Supervisor Name: Dr. Camilla Zimmermann

Hospital/Research Institution: Princess Margaret Cancer Centre

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Field of Research (2 keywords): Palliative Care, Oncology

Department: Department of Supportive Care

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

If YES, please name: IMS

Project Title: The Role of Family Physicians in Palliative Care: Perspectives of Patients with Advanced Cancer

Brief Project Description (<300 words):

**Background:** Patients with advanced cancer have symptoms and emotional and social difficulties, which may be managed by their family physician. However, family physicians are often not involved in this care.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to examine the perspectives of patients with advanced cancer regarding the role of their family physicians in the provision of palliative care.

**Methods:** This is a prospective survey study, which is conducted in the Oncology Palliative Care Clinic (OPCC) at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre. We have developed a survey, which examines: patient relationships with their family doctors; where patients receive and prefer to receive medical care; patient satisfaction with care; patient-perceived family doctor expertise; and patient-perceived barriers and facilitators to the provision of their palliative care. Patients are recruited in the outpatient OPCC for consent and completion of the study survey. The study also involves a retrospective chart review component for enrolled study participants. We will conduct both descriptive statistics, as well as a regression analysis, examining which clinical and demographic factors are associated with patients’ perceptions that their family physician is involved in their palliative care.

**Importance:** This study will allow us to determine, from a patient perspective, to what extent patients who are receiving palliative care believe their family physicians are or should be involved in this care, and what factors might facilitate increased involvement of family physicians in palliative care.

**CREMS student role:** The CREMS student would be responsible for identifying eligible patients, obtaining informed consent, and administering the study survey, as well as entering and organizing data in the study database.