MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION & CREMS SPONSORED
RESEARCH AWARDS IN THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
2016 SUPERVISOR INFORMATION FORM

If you wish to act as a Supervisor for a first or second year University of Toronto medical student wishing to conduct a research project in the Humanities & Social Sciences between June and August 2016, please complete the form below with as much detail as possible.

***Submit this form to crems.programs@utoronto.ca by the deadline of January 27 2016***

PART A: Supervisor and On-Site Supervisor Contact Information

| Name | Ross Upshur MD MSc (co-supervisor)  
Ayelet Kuper MD DPhil (co-supervisor)  
Jonathan Fuller (research team member) |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email Address</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ross.upshur@gmail.com">ross.upshur@gmail.com</a>; <a href="mailto:ayelet.kuper@utoronto.ca">ayelet.kuper@utoronto.ca</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>416-978-6459 (RU) &amp; 416-340-4194 (AK)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Dalla Lana School of Public Health (RU); Department of Medicine (AK)</td>
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**Area of Research Project (2 keywords)**  
philosophy of medicine; medical models

**PART B: Project Information**

*The option to consider student ideas and/or opt for a less detailed supervisor project description is also available. If this pertains to your project/situation, please indicate below in the space provided*

| Project Title (this can be modified later, but we would like to have a working title from the start): Biomedicine and beyond: A philosophical analysis of contemporary medical models |
|---|---|
| Provide background information on the project (max 500 words): |
The last thirty years have witnessed a proliferation of movements in medicine promising new and improved models of practice, including the biopsychosocial model\(^1\), evidence-based medicine\(^2\), and person-centered medicine\(^3\). The biopsychosocial model recognizes the biological, psychological and social dimensions of health/disease\(^1\); evidence-based medicine integrates the best clinical evidence into clinical decision-making\(^4\); and person-centered medicine attends to the whole person and emphasizes shared decision-making\(^5\). These models greatly influence medical care, healthcare funding and medical education. They all evolved in response to various aspects of the biomedical model, which is widely considered to be the dominant model of medical practice and training\(^6\). The biomedical model is said to be disease-centered and to bring a biomedical gaze to the clinical encounter.

Some philosophers have begun to analyze the assumptions of the biomedical model\(^7,8\) or person-centered medicine\(^5\). Yet it remains unclear exactly what kind of medical practice these models represent and what their core commitments are. The principle aim of this research project is a **philosophical analysis of contemporary medical models, including the biomedical model and person-centered medicine.** The student will reconstruct these models as they are represented in the medical literature. They will examine their ethical assumptions, epistemic assumptions (assumptions about knowledge), and metaphysical assumptions (assumptions about reality) using an analytic philosophy of medicine approach. The student will work closely with members of the research team, and will be provided desk space and resources at the Wilson Centre in Toronto General Hospital.

We are also open to considering proposals for other projects in the philosophy of medicine.

**References**


**Student’s roles and responsibilities in bullet form (please be as specific as possible):**
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- Review the medical and philosophy of medicine literatures on models of care.
- Rationally reconstruct one or more medical model(s); e.g. the biomedical model, person-centered medicine.
- Use a philosophical approach to analyze one or more medical model(s) and their assumptions.
- Draft a philosophy of medicine research article suitable for publication.

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<th>Is this project for a specific student, or will you interview and select an interested student who would contact you directly for this opportunity? Note: All supervisor/student applications will be adjudicated by a panel of faculty, given a score, and ranked based on the score given. Funding will be based on ranking.</th>
<th>☐ For a specific student. Name of student: X For whichever student is chosen after interview</th>
</tr>
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| If human subjects are involved, has Ethics been obtained? Note: Written proof or an email indicating protocol approval may be requested prior to the student’s arrival at on-site location | ☐ Yes ☐ No X N/A |