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## News from the RHSRNbc Office

### **Dear RHSRNbc members,**

We hope that this month's newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. Following the BC government directives for COVID-19, the University of British Columbia remains operational, but access to campus is restricted. Kindly note that the Rural Health Services Research Network is working remotely until further notice. The best way to reach us is via [email](#).

The RHSRNbc team is diligently working on planning for a virtual symposium on **Nov 30th - Dec 1st, 2020** on '*Planning resilient communities and adapting Rural Health Services in BC: a response to climate change and ecosystem disruption*'. Please Save the Date on your calendars!

In this edition of our newsletter, we update on the network's activities, upcoming events, research, funding and volunteer opportunities, online resources, recent rural research publications and more.

Have a wonderful week and stay safe!

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## **Activity Updates**

RHSRNbc, in partnership with the Rural Coordination Centre of BC, is hosting a research symposium on '*Planning Resilient Communities and Adapting Rural Health Services in British Columbia: Responding to climate change and ecosystem disruption*' on Nov 30th - Dec 1st, 2020. Please see the [symposium event page](#) for symposium goals, agenda, registration information and more.



**SAVE *the* DATE!**

Virtual Symposium

**Planning Resilient Communities and Adapting Rural Health Services in British Columbia:**  
Responding to climate change and ecosystem disruption

November 30<sup>th</sup> - December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020

**Register now!**

RH RNBc  
Rural Health Services  
Research Network of BC

The poster features a teal background with a white hexagonal grid pattern. It includes several small images: a mountain landscape, a close-up of a rock face, and a modern building. The text is centered in a white rounded rectangle.

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## Podcasts



The Centre for Rural Health Research at UBC is pleased to announce our latest podcast episode in the *Citizen-Patient Engagement mini-series*, all about rural patients in British Columbia engaging in health care research, advocacy, and improvement processes.

In this week's episode, we sit down with Ed Staples and Nienke Klaver of the BC Rural Health Network, a patient-run grassroots initiative including groups from 24 communities across rural BC with an aim to amplify patient voices and priorities.

You can find out more about our podcast programming along with past and future episodes on our [website](#). You can also subscribe to the CRHR Podcast on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), or [SoundCloud](#) to automatically stay up-to-date with new episodes.

The Centre for Rural Health Research team.

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## Surveys

### Engagement survey

If you are interested in spotlighting rural health workers, community members working on community health initiatives, or if you want to feature a personal story, pictures or other opportunities, please fill out this [survey](#). We would love to feature it in the next newsletter.

## Rural Research Opportunities

### 2020 BC Rural Health Research Exchange (BCRHRX)

**Date: November 18, 2020 (8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)**

**[Call for presenters and general registration now open](#)**

The inaugural BC Rural Health Research Exchange is a virtual half-day event filled with brief rapid-style presentations designed to inform, engage and share current rural research in British Columbia. This is not your Grandparents' stodgy academic conference (elbow patches and tweed jackets are optional)! At this event, we want to find out together: "What sort of rural research is happening in BC?"

But wait, it gets better. The 2020 BCRHRX also provides an opportunity to engage patient-, indigenous- and community partners to identify current rural research gaps, collaborate, and co-produce future research directions.

Researchers, clinicians and trainees (students) from across BC will present their ongoing and/or completed rural health research in a concise, visually interesting and rapid presentation style.

For more information, visit: [here](#)

**NOV 18, 2020**

**BCRHR**  
BC RURAL HEALTH  
RESEARCH EXCHANGE

The logo for BCRHR features the letters 'BCRHR' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'BC' is green, 'RHR' is grey, and the final 'R' is blue. To the right of the 'R' are two arrows: one green pointing up and to the right, and one blue pointing down and to the right.

[COVID-19 Research Updates](#)

Researchers across the province are involved in the fight to end the ongoing pandemic. Listed below is a shortlist of COVID-19 related rural, remote and Indigenous research projects and trials in British Columbia. Click [here](#) to see more studies.

*Rural Community Responses to COVID-19*

Lead Investigator and organization: Jude Kornelson, UBC

*Virtual maternity care needs; Assessment of practitioner needs for providing virtual maternity care*

Lead Investigator and organization: Jude Kornelson, UBC

*Understanding the Experience of Rural Maternity Care Providers During the COVID-19 Response in British Columbia*

Lead Investigator and organization: Trina Fyfe, UNBC

*Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on individuals with SCI and rehabilitation services in urban and rural settings*

Lead Investigator and organization: Andrei V. Krassioukov, UBC

*Challenges and Technology Use among Rural Community Residents during COVID-19 Pandemic*

Lead Investigator and organization: Kathy Rush, UBC-O

*Pandemic experiences and impacts of COVID-19 on the mental health of Indigenous communities*

Lead Investigator and organization: Alanaise Goodwill, Simon Fraser University

*Tsilhqot'in Solutions to COVID-19; Indigenous Solutions to COVID-19 and Recognition in Canadian Law*

Lead Investigator and organization: Jocelyn Stacey, UBC

## Funding Opportunities

*Rural physician research grants*

The Rural Physician Research Support Project is a new initiative that supports rural physicians to pursue innovative rural research and knowledge translation that contributes to advancing rural health in BC. Eligible rural physician-researchers can receive research grants of up to \$10,000. To apply for this opportunity, please download the application forms from the [website](#) and submit it to [apeltonen@rccbc.ca](mailto:apeltonen@rccbc.ca).

**Deadline:** October 31, 2020

*Rural global health partnership initiative*

The Rural Global Health Partnership Initiative (RGHPI) is a new program that supports partnerships between BC physicians or medical trainees committed to rural service, and lower resource communities in BC, Canada, and 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@rccbc.ca](mailto:apeltonen@rccbc.ca).

**Deadline:** October 31, 2020

*New Frontiers in Research Fund (NFRF)*

The Exploration grants, funded by the government of Canada, fund high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary research

**Deadline:** October 20, 2020.

*REAP's Rural Leadership Development Program*

We are currently accepting applications from rural physicians who are pursuing formalized leadership training. In addition to funding up to \$15,000 to cover expenses, participants are offered a mentoring opportunity with a rural

leader.

**Deadline:** October 31, 2020.

### [Quality Team Coaching for Rural BC](#)

In Quality Team Coaching for Rural BC (QTC4RBC), rural healthcare teams work with a coach to identify values and priorities, develop collective and individual skills, and access resources to build a culture of safety, learning, and quality leading to positive patient and provider experiences and high-quality care.

**Deadline:** October 30, 2020

For more information, please contact: [apeltonen@rccbc.ca](mailto:apeltonen@rccbc.ca)

### [RCC's New Rural Physician CME Program](#)

Beginning January 1, 2020, the New Rural Physician CME Program will offer funding for new rural physicians to attend rurally-relevant events.

## Events

### [The Climate Emergency: Diagnosis and Management \(Oct 30, 2020\)](#)

The World Health Organization has stated that the climate crisis is the biggest health concern of the 21st century--and the Lancet has said that fighting climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity. If we do not make major changes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next 10 years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts catastrophic effects on the environment and human health. This conference will inspire us all in our health care roles to better understand these issues and advocate for necessary systemic change. Early registration closes on **Oct 13, 2020**.



“You come to work in a clinic or office most days -- but how do you make the climate crisis visible? Easy-peasy! Does your office have magazines? A noticeboard? Pictures on the wall? Leaflets? A counter? You can make your office into a firestorm (oops -- sorry!) of info, that will flood (oops again!) patients with news and ideas about the world's biggest crisis. And that's just the beginning!”

