

From: [EVPSR Office](#)
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Subject: EVP Science and Research Update: IDWGS Event; Recent Cases of Research Misconduct; Research Security Requirements
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International Day of Women and Girls in Science **Virtual Event**



The Krembil Research Institute is hosting its fourth annual virtual event in support and recognition of the [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#).

Drs. **Tina Felfeli** (Donald K. Johnson Eye Institute), **Nikita Looby** (Schroeder Arthritis Institute), and **Nardin Samuel** (Krembil Brain Institute) will give short talks on their current research and what inspired them to enter into research. Dr. **Chika Stacy Oriuwa**, an accomplished physician and advocate for racialized and marginalized populations, will host the event and moderate a panel discussion following the presentations. See this [teaser video](#) for what to expect.

- **WHEN:** February 9, 10 AM – 11 AM ET
- **HOW:** Open to students of all ages interested in science or medicine. Register for this free event [here](#).

Please email Heather Sherman (heather.sherman@uhn.ca) if you have any questions.

Recent Cases of Research Misconduct: Considerations for Research at UHN



Recently, a number of concerns involving errors, data falsification, plagiarism, image manipulation, and other research integrity issues in the published literature have received wide-spread attention, including those at [Stanford](#), [Harvard](#), and the [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#). Many of these cases of errors and research misconduct in published research have been identified through new tools that scan the literature using image and text-based analysis technologies including AI. We should all expect more of these will come to light in the future.

UHN is committed to fostering an environment that promotes and supports the responsible conduct of research at all levels. All researchers have an important role to play in the conduct and evaluation of research. Policy [40.90.001 "Responsible Conduct of Research"](#) [internal connection required] governs UHN's processes for managing concerns related to research integrity.

The [Tri-Agency Framework Responsible Conduct of Research \(2021\)](#) defines responsible conduct of research as *"the behavior expected of anyone who conducts or supports research activities throughout the life cycle of a research project...It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms, as well as values and ethical principles that are essential in the performance of all activities related to research. These values include honesty, fairness, trust, accountability, and openness."*

All researchers are responsible for ensuring the integrity of the data they produce. Principal investigators (PIs) are responsible for supervising all research activities under their direction, including reviewing all publications for accuracy, disclosures and appropriate authorship, and validating data. They are also accountable for ensuring that these activities are compliant with all regulatory and funder requirements.

Researchers appointed at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre who are submitting manuscripts for publication are encouraged to take advantage of a third-party image analysis resource, which helps PIs to identify and correct any errors in the images—offering a safeguard against future concerns. Those who are interested can send text and figures to PMResearch@uhnresearch.ca, and we are in

the process of exploring the possibility of expanding this and other resources across the other UHN Research Institutes.

UHN's [Research Quality Integration team](#) (RQI) is available for consultation about research best practices, including questions about authorship, relationship disclosure and management, open access, and promoting a culture of responsible conduct within your lab. If you have concerns or questions related to research conduct, please contact integrity@uhnresearch.ca or reach out to a member of the RQI team or one of UHN's Research Integrity Advisors directly (contact information can be found on UHN's [Research Integrity webpage](#)).

New: Research Security Requirements for Tri-Council and CFI Grant Applications



As [communicated previously](#) [internal connection required], the Government of Canada (GoC) is taking steps to implement safeguards that protect the research data and intellectual property of the country's researchers. In February 2023, [a Ministerial statement](#) was released stating that grant applications that involve conducting research in sensitive research areas will not be funded if any of the researchers working on the project are affiliated with a university, research institute, or laboratory that is connected to military, national defence, or state security entities of foreign state actors that pose a risk to our national security.

The GoC has now released its [Policy on Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern \(STRAC\)](#)—affecting **all research funding programs within the Tri-Council Agencies (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)**.

- When submitting grant applications in a [sensitive technology research area](#), all researchers with a named role in the grant application (i.e., principal investigator, co-principal investigator, co-investigator, collaborator, and possibly others) are responsible for attesting that they are not affiliated with or in receipt of funding or in-kind support from a high-risk [named research organization](#). These lists will be updated by GoC regularly.
- The policy is effective [spring 2024](#); however, the GoC may take affiliations into account as part of research funding decision-making processes prior to this date. UHN research teams are

encouraged to regularly check funding program guidelines for updates ahead of the application deadline.

UHN is participating in TAHSN's Research Security Partnerships Working Group, led by the University of Toronto, to develop a harmonized implementation approach and understanding to the GoC's requirements regarding research security and international partners and affiliations. We are also clarifying the specific administrative requirements that will be incorporated at UHN, and we will reach out regularly to our researchers to keep them informed. Stay tuned for more.

For more information, you can:

- Consult the new policy's [FAQ](#) and/or
- Contact Christine Snidal (Christine.snidal@uhn.ca) at the UHN Research Security Working Group with any other questions regarding the policy
- Contact the Research Grants (grants@uhnresearch.ca) team with specific questions related to upcoming Tri-Agency program grants
- Contact Margaret Kinyanjui (Margaret.kinyanjui@uhn.ca) with the StRIDE team with specific questions related to CFI grants

Thanks for reading,
Brad

To read previous issues, click [here](#) (internal connection required) or navigate to the research intranet > "Newsletters" page > "Research Update" page