

## **Alliance against Violence and Adversity: National Health Research Training Platform Update**

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### **AVA National Webinar Series Launch**

In December 2023, RESOLVE Alberta collaborated with AVA for its inaugural webinar series launch featuring **Dr. Sarah Merrill** and **Dr. Tayler Eaton**, where they presented on the *Biological Adaptations to Adversity: Evidence From Our Genes and Brains*. This presentation discussed what childhood adversity is, and how our brains and bodies adapt to our environments. Other highlights included biological embedding in how early adverse experiences get under the skin, and neurobiological responses and solutions to trauma.

Since the inaugural webinar, AVA has featured a webinar on *Resilience* led by **Dr. Caroline Piotrowski** and **Dr. Margherita Cameranesi**. This presentation covered a brief history on the study of resilience along with a summary of resilience traits and processes at the individual, family, and community levels, with special attention given to potential areas of intervention and prevention. Evidence on the individual and ecological factors and processes that promote people's resilience was also discussed plus an overview of strategies to build capacity for coping with adversity and promoting mental health and wellbeing.

These two webinars were recorded and are now part of the AVA repository of courses on AVA's Learning Management System called RISE. For more information on how to access these recordings and over 50 more AVA courses, visit the [AVA website](#) to [create/log into](#) your account and find the information to access RISE.

### **Triadic Mentorship Program (TMP) Kickoff**

The AVA TMP had its second national cohort of 10 triads start in January 2024. This is a national opportunity for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows (AVA Scholar-Mentee) to enhance their existing studies through an innovative Triadic Mentorship model that focuses on reciprocal learning and mentorship among AVA Scholar-Mentee, an AVA Community Leader Mentor, and an AVA Academic Mentor. The goals of the TMP are geared towards professional development in the field of community health and social services, with the aim to transform how research training is done to improve the health of girls, women, and gender-diverse people exposed to/at risk of adverse childhood experiences and violence. The [AVA Triadic Mentorship Program](#) works alongside the [AVA Online Program](#), which is grounded in curriculum on [AVA's guiding principles](#).

### **Community Agency Partner Funding**

To date, AVA has provided its community agency partners a total of approximately \$196,000 to participate in AVA activities. This includes funds to hire an intern in the [AVA Community Agency Internship Program](#), participate in the TMP, Strategic Planning workshops, and attending committee meetings. If you are a community agency interested in receiving funds to participate in AVA activities, please contact [avatraining@ucalgary.ca](mailto:avatraining@ucalgary.ca), or apply for the preferred program(s) on the [AVA website](#).



### *Current Opportunities*

- AVA Training Platform has announced its third call for Early Career Researcher's Teaching Release for AVA leadership experience. Please visit this [link](#) for more information.
- The AVA team is also looking for members to join its various committees. If you would like more information on this opportunity, please email AVA at [avatraining@ucalgary.ca](mailto:avatraining@ucalgary.ca).

To learn more about AVA, please visit the [website](#), or follow them for the latest news such as upcoming presentations on their webinar series on Instagram or X via [@avatraining\\_ca](#)