

## DEPARTMENT COVID-19 UPDATE #20 - June 16th, 2020

*On behalf of Nick Kates, Chair, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences –*

### RESEARCH UPDATE (from Margaret McKinnon)

#### Limited resumption of some hospital-based research activities

We also learned this week that our core hospital partners, HHS and SJHH, will not be taking the same phase-based return to research as McMaster University. Instead, priority will be given to patient needs, the conservation of our 30-day supply of PPE, and the need to reduce overall foot traffic in the hospitals. Limited allowances have been made for the execution of existing clinical trials and for the return to some lab-based activities. It remains the case that all research activities that can be performed at home (e.g., meetings, data analysis, manuscript preparation) must be. Face-to-face contacts with research participants remain prohibited, with the exception of those being allowed in some on-going clinical trials.

Unlike the University, the hospitals are not requiring formal applications for return to those research activities outlined in the attached documents; these activities can resume if conditions are met. **There is no need to apply for additional approvals from the Department or FHS if your research is being performed at a hospital site and meets the host hospital's conditions for resumption of research.** SJHH's policies regarding the resumption of these limited research activities can be found at: <https://research.stjoes.ca/COVID-19>. We have also attached an update from HHS.

**Can you let the Research Office ([akerkhof@mcmaster.ca](mailto:akerkhof@mcmaster.ca); [mmckinno@stjoes.ca](mailto:mmckinno@stjoes.ca)) know if you have staff or students onsite performing research duties at SJHH and/ or HHS.** We can also provide you with the standard operating procedures drafted by Jonathan Bramson, that outline the expectations that McMaster Faculty members are expected to follow in relation to their students and staff performing on-site research activities. Researchers are reminded to have in place a plan for a quick withdrawal should a second wave of the pandemic occur.

If you have any further questions about research-related activities at SJHH or HHS, please do not hesitate to reach out to us or to Katie Porter at HHS ([porter\\_k@hhsc.ca](mailto:porter_k@hhsc.ca)) or Gail Martin at SJHH ([gmartin@stjoes.ca](mailto:gmartin@stjoes.ca)).

#### Funding announcements

CIHR and its tri-council partners made two major funding announcements this week. The first was made to provide additional support for Canadian researchers, research trainees, and research support personnel affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, by topping up eligible grants. The approach taken to distribution of these funds will differ across funding agencies. NSERC's message can be found [here](#); CIHR's message can be found [here](#); SSHRC's message can be found [here](#).

CIHR also announced a new operating grant funding opportunity: COVID-19 Mental Health and Substance Use Service Needs and Delivery. The registration deadline for this competition is June 18, 2020. Additional details can be found at: [Learn more](#)

Our next **Research Town Hall** will be held Wednesday, June 24 at 4:00pm. These town halls, held biweekly, afford the opportunity for our research community to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on researchers and research activity and to problem solve together. In addition, the Research Office is available to answer any questions you may have. Research Town Halls are open to all faculty, staff, and learners in the Department. The Research Town Hall on June 24 can be accessed at the following Zoom link [here](#)

Nick