

## Department COVID-19 Research Update #2

Kerkhof, Alison

**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 9:04 AM

**Attachments:** Animal Facility Directive ~1.pdf (182 KB) ; Update from the VPR March 17.pdf (47 KB)

*Message sent on behalf of the Research Office, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences*

Dear all,

In addition to the major changes in research process and procedures announced jointly by McMaster, SJHH and HHS yesterday (outlined in Nick's most recent Update to the Department and attached here), a number of other COVID-19-related research questions have emerged. We have responded to these questions below.

Please note that these research updates are now being posted in the Research section of the Department's website along with any associated documents.

### **1) I am engaged in work with non-human animals housed at McMaster University. What are the continuity plans for care of these animals? Am I able to continue this work over the period of pandemic response?**

We are in receipt of McMaster's **Plan for Animal-Based Research** during the COVID-19 pandemic from Dr. Kathy Delany, University Veterinarian at McMaster (please see attached guidance document).

Dr. Delany advises further:

*At this point we will be continuing all our regular care but there is an expectation that the Lab staff and students continue their involvement as well provided they are not ill and follow all directives for hospital entry( CAF site).*

*Marion Corrick is the point of contact for the staff rather than the individual staff members.*

Marion can be reached at 905-525-9140, ext 22564 or at [corricm@mcmaster.ca](mailto:corricm@mcmaster.ca).

### **2) Much of my work relies on REDCap. Will its functioning be maintained over the course of the pandemic?**

Doug Campbell from the Research Institute at St. Joe's advises that:

*REDCap should not be affected by the pandemic, unless the hospital loses electrical or internet connectivity, which is very unlikely.*

*REDCap also has the capacity to print PDF versions of any instruments or surveys should you need to administer them manually for urgent clinical or research purposes.*

### **3) How will critical research functions, such as monitoring of storage freezers, be maintained?**

Gail Martins of the Research Institute at St. Joe's advises that critical research functions will be co-ordinated by individual Departments and research units.

Laboratory space (former BBI) at the Charlton Campus is overseen by the Research Manager, Sylvia Chong. She can be reached at: [schong@stjoes.ca](mailto:schong@stjoes.ca).

Essential functions at the West 5th laboratory are now being performed by a post-doctoral fellow under the direction of Flavio Kapczinski and Bencio Frey.

Gail reminds staff, learners and faculty that:

*essential presence will be for a limited time and once essential functions are done individuals would be able to remove themselves from the premises.*

In addition, we have been in close contact with the Central Animal Facility at McMaster regarding animal-based research at MUMC and in the Department of Psychology and a call will be held with Associate Dean Jonathan Bramson tomorrow morning to discuss further MUMC-related research issues.

While the Department can **assist faculty members** with the development of plans for the maintenance of critical functions in their laboratory spaces, and in the development of contingency plans, it is ultimately the **responsibility of individual researchers and research teams** to ensure, for example, that biological samples are properly maintained, equipment, such as freezers, are properly monitored, vital supplies are delivered, and animal care regulations and procedures are closely adhered to.

**Please contact the Research Office ([kerkhofa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:kerkhofa@mcmaster.ca); [mmckinno@stjoes.ca](mailto:mmckinno@stjoes.ca)) if you require additional assistance with a COVID-19 research-related matter.**

**Margaret C. McKinnon, PhD, CPsych** | Homewood Chair in Mental Health and Trauma | Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Research | Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences | McMaster University

Research Lead, Mental Health and Addictions | St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton | Senior Scientist | Homewood Research Institute

### **Alison Kerkhof**

Administrative Assistant, AFP and Research

Department of Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences  
c/o St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton | West 5th Campus  
Psychiatry Academic Offices | 3rd Floor | Room B338  
100 West 5th Street | Hamilton ON | L8N 3K7

email: [kerkhofa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:kerkhofa@mcmaster.ca)

web: <https://psychiatry.mcmaster.ca/>