Supervisor Name: Dr. Heather Shapiro

Hospital/Research Institution: Mt. Sinai Hospital

Email: mona.loutfy@wchospital.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): fertility, blood-born infection prevention

Department: Medicine

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

If YES, please name:

Project Title: Development of Guidelines to Prevent HIV and Hepatitis B and C during Assisted Reproductive Technologies

Brief Project Description (<300 words):

In January 2018, the Updated Canadian HIV Pregnancy Planning Guidelines were published. However, these guidelines lack expansion on the requirements and needs in fertility clinics to support patients living with/affected by HIV, hepatitis C and hepatitis B. Therefore, the aim of this project is to lead a Canadian Guideline to Prevent HIV, HCV and HBV through assisted reproductive technologies (ART) and will be supported by the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society (CFAS). The guideline development will be conducted using the GRADE methodology and will be aimed at answering three questions for each blood-borne virus: 1) what is the best testing schedule for patients using ART services in a fertility clinic on an ongoing basis? 2) What are the best recommendations for insemination/conception while preventing transmission? and, 3) What are the techniques required in fertility laboratories to prevent cross-contamination? The guideline development will require formation of a Guideline Development Team (GDT) and Guideline Development Group (GDG) for assessing and grading. The GDT will meet every two weeks to guide the student(s). An initial GDG meeting will be held to present the plan and the research questions. To answer the GRADE questions, systematic review methods will be used. Once the guideline is written, the findings will be presented to the GDG for final agreement and grading. Upon consensus, the guideline will be finalized and published. The student(s) will do the bulk of the work for developing the guideline – they will coordinate the GDT, coordinate the GDG meetings, write the first draft of the guideline, carry out the systematic reviews and, with help, finalize the guideline. The plan is for the CREMS student(s) to develop a conference abstract as first author which would be presented at conferences such as the SOGC and CFAS meetings; the student(s) would be co-authors of the guideline.