

BCMHSUS RESEARCH

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Executive Leadership Change

Dear BCMHSUS Research Community,

We would like to share the recent announcement from our BCMHSUS COO, Jennifer Duff:

“We would like to share the news that Dr. Jehannine C. Austin has tendered their resignation as Executive Director, BCMHSUS Research Institute (RI) effective June 5th. Dr. Austin held this role for more than five years and we commend their demonstrated commitment to closing the gap between research, and clinical care, working in partnership and championing the voice of lived / living experience, as well as their leadership in the development of the BCMHSUS research vision and plan.

Collectively, we wish Dr. Austin success in their future endeavours and know that they will continue to contribute to the mental health research community in their continued role as a researcher and member of the BCMHSUS research community.”

Please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,
BCMHSUS Research Operations team



Join Us for BCMHSUS Research Day 2023!

Mark your calendars for November 7, 2023, because you won't want to miss the BCMHSUS Research Day Symposium! We're excited to invite you to be a part of this incredible event.

Are you a trainee looking to make a difference? We need your help in planning the trainee portion of the symposium. By joining us, you'll have the unique opportunity to shape this event into something truly meaningful for you and your peers.

Got questions or want to get involved? Reach out to us at BCMHSUS_research@phsa.ca. We're here to answer any inquiries and would love to welcome you aboard as we work together to create a memorable and impactful experience.

Save the date, spread the word, and be ready to be a part of the exciting event at the BCMHSUS Research Day Symposium on November 7, 2023. Together, let's drive innovation and transform mental health research for a better future!

Comings & Goings



Celebrating Karen Chu's new role as Data Access and Research Coordinator

We are thrilled to announce and celebrate the promotion of Karen Chu to the new role of Data Access and Research Coordinator at BCMHSUS Research! We invite you all to join us in congratulating Karen on this well-deserved achievement.

Many of you are already familiar with Karen's exceptional work as the coordinator for the BCMHSUS Research Committee. In this role, she has been vital in supporting the institutional/operational approval process for research studies at our BCMHSUS sites. Her dedication and expertise have greatly contributed to the success of our research initiatives.

In her new role, Karen will continue her coordination duties for the Research Committee, but she will also take on increased responsibilities for the coordination of research data collection, stewardship and submissions to the Data Access Committee (DAC) from researchers.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Karen is known for her passion for true crime and her need for speed. She can often be spotted zooming around the track (and streets) in her little mini. If you happen to see her at the RI or FPH, don't hesitate to stop by and say hello!

Please join us in recognizing Karen's exceptional contributions and congratulating her on this exciting promotion. Her dedication and expertise continue to make a significant impact on our organization, and we are lucky to have her as part of our team. Once again, congratulations, Karen!



MPH practicum student Charis Lai joins BCMHSUS as a project coordinator

Following the completion of her 6-month practicum placement with the Strategic Initiatives team, Charis will soon be joining us as a temporary project coordinator. In her work at BCMHSUS, Charis has been working under the supervision of Clayton Hamilton, KE Lead, to support the design of a series of six short e-Learning modules to help research teams to apply a Patient-Oriented Research approach to their research projects. Her experience with research including publishing a systematic review & meta-analysis on chronic skin disease among pediatric populations with developmental disorders. Her current role extends her skills as she conduct literature reviews to identify content for the modules, design the modules, and organize the design process. Currently living in Richmond BC, Charis is an artist in the visual and performing arts. You may find her singing, dancing, drawing, working on her makeup artistry, reading, cooking a variety of cuisines, or going coffee shop hopping. If you strike up a chat with her, chances are that she'll tell you about her next big idea or will be all ears on yours!

News & Announcements

COVID-19 global emergency declared over

On Friday, May 5, the World Health Organization declared the end of COVID-19 as a global health emergency and many of the remaining COVID-19 Provincial Health Orders have been rescinded as part of the [end of the 2022/23 respiratory season announcement](#), effective Thursday, April 6.

For those working in the health system, [vaccination requirements for health-care system workers remain in place](#). We recognize that COVID-19 is still with us, and will be with us for the foreseeable future, so we need to continue to monitor and to take measures we know to protect ourselves and others, stay vigilant on hand hygiene and stay home when ill. Masks will continue to be made available at entrances for those who choose to wear them.

What has changed?

