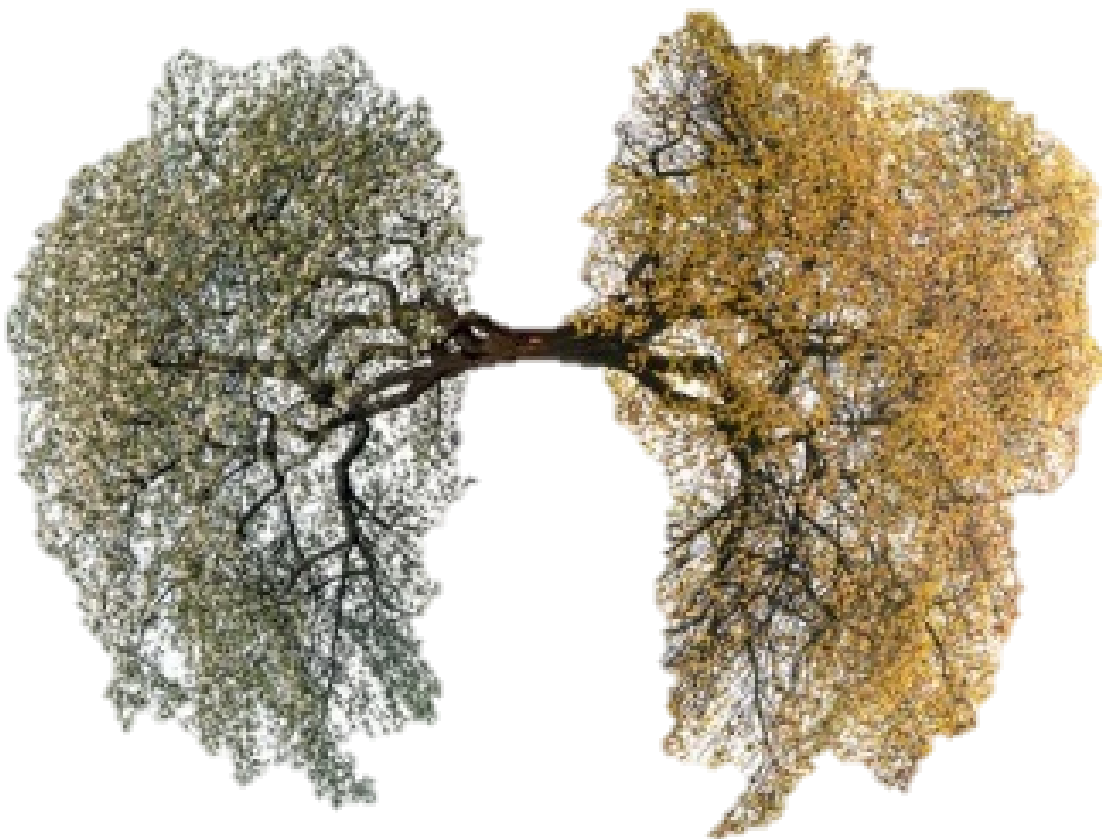


*Respiratory Research Centre*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

*We are pleased to provide you with our 2020-21 Annual Report, which outlines the respiratory health research and knowledge translation activities conducted by the Respiratory Research Centre (RRC) between July 2020 and June 2021.*

*RRC members have demonstrated remarkable resilience throughout the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of these challenges, RRC members have continued to advance respiratory health through our research funding initiatives, education, and engagement. We are particularly grateful for the leadership and expertise of our clinical members on the front lines of the health care system and extend our thanks for their tireless efforts. We also applaud the Lung Association of Saskatchewan for their exemplary efforts in the areas of advocacy and public education supporting lung health.*

*The RRC successfully completed a James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership on Adult Obstructive Sleep Apnea in early 2021 and generated a patient- and clinician-centred agenda for research and public education on this important topic. Our patient and community partners were integral to this process and we thank all who participated in*

*the first priority-setting partnership in the province of Saskatchewan. In addition to public presentations on Obstructive Sleep Apnea and COVID-19, a series of knowledge translation videos are being produced.*

*In June, 2020, a Town Hall was held to engage RRC stakeholders in visioning future directions for our centre. Thanks to all who contributed their important insights to our planning, which has been pivotal to continuing to advance our mission.*

*We are excited to continue implementing our mission and expanding our methods for engaging with patients and families, community agencies, policy makers, and the academic community as we move into the next year. I am grateful for the ongoing support of the Executive Committee. Finally, the work of the RRC would not be possible without Britney Duncan, Research Coordinator of the RRC, who ensures our many initiatives are successful.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Goodridge".

