The UBC Department of Pediatrics, Division of Translational Therapeutics invites applications for a Research Associate to join a multidisciplinary translational research program with specific goals to improve pediatric drug safety and effectiveness by translating pharmacogenomics research into clinical practice.

The candidate will lead projects that have used state of the art genotyping and sequencing platforms to identify the genetic determinants of severe adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in pediatric and adult populations; and in turn develop strategies to make these findings meaningful and implemented into clinical practice. As part of the Canadian Pharmacogenomics Network for Drug Safety (CPNDS), the candidate in this position will be responsible for the implementation and facilitation of pharmacogenetic tests in patient care settings, such as the ongoing research focused on severe cutaneous adverse events (SCAR). In addition, this position is responsible for assisting in the clinical interpretation of pharmacogenetic tests and developing standardized documentation for resulting therapeutic recommendations.

Current foci include but are not limited to: drug-induced serious skin reactions, the genomic basis of adverse events associated with SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. All pharmacogenomics and vaccinomics research projects include knowledge translation components to implement pharmacogenetic testing in clinical practice.

Specific duties will include:
1. Co-supervision of graduate students and pragmatic assistance to help trainees with the development of research proposals, analysis plans, manuscript preparation.
2. Lead and maintain the genomic panel development and implementation of pharmacogenetic testing for severe cutaneous adverse reactions.
3. Lead the development of educational material pertaining to the clinical interpretation of pharmacogenetic testing.
4. Provide guidance for phenotypic characterization of data as it pertains to ongoing CPNDS projects.
5. Become a CIHR Junior Investigator with attendant responsibilities of the associated Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network team grant.
6. Travel on behalf of CPNDS to national and international meetings.
7. Support clinical pharmacology consultations as part of the Division of Translational Therapeutics’ clinical mandate so as to further develop clinical impacts of the Division.
8. Apply for grant funding to support research projects and the sustainability of the CPNDS network.
The successful candidate will have a PhD, with at least 3 years of postdoctoral fellowship experience in clinical pharmacology. Research experience with pharmacogenomics, pharmacokinetics, medical genetics, pharmacology, immunology and adverse drug reactions is required. A minimum of two years of experience in laboratory research involving HLA sequencing, genotyping, genotyping platform development, and being familiar with diagnostic tools of drug hypersensitivity, particularly in vitro lymphocyte toxicity assay, in vitro lymphocyte transformation test, and ex vivo assays.

The applicant should also demonstrate the ability to work independently, supervise graduate and undergraduate students, have a good publication record, and be able to conceive, initiate, organize and manage a multitude of projects. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are a necessity as well as the ability to work in a team environment. Experience working with large, multi-center projects is an asset.

The position will begin ASAP. This is a one-year term appointment subject to annual renewal. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

UBC Faculty of Medicine

Please submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae, a statement of areas of expertise and strengths and the names of three referees, no later than 30 days after posting to:

Dr. Bruce Carleton
A3-207 – 950 West 28th Ave
BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute
Vancouver, BC
V5Z 4H4

admin@popi.ubc.ca

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority.