



Centre for  
**Heart Lung Innovation**  
UBC and St. Paul's Hospital

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## Dear Colleagues

We are facing unprecedented times. The worldwide epidemic of COVID-19 has reached the doors of St. Paul's Hospital and Vancouver at large. UBC has, for the first time in history, suspended its (in-person) classes in favour of on-line seminars for the rest of the semester and the Province has issued a "travel ban" for all non-essential trips outside the country. All individuals arriving to Canada must now self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days and all UBC Faculty of Medicine employees have been advised to work from home unless their on-site presence is deemed essential.

In view of the growing concerns over the COVID-19 outbreak in Vancouver and surrounding areas, HLI will take the following immediate steps to protect our PIs, trainees, staff, and the patients we serve:

1. All large meetings (>20 people) will be suspended indefinitely. We will be working with IT to develop an on-line system to accommodate these meetings in the future (and will be communicated to HLI personnel when the system is in place).
2. All clinical research involving human subjects will be asked to arrange follow-ups via phone (or on-line) to avoid face-to-face exposures. No new recruitment of human subjects will be permitted.
3. Claire will work with each of the cores to enable "work-from-home" wherever possible, recognizing that some research support areas will require on-site staffing (e.g. animal facility). For the latter, we will endeavour to have the lowest on-site staffing possible to accommodate the present workload. We ask that PIs refrain from initiating large-scale studies over the next few weeks.
4. We will reduce office hours of HLI front desk, starting Monday (8AM to 3PM) and the door to the office will be closed at all times.

Please note that UBC/PHC Research Ethics Board will continue to operate as per usual. We will keep you updated on any new developments this week. Although we are concerned about the outbreak and the well-being of our staff, trainees and PIs, we are also comforted knowing that the outbreak is relatively small here in Canada (See graph below from <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>). The next 2 weeks will be crucial in determining the trajectory of this outbreak in BC; let us do our part in defeating this contagion.

Yours sincerely,

**Don Sin, MD**

**HOST INSTITUTION**  
Providence Health Care

**PARTICIPATING CENTRES**  
Centre for Health Evaluation  
and Outcome Sciences  
Heart Centre at St. Paul's Hospital

Centre for Heart Lung Innovation  
Pacific Lung Health Centre  
PHC Research Institute

**AFFILIATED WITH**  
Provincial Health Services Authority  
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University of British Columbia  
Vancouver Coastal Health