**DONNA GOODRIDGE**

*Director, Respiratory Research Centre*

# GOVERNANCE

The RRC is governed by the Executive Committee which comprised of the Director and 4 academic/research members. The primary role of the Committee is the design and development of activities which align with the RRC's research mandate. This includes the development and implement strategies to foster interdisciplinary research and promotion of public awareness and engagement of external partners.



**For the 2020-2021 academic term, the Executive Committee members included:**

***Dr. Mark Fenton, MD, FRCPC Associate Professor, Division Head, Respiriology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine***

***Dr. Rob Skomro, MD, FRCPC Professor, Respiriology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine***

***Dr. Josh Lawson, BSc, MSc, PhD Professor, Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA), Dept. of Medicine - Director of Research***

***Dr. Julia Montgomery, Associate Professor, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences***



# MEMBERSHIP



Membership to the RRC is open to clinicians, faculty, patient partners, students and organizational/community partners. Each year, the RRC undergoes its member renewal process where individuals have the opportunity to indicate level of membership as one of the following: Academic, Student, or Affiliate Members. This renewal process allows the RRC to more appropriately gauge levels of participation and determine eligibility for RRC-initiated funding opportunities.

**33**

Academic

**17**

Patient Partners

**82**

Affiliates & e-  
News Subscribers

**6**

Students

# PATIENT PARTNER ADVISORY COUNCIL

The RRC established the Patient Partner Advisory Council to provide service to and engages patients and their families in Saskatchewan affected by respiratory illness so that research decisions are timely, and relevant and aimed at addressing patient priorities. Patient partners provide unique experiences and insights into the many research activities currently underway.

## *Member Highlight*

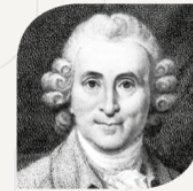


Bill Schaffel has partnered with the RRC for 2 years and has worked on numerous projects and planning committees. When asked about his experience as a patient partner he said, “Respiratory research needs feedback from stake holders like patients so, if you have the dubious opportunity of being a patient, you should add your voice to the conversation.” He admits that participating in research activities provided a new level of awareness of the prevalence of respiratory conditions in the province. Being a part of groups such as these make him feel more involved and, offer an opportunity to learn from not only clinicians but other patients as well.

