RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2017
SUPERVISOR/PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Due on or before October 21 2016. Forms received after this date will not be posted on the website.

SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

Supervisor Name: Robert Reid

Chief Scientist, Institute for Better Health
Senior Vice President, Science, Trillium Health Partners

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Email Address: Robert.Reid@trilliumhealthpartners.ca, Assistant: Irene.Derlago@trilliumhealthpartners.ca

Degree (MD, PhD, MD/PhD): MD, PhD

Academic Rank: Professor

Field of Research: Health Systems, Health Services, Patient Experience

Graduate School Appointment (IMS, IHPME etc..): Institute for Health Policy, Management, & Evaluation, University of Toronto

Please note that you must be appointed to the SGS in order to be a supervisor in the Scholar Program

Research Institute Affiliation (if applicable): Institute for Better Health, Trillium Health Partners

Allocation of student contact time (# of hours per week you are available to the student for any concerns or to review progress): up to 1 hour per week

Do you have a student that you have already agreed to work with? No

Please note, you may go ahead with a self-initiated project with a student of your choosing. If you choose this option, your project will not be posted online, meaning it will not be open to student applicants.
PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Improving Care Transitions between the Hospital and Community for Youth with Obesity: Mapping the Local Health System for Obese Youth

Project Description (max 500 words):

**Background:** Youth obesity is one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. A number of tertiary care centres in Canada offer structured pediatric weight management clinics. Although these programs are effective, dropout is substantial, availability is limited, and access to this specialized care is difficult. These programs do not typically employ a patient- and family-centred approach that incorporates family expectations and perspectives about treatment which contributes to high dropout rates. Therefore, novel care models should be designed with patient- and family-centred services that improve care transitions between the community and hospital-based weight management clinics where youth can be supported with longitudinal integrated weight management strategies. The proposed research project demonstrates originality, relevance, and responsiveness to the diverse local community by identifying and addressing existing gaps along the continuum of care for obese youth.

**Network Analysis:** Network Analysis (NA) will provide an improved understanding of current resources that can be linked into a community care model that facilitates care transitions for youth with obesity. NA is a unique methodology used to study the complex nature of social relations within a network rather than the simple attributes of stakeholders within relationships. For the purposes of this project, the “network” will represent the “local health system”. Key outcomes of NA will include: 1) the identification of key informants within stakeholder organizations; 2) characterization of organization attributes; 3) description of network variables; 4) identification of existing collaborations or interactions; 5) identification of gaps in the network; and 5) a visual depiction of the network for youth with obesity.

**Methods:** The structure of the network includes network size, connectedness of the stakeholders, concentration or dispersion of the organizations, accessibility of the network, degree of clustering in the network and the heterogeneity or homogeneity of the stakeholders. A network mapping approach will be employed to provide insights into the structure and dynamics of groups. Engaging quantitative methods will be used to characterize the structure and form/composition of a network.

**Sample:** A preliminary list of public and private community-based organizations that deliver service to youth with obesity will be generated. Potential public and private organizations in Peel that interact with obese youth include Peel Public Health, Loblaw’s Cooking School, fitness facilities such as YMCA, the Peel Public Schools and Peel Catholic Schools, Peel Parks and Recreation, the Peel Child and Youth Initiative, Newcomers of Peel, India Rainbow, Multicultural Inter Agency Group of Peel, mental health agencies, and public housing agencies. The list will be expanded and refined using snowball sampling (respondent driven sampling) where sampling continues until saturation is reached and no new organizations are identified. Electronic surveys with questions inquiring about collaboration with other agencies and the nature of existing relationships will be sent to participants. We will use statistical software specifically designed to analyze and visually represent NA data.

**Timeline:** Planning and analysis will take place in Year 1. In Year 2, the research report, plain language summaries, and publication will be produced.

If human subjects are involved, has Ethics been obtained?

☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ Application Submitted ☐ N/A

Do you expect this work will be published within 20 months?

☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Uncertain
Student’s Roles / Responsibilities (Please be as specific as possible) Please indicate who will serve as the student’s direct report. (PI, PDF, PhD student, technician etc…):

The successful student will work with Dr. Ian Zenlea, a paediatric endocrinologist and Clinician Scientist at the Institute for Better Health, and the Principle Investigator of this study. Dr. Zenlea will serve as the student’s direct report while under the supervision of Dr. Robert Reid. Dr. Zenlea was recently awarded a Canadian Health Institutes of Research Embedded Clinician Salary Award which provides protected, dedicated research time to supervise and mentor students within his research program. Dr. Zenlea will dedicate up to 4 hours weekly to work with the student. Under the guidance of Dr. Zenlea and with guidance by the other members of the project team, the student will conduct literature reviews and participate in the development of the project protocol, study design, submission of the protocol to the Research Ethics Board, relevant databases, surveys, and interview guides, participant recruitment, and project management and conduct of the study. At the end of this project, the student will have gained experience in mixed methodologies (qualitative and quantitative), and will produce at least one manuscript for publication.