Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students
Summer Research Program 2018

Supervisor/Project Information Form

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

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

Supervisor Name: Dr. Marcus Butler and Dr. Geoffrey Liu

Hospital/Research Institution: University Health Network – Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

Email: Geoffrey.liu@uhn.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): Oncology, Immunotherapy

Department: Division of Medical Oncology, Department of Medicine

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

If YES, please name: Medical Biophysics (University of Toronto); Epidemiology (Dalla Lana School of Public Health), and Institute for Medical Science: Full SGS appointments in all Departments.

Project Title: Managing Cancer Patients In Hospital On Immunotherapy Who Develop Immune-Related Adverse or Toxic Events. The IRATE Real-World Evidence Project

Brief Project Description (<300 words):

Immunotherapeutic drugs in Oncology (or IO) have revolutionized the treatment of melanoma, lung and renal cancer. Although some patients live longer and normally, the rare patient develops unusual life-threatening auto-immune pneumonitis, hepatitis, and colitis that require hospitalization. Current practice patterns at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre vary across physicians. This provides a natural opportunity to document the different methods of management of these toxicities, along with their resultant outcomes.

This project has three components: (A) The student will review electronic records of IO-treated patients to abstract important data. Training will involve shadowing of oncologists in outpatient clinic, and data abstraction training through COMBIEL (www.uhncombiel.com). This program also trains the student in clinical research (study conception, design, data abstraction/entry and patient chart review). (B) The student will train in the management of hospitalized IO-toxic patients and perform histories and physical examinations. Practice sessions with other medical students will take place throughout the summer to improve history and physical examination skills for clinical research. Third, a parallel project focuses on the collection of various IO-treated patient reported symptoms and toxicities in the outpatient setting using paper and iPad survey tools. The student will help recruit cancer patients, and document potential IO toxicities in the outpatient setting to round out their research experience.

It is expected that these data will lead to conference presentations and subsequent manuscript publications. Past COMBIEL CREMS students have presented internationally, average multiple published abstracts and appear on at least one or more full publications. COMBIEL CREMS provides training support through a dedicated research education coordinator with an epidemiology background (Cathi Brown), and biostatistician (Wei Xu). The methodological training is designed to promote development of the student towards performing future, independent research. A dedicated, ambitious, hard-working, and independently-minded student is needed to drive this project.

295 Words