- Universal masking at healthcare settings is no longer required; however, medical masks continue to be available at entrances and we will support those who choose to wear them.
- Visitor restrictions are no longer in effect.
- Entrance screening for respiratory symptoms, vaccination status of visitors and enforcing universal masking are no longer in effect.
- Rapid Access Testing at long-term care and assisted living settings will not be required.
- There will be changes related to COVID-19-specific return to work guidance, outbreak guidance, viral respiratory illness surveillance, among others. This will take time to implement throughout all health authorities.

We appreciate that some have varying comfort levels. As such, respecting and supporting individual choices around masking and personal space will be important.

Highlighting Research

Featured Researcher

In every newsletter we highlight an outstanding researcher or trainee to share their work to improve the lives and well-being of all across the lifespan.



Who are you?

I am Dr. S. Evelyn Stewart, a child and adolescent psychiatrist, and a clinical and neuroscience researcher. I am a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the founding director of the BC Children's Hospital (BCCH) Provincial Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Clinic and Research Program. I am also a principal investigator of the BCMHSUS RI, and the Research Director for BCCH Child, Youth and Reproductive Mental Health program, and a member of the BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services Research Institute. I lead the Brain, Behaviour & Development Theme at the BCCH Research Institute.

What are you working on?

I am currently working on several projects. These include a mix-methods study on COVID impacts on youth and young adult mental health, and OCD clinical trials for celecoxib (Anti-inflammatory), and group family-based CBT. We have undertaken biomarker studies examining epigenetics and peripheral inflammatory markers pre and post treatment. We are also continuing longstanding examinations of stress and family factors in OCD, including the potential role of childhood trauma. Finally, collaborative work with other BCMHSUS researchers includes studies of biased against disconfirmatory evidence in OCD vs Eating Disorders and of a naturalistic viewing paradigm in OCD.

Who are you working with?

As noted above I have several collaborations with PHSA and BCMHSUS. These include projects with Jehannine Austin, Tamara Vanderwal, Todd Woodward, Jennifer Coelho, Clare Beasley, and Roberto Sassi among others.

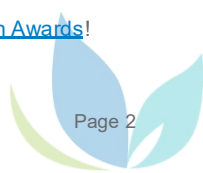
Why this project?

I am working on the above projects to advance knowledge of treatment interventions and long-term course, in addition to their potential predictors in children, youth, and young adults.

Fun fact:

I am looking forward to returning to in person work at BCMHSUS now that the pandemic has resolved. However, I will be leaving home two puppies, Cedar and Waldo who joined our family during the shutdown!

Dr. Evelyn Stewart was recently nominated for the [2023 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards!](#)



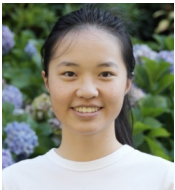
Recent Publications from BCMHSUS Researchers

- **Fear of COVID-19 is associated with trust, subjective numeracy, and differentially with loneliness in older versus younger adults.** Chung AF, Teasell MJ, Pergher V, Thornton AE, Thornton WL. *Frontiers in Psychology*. [Read more](#)
- **Movement disorders associated with substance use in adults living in precarious housing or homelessness.** Kim DD, Procyshyn RM, Jones AA, Lee LHN, Panenka WJ, Stubbs JL, Cho LL, Leonova O, Gicas K, Thornton AE, Lang DJ, MacEwan GW, Honer WG, Barr AM. *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry*. [Read more](#)
- **A Systematic Review of Music Interventions to Support Parent-Child Attachment.** Newman LJ, Stewart SE, Freeman NC, Thompson G. *Journal of Music Therapy*. [Read more](#)
- **A scoping review of psychiatric conditions associated with chronic pain in the homeless and marginally housed population.** Rintoul K, Song E, McLellan-Carich R, Schjelderup ENR, Barr AM. *Frontiers in Pain Research*. [Read more](#)
- **Prevalence and correlates of lifetime suicide attempt in obsessive-compulsive disorder with major depression.** Samuels J, Bienvenu OJ, Krasnow J, Grados MA, Cullen BA, Goes FS, McLaughlin NC, Rasmussen SA, Fyer AJ, Knowles JA, McCracken JT, Geller D, Riddle MA, Piacentini J, Stewart SE, Greenberg BD, Nestadt G, Nestadt P. *Journal of Psychiatric Research*. [Read more](#)
- **Parent Management Training Augmentation to Address Coercive and Disruptive Behavior in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Pediatric Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.** Schuberth DA, McMahon RJ, Best JR, McKenney K, Selles R, Stewart SE. *Child Psychiatry & Human Development*. [Read more](#)
- **The American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Diagnostic Criteria for Mild Traumatic Brain Injury.** Silverberg ND, Iverson GL, Cogan A, Dams-O'Connor K, Delmonico R, Graf MJP, Iaccarino ...Panenka WJ, et al. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. [Read more](#)
- **Age-specific determinants of psychiatric outcomes after the first COVID-19 wave: baseline findings from a Canadian online cohort study.** Stewart SE, Best J, Selles R, Naqqash Z, Lin B, Lu C, Au A, Snell G, Westwell-Roper C, Vallani T, Ewing E, Dogra K, Doan Q, Samji H. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Mental Health*. [Read more](#)
- **Healthcare utilisation and costs associated with adherence to antipsychotics among people living with HIV/AIDS and schizophrenia: a population-based cohort study in British Columbia, Canada.** Subedi S, Nanditha NGA, Tafessu HM, Nathani H, St-Jean M, Elefante J, Patterson TL, Honer WG, Montaner JSG, Lima VD. *BMJ Open*. [Read more](#)
- **Clozapine Optimization: A Delphi Consensus Guideline From the Treatment Response and Resistance in Psychosis Working Group.** Wagner E, Siskind D, Falkai P, Howes O, Correll C, Lee J, Honer WG, Kane JM, Fernandez-Egea E, Barnes TRE, Hasan A; TRIP Working Group. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*. [Read more](#)
- **Evaluating the psychosocial status of BC children and youth during the COVID-19 pandemic: A MyHEARTSMAP cross-sectional study.** Woodward ML, Hossain A, Chun A, Liu C, Kilyk K, Bone JN, Meckler G, Black T, Stewart SE, Samji H, Barbic S, Doan Q. *PLoS One*. [Read more](#)

