Supervisor/Project Information Form

Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students
Summer Research Program 2018

Due February 14 2018 by email to crems.programs@utoronto.ca

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

Supervisor Name: Elizabeth Wooster (research associate) / Rishie Seth (faculty member – internal medicine)

Hospital/Research Institution: St Joseph’s Health Centre

Email: ewooster@stjoestoronto.ca or rseth@stjoestoronto.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): Quality improvement and resource utilization

Department: Medical Education, Research and Scholarship

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

If YES, please name:

Project Title: Best Practices in Medicine

Brief Project Description (<300 words):
Best Practices in Medicine is a project focusing on addressing the over usage and under usage of laboratory and diagnostic imaging testing at an urban community teaching hospital. The aim of the project is to determine whether the introduction of a focused, personal audit of test orders can influence physician ordering behaviour. The second aim of the project is to determine whether the introduction of reflective, online, educational activities can further influence physician test orders. Most studies, with respect to test utilization rates, have been conducted at large, academic institutions. Additionally, most studies have focused on reducing the rate of utilization. Our project is unique as its intent is to “right-size” test ordering, increase and decrease the number of orders as appropriate, to improve patient care.

This project utilizes a phased, sequential, personalized audit and feedback methodology. Test ordering data is collected through the hospital records system. It is then reorganized and stratified by department, division and individual physician. Each individual physician receives a personal “score card” with the number of test ordered for a specific time period for the entire hospital, their department, their division and their personal results (as appropriate).

The successful medical student will be involved in all aspects of the project from the team meetings, to the development of the audits, to distribution of results and analysis of impact of the undertaken interventions. They will also be involved in the drafting (from concept to finished product) of abstracts for meeting presentations, manuscripts for publication and grant applications. This project will provide the successful medical student with the opportunity to work closely with physicians and researchers from a variety of departments.