*Bill Schaffel, RRC Patient Partner Advisory  
Council Chair*

# RRC UPDATES

## James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership

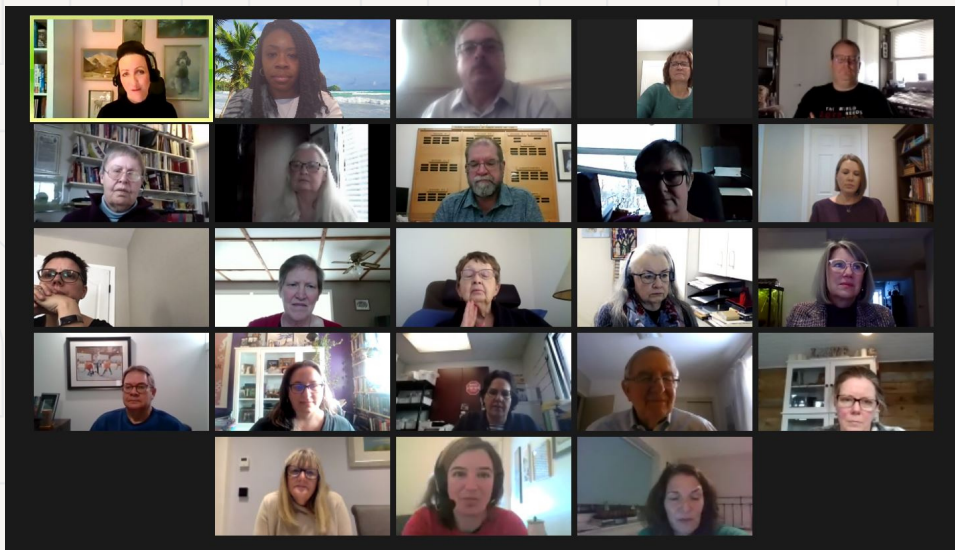


James  
Lind  
Alliance

Priority Setting Partnerships

During the fall of 2019, the RRC launched the first ever James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership (PSP) in Saskatchewan on obstructive sleep apnea. The James Lind Alliance (JLA) is a UK-based non-profit initiative that brings patients, carers and clinicians together to identify and prioritize evidence uncertainties. The aim is to make sure that health research funders are aware of the issues that matter most to the people who need to use the research in their everyday lives.

Since our last report, the Steering Committee, composed of clinicians and patient partners launched the second prioritization survey online. The rankings from the public were then compiled and the top 16 ranked sleep apnea questions were taken to the final workshop which was held virtually in January. The virtual workshop was facilitated by 3 JLA facilitators and discussion on the top 10 questions for future sleep apnea research was determined by a group of 7 clinicians and 10 patient partners.

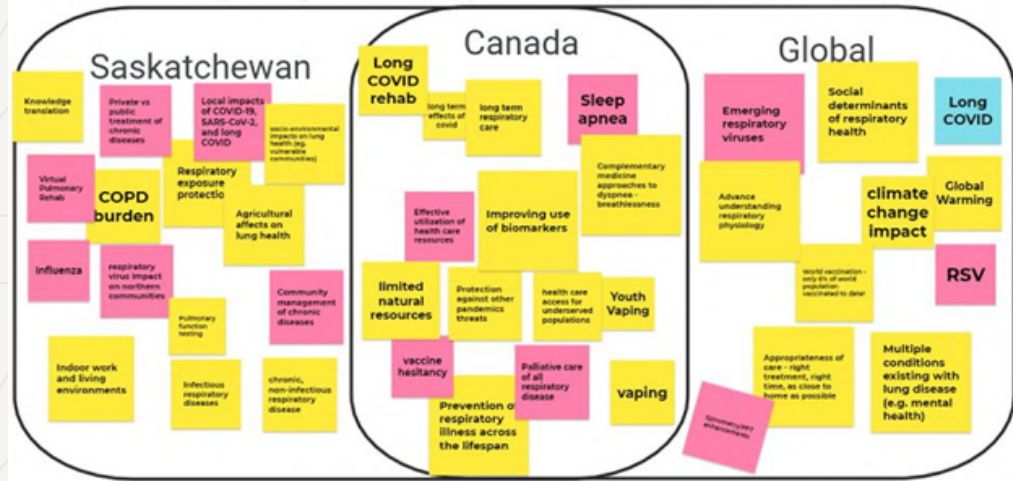


# RRC UPDATES

## Strategic Planning Town Hall

In June, the RRC hosted a virtual town hall to engage stakeholders including association representatives, patients, clinicians, students, early career and experienced researchers, and university research leaders in visioning RRC's future directions. The session was concise (two hours), focused and facilitated to maximize engagement and insight from busy stakeholders.

What relevant and pressing needs/challenges exist locally & in the world today? 2025? 2030?



Participants discussed RRC "Strengths, Needs and Objectives" in Zoom breakout sessions. Participants also were able to interact directly via Jamboard in order to provide their insights and thoughts on future RRC directives/initiatives.

# KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION HIGHLIGHTS

## Research Seminars



*"Cystic fibrosis: An update on pathophysiology and therapies"*

**Presenter: Dr. Julian Tam, Division of Respiriology**

*"Public Health and COVID One Year In and, Next Steps "*

**Presenter: Dr. Cory Neudorf, Community Health and Epidemiology**

*"Predicting Childhood Asthma Using Urine Proteomics"*

**Presenter: Dr. George Katselis, CCHSA**

*"The Revival of Anticholinergic Drugs in Asthma"*

**Presenter: Kayla Cropper (Msc Student)**

*"SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in older age groups – Understanding the Virology, Immunology, and Long-COVID after SARS-CoV-2 infection "*

**Presenter: Dr. Alyson Kelvin, VIDO**

## Public Presentations

*"A Patient's Journey with Sleep Apnea"*

**Presenter: Dave Parkalub (Patient Partner)**

*"Your Sleep Apnea Questions Answered Part I"*

**Presenter: Dr. Robert Skomro, Division of Respiriology**

*"The Virus, the Vaccine and You – COVID-19 Vaccines in Saskatchewan"*

**Presenter: Dr. Alyson Kelvin, VIDO**



# RRC AWARD RECIPIENTS

## 2020 Team Building Grants



**Project Title:** *Contribution of abnormal wound healing to the pathogenesis and progression of bleomycin-induced idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis using synchrotron-based imaging*

**Amount Awarded:** \$50,000

**Team:** **Dr. Juan Ianowski (PI)** (Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology), **Dr. Julian Tam** (Medicine), **Dr. Robert Skomro** (Medicine), **Dr. Veronica Marcoux** (Medicine)

**Project Title:** *Use of Nervous System Agonists to Develop an Airway Rehydration Treatment for Cystic Fibrosis*

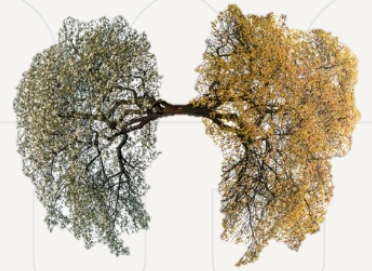
**Amount Awarded:** \$50,000

**Team:** **Dr. Julian Tam (PI)** (Medicine), **Dr. Juan Ianowski** (Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology), **Dr. Martha McKinney** (Pediatrics),



# RRC AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Post Doc Awardees



**Project Title:** *Studying the physiological function of ionocytes in cystic fibrosis*

**Supervisor:** **Dr. Juan Ianowski** (Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)



*Dr. Yen Le*



*Dr. Xiaojie Luan*

**Project Title:** *Novel nebulized hypertonic saline formulations for muco-obstructive lung diseases*

**Supervisors:** **Dr. Juan Ianowski** (Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology), **Dr. Julian Tam** (Medicine)

# RRC AWARD RECIPIENTS

## Undergraduate Summer Research Program



**Project Title:** *Use of Nervous System Agonists to Develop an Airway Rehydration Treatment for Cystic Fibrosis*

**Supervisors:** **Dr. Juan Ianowski** (Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology), **Dr. Julian Tam** (Medicine)



**Sarah Ha**, College of Arts and Science



**Kylie Bell**, BSc Nutrition

**Project Title:** *Systematic Review of tailored dietary advice and RD involvement in treatment of COPD*

**Supervisors:** **Dr. Josh Lawson** (Medicine), **Dr. Allison Cammer** (Medicine)

**Project Title:** *Digital Story Making in COPD populations*

**Supervisors:** **Dr. Erika Penz** (Medicine), **Dr. Colleen Dell** (Arts & Science)



**Julia Visentini**, College of Arts & Science

# UPCOMING PROJECTS

## Obstructive Sleep Apnea Knowledge Translation



As a result of implementing the James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership, the RRC learned that there are significant knowledge gaps for OSA patients and family members. After conducting the first survey we had a substantial list of questions that were already answered by research and others for which the answers were easily accessible.

In order to provide the OSA community with the answers to these questions, the RRC is currently developing three videos that address the most commonly asked OSA questions. These animated videos will feature content and information verified by sleep physicians, patient partners and other sleep professionals.

We anticipate these videos will be available for distribution by late fall 2021!





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# Respiratory Research Centre

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

[MEDICINE.USASK.CA/RESPIRATORYRESEARCH](http://MEDICINE.USASK.CA/RESPIRATORYRESEARCH)