Awards, Grants & Honours

Welcome to our 2023 Summer Studentship recipients!

Every year, BCMHSUS Research invites students to apply for our research summer studentships in research areas working to improve the well-being of people at risk of or experiencing mental health or substance use issues. More info and how to apply can be found on our [website](#).



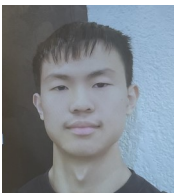
Mido Luo (Supervisor Dr. Alasdair Barr)

Mido is an incoming third year pharmacology student at UBC. Outside of her studies, she can be found reading, cooking, and enjoying the great outdoors. Mido looks forward to studying the neuropharmacology of antipsychotic drugs with Dr. Barr this summer! She is currently a clinical research assistant at BC Children's and an editor for the Canadian Journal of Undergraduate Research.



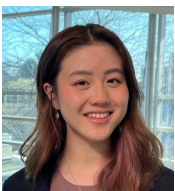
Zoe Kortje (Supervisor Dr. Donna Lang)

Currently a third-year undergraduate student at Queen's University, Zoe is completing a Bachelors degree majoring in Life Sciences. She aims to continue her education so that she may work in a field focussed on bettering mental health outcomes in marginalized communities. Zoe hopes to specialize in an area of medicine that will allow her to integrate her clinical knowledge into continued research on mental health and substance abuse.



Zhangyu Yang (Supervisor Dr. Todd Woodward)

Zhangyu has recently graduated with an undergraduate degree in Honours Physics from UBC. During his studies, he had the pleasure of working with Professor Woodward on his Honours thesis. Zhangyu is excited to have the opportunity to continue working with Professor Woodward to explore the prediction of delusions from functional brain activity. He is looking forward to the fantastic learning opportunities and experiences this Summer.



Kaitlin Law (Supervisor Dr. Clare Beasley)

Kaitlin is a third year undergraduate student studying Biotechnology and she will be working in the Beasley Lab for the Summer. Outside of the lab, she likes to spend time doing embroidery and polymer clay making and whenever she has free time, she tries to do something artsy. Kaitlin would love to get to meet everyone working here so feel free to say hi!

Awards, Grants & Honours

Congratulations to Dr. Todd Woodward on receiving an NSERC Discovery Grant

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) has awarded Dr. Woodward their 2023-2028 Discovery Grant for his project entitled "fMRI-detectable brain networks involved in working memory in humans". Please join us in congratulating him for this accomplishment!

Congratulations Dr. Clayon Hamilton, Knowledge Exchange Lead at BCMHSUS!

A team led by Clayon has been awarded a CIHR-IMHA Inclusive Research Excellence Prize in the category of Patient Engagement. This competitive prize of \$25,000, recognizes the international impact of evidence-based tools they developed to promote meaningful patient engagement in research. BCMHSUS is using these tools, the Patient Engagement in Research Scale (PEIRS-22) and the PEIR Framework, in a learning series to build capacity for applying a patient-oriented research approach within the BCMHSUS research community.

