

RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2017
SUPERVISOR/PROJECT INFORMATION FORM



Due on or before **October 21 2016**. Forms received after this date will not be posted on the website.

SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

Supervisor Name: Dr. Natalie Coburn

Mailing Address: 2075 Bayview Ave. Room T2 011, Toronto, ON M3N 4M5

Telephone Number: 416-480-6916

Email Address: Natalie.coburn@sunnybrook.ca

Degree (MD, PhD, MD/PhD): MD, MPH

Academic Rank: Associate professor

Field of Research: Evaluating and improving surgery outcomes for gastrointestinal malignancies

Graduate School Appointment (IMS, IHPME etc.): IHPME

Please note that you must be appointed to the SGS in order to be a supervisor in the Scholar Program

Research Institute Affiliation (if applicable): Sunnybrook research institute

Allocation of student contact time (# of hours per week you are available to the student for any concerns or to review progress): 10

Do you have a student that you have already agreed to work with? No

Please note, you may go ahead with a self-initiated project with a student of your choosing. If you choose this option, your project will not be posted online, meaning it will not be open to student applicants.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:

1. An evaluation of survival, patient reported outcomes and costs for advanced gastrointestinal cancers

Project Description (max 500 words):

Gastrointestinal (GI) cancers (esophageal, gastric, pancreatic, hepatobiliary, colorectal) represent over 20% of cancers diagnosed annually. GI cancers are often a fatal diagnosis, as a large percentage of patients are diagnosed with incurable disease at time of presentation (e.g. 80-85% of patients with pancreatic cancer; 35-45% of patients with esophageal cancer). Furthermore, GI cancer patients suffer significant symptom burdens, such as pain, nausea, and anorexia. Many complex treatment regimens exist to manage symptoms, including combinations of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, alongside pain management and other non-surgical interventions. In many cases, treatment ameliorates the symptoms, whereas in others, quality of life cannot be improved, despite interventions. This project aims to use patient reported symptom data in combination with population health data to improve outcomes, symptom management and cost-effective care in a population of patients with advanced GI malignancies. For our project, *An evaluation of survival, patient reported outcomes and costs for advanced gastrointestinal cancers*, our objectives are to:

1. Describe patient symptom burden, overall survival and costs in a cohort of patients with advanced GI cancers diagnosed between 2007 and 2015;
2. Determine predictors of symptom burden, overall survival and costs for patients with advanced GI cancers;

If human subjects are involved, has Ethics been obtained?

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ Application Submitted

☒ N/A

Do you expect this work will be published within 20 months?

☒ YES

☐ NO

☐ Uncertain

Student's Roles / Responsibilities (Please be as specific as possible) Please indicate who will serve as the student's direct report. (PI, PDF, PhD student, technician etc...):

The student's role depends on the progress of our projects, however will likely include conducting chart reviews, summarizing existing literature, assessment of treatment costs, as well as analysis of data output and manuscript preparation. The student will report to Dr. Natalie Coburn, who is the PI of the listed projects. The student will also have support available from other team members, including Masters students and research assistants.