- by Dr. Warren Bell

### [October Seminar Series by Health Research Institute](#)

The Rural Coordinator Centre of BC Site Visits Project – an exercise in advocacy for rural health systems change through rural community engagement and the gathering and analysis of massive amounts of qualitative data”

**Date:** October 22, 2020 2:30pm – 4:00pm

**Speaker:** [Dr. David Snadden](#) | Professor, Northern Medical Program

### [Public Health 2020 conference by Canadian Public Health Association \(Oct 14-16, 2020\)](#)

Anyone who is interested in improving the health and well-being of the entire population should be attending this conference. Public Health 2020 is the meeting place for a wide range of disciplines and sectors, at various career stages, all striving for a common goal. The conference may be of particular interest to academics and researchers; students/trainees; policy-makers, administrators and managers; health promotion workers; front-line public health workers; media; people working in urban, rural, remote and small communities and anyone with an interest in public health.

Registration closes on **Oct 13, 2020**

### [World Health Summit 2020 \(October 25th-27th, 2020, Online\)](#)

The World Health Summit is a three-day summit that brings together international leaders in health from academia, government, the private sector, and civil society to find solutions to the world's biggest health challenges. Usually, the summit takes place in Berlin, but this year it will be held virtually, free of charge.

### [29th Annual Rural and Remote Medicine Course \(April 22-24, 2021, Niagara Falls\)](#)

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada has postponed their 29th Annual Rural and Remote Medicine course to April 22-24th, 2021 in Niagara Falls, ON. Read a statement from Peter Hutten-Czapski, Scientific Editor for the Canadian Journal for Rural Medicine [here](#).

### [8th International Symposium: Safety & Health in Agricultural, Rural & Remote Populations \(SHARP\)](#)

**Save the Date:** Oct 17-20, 2021

## [Online Resources](#)

- [Preventing COVID-19 Infection in the Workplace](#): *This course is offered by UBC.*
- [Social justice terminology](#) online resource from the University of Colorado.
- [BC AHSN: COVID-19 Research Inventory](#): *BC AHSN offers a repository of COVID-19 related research undertaken in BC*
- [Free Mental Health Support for BC residents](#): *UBCO collaborates with BCPA and province to offer psychological first-aid service*
- [Data Access Support Hub \(DASH\)](#): *DASH is an access portal for Canadian jurisdictional data for researchers.*
- [Evidence related to Rural and Remote Health](#): Evidence bundle offered by CADTH

## [Recent Publications](#)

- [Planning Resilient Communities and Adapting Rural Health Services in British Columbia: A response to climate change and ecosystem disruption](#)

# Chapter One Now available!

## Planning Resilient Communities and Adapting Rural Health Services in British Columbia: Responding to climate change and ecosystem disruption

Access Chapter 1: <http://hdl.handle.net/2429/75806>



- [Planetary Health Competencies Curriculum Evaluation](#)
- [The Canadian Journal of Rural Medicine](#) - Oct-Dec 2020 Issue
- [Out-of-Pocket costs report for rural residents travelling for healthcare](#) by the Centre for Rural Health Research
- [Out-of-Pocket cost Survey](#) infographic by the Centre for Rural Health Research

## Volunteer Opportunities

### [COVID-19 volunteering opportunities in Canada](#)

Resource connects Canadian students, academics, and technical staff and trainees from relevant programs to volunteer opportunities to address the impacts of COVID-19 across Canada.

### [Canadian Red Cross](#)

Diverse volunteer experiences with the Canadian Red Cross, including helping Canadians during times of emergency or disaster, as well as working on committees and project teams.

### [Volunteer BC COVID-10 Resource Page](#)

List of resources on how to safely volunteer in BC during the time of COVID-19.

### [Volunteer Canada](#)

Includes a list of volunteer opportunities during COVID-19, and how to stay safe and volunteer.

## Employment Opportunities

- Research Assistant: Environmental Contaminants and Health in Vulnerable Populations - [More information](#)



Twitter



Website

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**Rural Coordination  
Centre of BC**



Enhancing rural health through education and advocacy

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