Research Opportunities

Become a Member of the BCMHSUS Research Institute

Are you interested in research? Join us as we expand our research community and connect those interested in and/or doing research focused on improving the health, wellbeing, and health care for British Columbians at risk for or experiencing mental health and/or substance use issues and those involved with the criminal justice system.

Become a **Community Partner** if you are interested in learning more about research and opportunities to participate in research or research events. Our member consists of clinicians, students and persons with lived experience from across the province.

If you are engaged in research relevant to BCMHSUS and its programs/populations or have significant engagement in a research program that is closely aligned with a BCMHSUS researcher, join our **BCMHSUS Research Affiliate Investigator** membership. Applications for this category are reviewed and approved by the Executive Director, BCMHSUS Research.

All of our members are eligible to receive the BCMHSUS Research Institute newsletter and attend organized research activities. You may opt out of receiving this information at any time.

For more information about BCMHSUS Research and these new opportunities to participate in research, visit our [Become a Member](#) page on the website which includes links to the applications.

[Contact us](#) if you have any questions!



Advancing Virtual Primary Care for People with Opioid Use Disorder

Having recently launched their recruitment phase, this study explores how the rapid introduction of virtual health care during COVID-19 has affected primary care access and patient outcomes for people with opioid use disorder

Interested individuals would participate in interviews to explore accessibility, impact on quality of care and experiences with accessing opiate agonist therapies and treatment for co-occurring conditions. Participants may be compensated for their time.

1. Persons with lived/living experience with receiving care for opioid use disorder (19 years and older)
2. Primary care professionals (i.e., family physicians and nurse practitioners) who provide these services

For more information, please contact the Principal Investigator Dr. Lindsay Hedden lindsay_hedden@sfu.ca or Sarah Spencer sarah_spencer@sfu.ca.

Please feel free to share this opportunity with others.

New Office Hours!

The REDCap coordinator for mental health-related projects, Leo Goudal, will be hosting virtual Office Hours dedicated to BCMHSUS affiliated researchers every Tuesday from 11am – 12pm PST. Drop by to ask any questions related to REDCap and how it can support your research projects!

Please complete this [interest survey](#) or click the recurring Zoom link below to join!
<https://ubc.zoom.us/j/62738391513?pwd=REFxWXNDUWUvd0NqeHR5WmxSekYzUT09>



Resources:

- Come by [BCMHSUS REDCap Office Hours](#) to get started!
- Ready to [request a REDCap project](#)?
- Visit our [REDCap HUB](#) for tutorials on specific features
- Check out our [REDCap Tips & Tricks](#) updated weekly
- Questions? Email redcap@bcchr.ca

Looking for awards and scholarships?

Check out UBC's [Directory of Award Opportunities!](#)

An extensive directory of external research prizes and award opportunities available to researchers in all career stages and disciplines.

You can also find a list of [Teaching and Service Awards](#), as well as [Graduate Awards and Scholarships](#).

For any inquiries, please contact research.prizes@ubc.ca.



The Knowledge Exchange

Knowledge Exchange on Reader Board (KERB) Project

By Clayton Hamilton, Knowledge Exchange Lead, BCMHSUS



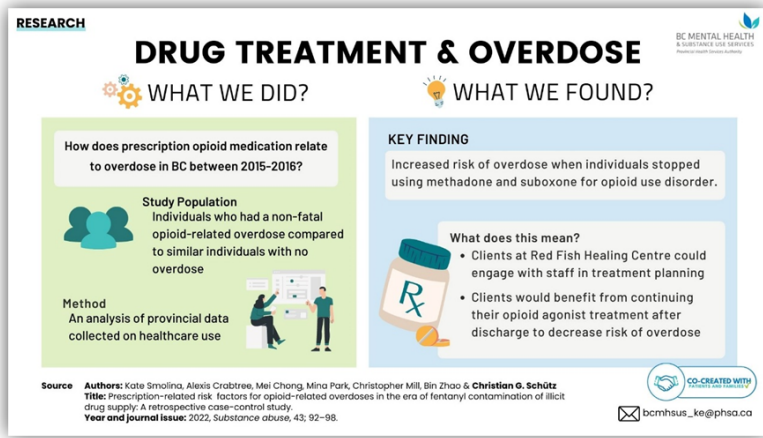
"Advancing a culture of learning, innovating, and sharing knowledge"

