Supervisor/Project Information Form

Due February 22, 2018 by email to crems.programs@utoronto.ca

PLEASE SUBMIT IN WORD FORMAT ONLY. PDF will not be accepted

Supervisor Name: Nancy Baxter

Hospital/Research Institution: St. Michael’s Hospital

Email: baxtern@smh.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): Health Services Research

Department: Surgery

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No: Yes

If YES, please name: Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation; Institute of Medical Science

Project Title: Adoption of the small bites fascial closure technique: A cross-sectional survey of Canadian General Surgeons and Residents

Brief Project Description (<300 words): Incisional hernias (IH) are a common and significant complication of abdominal surgery. The incidence of IH within one year of laparotomy is reported at up to 38% and can be a significant source of reduced quality of life. Two large randomized controlled trials have compared the use of a “small bites” suturing technique to the traditional fascial closure technique. Our project aims to survey Canadian general surgeons and general surgery residents to determine their awareness of the evidence for small bites fascial closure and to identify barriers to the uptake of this technique. The student will assist us in the creation of two surveys, one for general surgeons and one for general surgery residents, the refinement of the survey with pre-testing among the research team and clinical fellows. Once ready for launch, the student will assist us in recruitment of participants, follow up emails and data analysis. He/she will require independent thinking, superb written and oral communications skills and attention to detail.

The student will have the opportunity to work amongst an interdisciplinary team of surgeons, decision-makers and research staff to develop this project. The student will be supervised primarily by the graduate students, the research program manager and Dr. Nancy Baxter.