiatives is PRE-EMPT, which develops, tests and introduces new knowledge that will reduce the unacceptable maternal, perinatal, family, societal, and global impacts of pre-eclampsia, and other hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.
On January 24th 2019, the School of Population and Public Health at UBC and CICH hosted the inaugural Global Health Conference. The event was a great success, attracting more than 200 students, researchers and experts from across UBC, SFU, BCCH, and BCWH. Keith Martin was the keynote speaker who spoke on the role of institutions in global health. He stated that there needs to be greater focus and attention on strengthening local institutions and political structures to be able to ensure health advancement.

There were a range of extraordinary panelists representing a wide range of stakeholders in health. This included the Gates Foundation, UBC School of Population and Public Health, CanWaCH, Grand Challenges Canada and School of Biomedical Engineering.

Conference hosts and organizers (Mark Ansermino, Gina Ogilvie, Marianne Vidler, and Simona Powell) met with Santa Ono, President of UBC, to discuss the importance and relevance of the conference. CICH looks forward to hosting the next Global Health Conference at the beginning of 2020. Keep a lookout for the invitation in our upcoming communications.

Photos and recordings of the conference events are now ONLINE.

Winner, Winner!

Smart Discharges won 1st prize at the 2018 CIHR IHDCYH Talks Video Competition! The competition is a unique opportunity to profile research and ideas to improve knowledge translation and help demonstrate the impact that evidence can and does have on maternal, reproductive, child and youth health.

Smart Discharges was created to help children stay healthy after they leave the hospital and return home following a severe infection. The program is currently being implemented in four hospitals across Uganda.
Publication Spotlight 2019

Development and internal validation of the multivariable CIPHER (Collaborative Integrated Pregnancy High-dependency Estimate of Risk) clinical risk prediction model. Payne, et al.


This paper on predicting mortality in pregnant women in the ICU has since been used in a systematic review and highlighted as the best model (below).

Risk prediction models for maternal mortality: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Aoyama et al.

https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0208563

Want to share something you’ve recently published? We’d love to hear from you.

News and Upcoming Events

Esteemed Harvard Professor at Grand Rounds

March 15, 2019 | The Chan Centre at the Child and Family Research Institute, UBC

Grace Chan is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School who trained in pediatrics in the Boston Combined Residency Program. Following her residency, she completed her PhD and post-doctoral work at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and a research fellowship at ICDDR,B.

Today, Chan’s research focuses on advancing maternal newborn and child health by using epidemiological methods to discover and deliver evidence-based interventions.

Chan will present “Ending Preventable Maternal and Child Deaths: Research for Survival” at Grand Rounds on March 15th from 8:30-9:30 am at UBC. For more details, email us.

WHRI Symposium

May 31, 2019 | Vancouver Convention Centre East
The Fourth Annual Women's Health Research Symposium is being held on Friday, May 31, 2019 at the Vancouver Convention Centre East.

The Symposium is being hosted by the Women's Health Research Institute and will be an opportunity to showcase some of the amazing women's health research taking place in BC and beyond. This year's focus will be on Global Women's Health and feature talks by two prominent CICH members Marianne Vidler and Beth Payne.

The Symposium will engage researchers and relevant stakeholders, including members of the public, from a wide range of disciplines, backgrounds, and perspectives in order to provide a forum where leaders in women-focused health research can connect and collaborate in order to advance future research and to improve the health of women in the province.

For more information, visit whri.org

Funding Opportunities

**Call for Proposals: China**

Deadline: March 29, 2019

CICH has launched a call for proposal for projects in China. The project can be new or existing, and must address general or sub-specialty pediatrics medical training in China. Total amount of funding available is 20,000 CAD per year for 2 years.

Proposals must be no more than 2 pages, plus a brief budget.

For more information or to submit your application, please contact Marianne.

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**Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative**

Deadline: April 30, 2019

The Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative (RGHPI) is a new program providing funding to support partnerships between rural BC physicians or medical trainees committed to rural service, and lower resource communities in BC, Canada, and in developing countries.

Applicants may apply for grant categories up to $5000 and $10,000. To apply for this opportunity, please download the application forms and submit them to apeltonen@rcbc.ca.

The Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative is run by the Rural Coordination Centre of BC and supported by the Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues. For more information contact Adrienne Peltonen.

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Have questions, suggestions, or something to share?

Email us at cichinfo@cw.bc.ca so we can include it in our next quarterly eUpdate.