"Enhancing connections to optimize communication, collaboration, and impact of mental health and substance use research across BC"

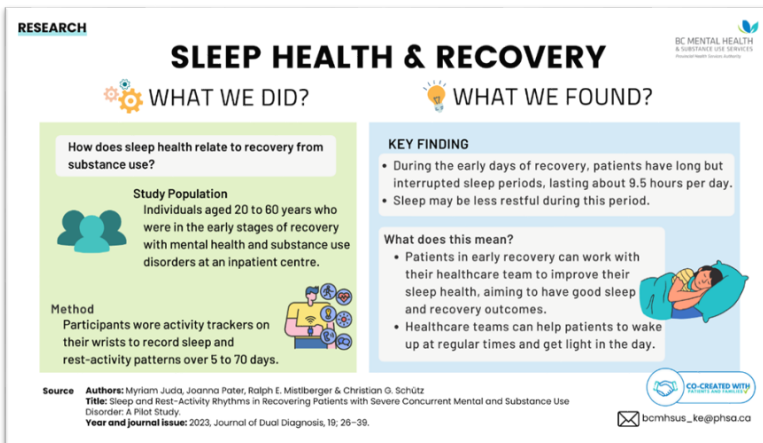
Knowledge Exchange on Reader Boards (KERB) is a new project that shares research done by and at BCMHSUS through easy-to-understand infographics. It takes key messages from research and breaks them down, making them easy to understand.

KERB is a collaboration between various partners to raise awareness and interest about research involving BCMHSUS researchers, clinicians, clients, and leaders. It does this through activities like putting infographics like the ones below on large TV monitors called Reader Boards at sites like the [Red Fish Healing Centre](#). Our current team includes three patient partners, a director of inter-professional practice, an advisor of patient experience and community engagement, and a knowledge exchange lead. So far we have produced two infographics from work involving [Dr. Christian Schütz](#).

[See the research paper](#) related to this infographic.



[See the research paper](#) related to this infographic.



Our project team member with lived experiences of mental health and/or substance use issues, are helping to create infographics in a way that is suitable for clients. The initial roll-out of KERB is part of a larger plan at BCMHSUS to find innovative ways to communicate research in plain language across BCMHSUS clinical areas and sites. In particular, we will share:

- Recently published research,
- Ongoing research, and
- Research-related activities co-designed with patients as partners.

Connect with the Knowledge Exchange Leads in the Strategic Initiatives Team at BCMHSUS_KE@phsa.ca to learn more about KERB and other Knowledge Translation and Exchange efforts. Perhaps you have a project we can support!

Patient & Family Engagement

“Patient and Family Engagement 101” Sessions for Researchers and Other Healthcare Partners

By Sandy Tedjasubrata, Advisor, Patient Experience and Community Engagement, BCMHSUS



The [BCMHSUS Patient and Family Engagement 101 Sessions](#) aims to provide research teams and other healthcare partners the knowledge and tools needed to meaningfully partner with people with lived experience. These sessions are designed for teams and individuals who are interested in engaging patient and family partners, so that work is done in close collaboration with those who it will directly impact.

Topics in this first series include an introduction to engagement, planning your engagement, implementing your engagement, and culturally safe engagement – all of which may help inform the engagement process as you involve patients, clients and family partners in your research.

[Register on LearningHub](#) for our next session and to join our monthly one-hour webinars. A calendar invite will be sent closer to the session. Don't forget to connect with the Patient Experience and Community Engagement team at engage_bcmhsus@phsa.ca if you are interested in:

- **Co-facilitating a future session** to incorporate concepts regarding patient-oriented research as we continue to design future sessions
- **Sharing your research** in how you have engaged patients, clients and/or family partners
- **Learning more** about how to meaningfully engage patient and family partners in your research from resources such as the [BCMHSUS Patient and Family Engagement Framework](#)

Upcoming Events

Wrapped up for the Summer!

The Provincial Mental Health and Substance Use Rounds and The Provincial Mental Health and Substance Use Rounds ECHO have wrapped up for the Summer.

Did you miss a session?

For full details, recordings of past rounds and upcoming schedule, please visit the BCMHSUS Provincial Learning Rounds [website](#).
Fall 2023 series details coming soon!

The next ECHO series will launch Fall 2023. For more information and schedule please visit the ECHO [website](#) later this summer!

Thank you for joining our Learning Rounds and ECHO sessions this spring!

