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: Catherine Birken

Hospital/Research Institution: The Hospital for Sick Children

Email: catherine.birken@sickkids.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): Pediatrics, Childhood obesity prevention

Department: Department of Pediatrics

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

If YES, please name: IHPME

Project Title: TARGet Kids! Measuring Health beginning in early childhood in the primary care practice setting

Brief Project Description (<300 words):

The Applied Research Group for Kids (TARGet Kids!) is an ongoing open longitudinal cohort study enrolling healthy children (from birth to 5 years of age) and following them into adolescence. The aim of the TARGet Kids! cohort is to link early life exposures to health problems including obesity, micronutrient deficiencies and developmental problems. The overarching goal is to improve the health of Canadians by optimizing growth and developmental trajectories through preventative interventions in early childhood. TARGet Kids!, the only child health research cohort study embedded in primary care practices in Canada, leverages the unique relationship between children and families and their trusted primary care practitioners, with whom they have at least seven health supervision visits in the first 5 years of life. Children are enrolled during regularly scheduled well-child visits. To date, over 9500 children have been enrolled. In addition to demographic information, we collect physical measurements, lifestyle factors (nutrition, screen time and physical activity), child behaviour and developmental screening and a blood sample (providing measures of cardiometabolic, iron and vitamin D status). Data are collected at each available visit: twice a year until age 2 and every year until adolescence. Information can be found at: www.targetkids.ca. Students with analytic experience with SAS or R are strongly encouraged to apply.