Undergraduate Student Summer Research Program

2020

- Application Deadline -

Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 4:00 pm Eastern
ABOUT THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

A number of Summer Undergraduate Student Research opportunities are available every year at the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, with funding provided by the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and the Bertha Rosenstadt Health Research Fund. The objective of the program is to provide first year undergraduate students with the opportunity of working with our leading research faculty members on their individual research projects and being mentored in a variety of research activities. Students will acquire real world experience about research and the research process. The program runs for 8 weeks, and the stipend is $4,500.

Faculty interested in accepting students through this program are profiled on the following pages with a brief description of the summer project.

Proviso: Available positions are based on projected funding at the time of program launch; final availability may be subject to change.
ABOUT OUR RESEARCH

Charlene Chu, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor
Developing and assessing an innovative exergaming technology for older adults living in long-term care
Older adults living in long-term care (LTC) spend most of their time in sedentary, socially withdrawn situations, increasing their risk for depression, cognitive decline, dementia, and decreased functional status resulting in high care costs. Exergames (technology that gamifies and promotes physical activity) have promising effects on improving physical, cognitive and psychosocial outcomes for older adults but are unlikely to be used in the LTC clinical setting without supporting clinical evidence. Our research project develops and assesses an innovative exergaming technology to improve the mobility and psychosocial/social outcomes of residents. Summer students will be involved in this innovative interdisciplinary project, either by assisting in literature reviews, data entry and analysis, note taking in interviews, and/or writing.

Lisa Cranley, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor
Implementing an intervention to foster meaningful engagement and shared decision-making among residents, families, and healthcare teams in long-term care: A mixed methods approach
The purpose of this study is to examine the feasibility of a shared decision-making intervention to engage residents of long-term care homes, their family member/caregiver and the interdisciplinary care team in a collaborative approach to care decisions. The intervention consists of three components: (1) tailored leadership coaching for the management team; (2) a one-day training session for staff and managers using the Team Essentials for Engaging Families in Care© learning module; and (3) resident and family-led huddles. We are currently conducting the study in four long-term care homes. During the summer months, an undergraduate student will work as a research assistant with the study team and supervised by the PI. The student will assist with data collection, data entry and preliminary data analysis. There will also be an opportunity to prepare presentations for conferences.

Aaron Conway, PhD, Assistant Professor
RBC Chair in Cardiovascular Nursing Research
Validating the perioperative thirst discomfort scale
The student will be supported to undertake data analysis and create a webpage for a study that involved measuring the severity of thirst discomfort of patients who were fasted prior to procedures. As part of this summer program experience, the student will learn how to use R to tidy, transform and visualise data, as well as create a webpage to present additional results alongside a publication.
Quinn Grundy, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor

**Outsourced education and proprietary expertise: Understanding industry’s role in the provision of practice-based education in Canadian hospitals**

Clinicians are increasingly reliant on representatives from medical device, pharmaceutical and other health-related companies to meet continuing education needs related to their practice. This study will qualitatively explore the range of ways that industry representatives provide practice-based education such as product in-services, on-going support, or sponsoring continuing education and will critically analyse the impact of industry’s involvement as an ‘educator’ for the profession and health system. The summer student will assist in the development of study protocols, data collection instruments, and research ethics applications.

Lindsay Jibb, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor

**Signy Hildur Eaton Chair in Paediatric Nursing Research**

**Growing up in place: supporting the home-based care of children with cancer**

Dr. Jibb’s research is focused on evaluating and improving the care children with cancer receive, especially outside of the hospital setting. In particular, Dr. Jibb is interested in how technology might better support children and adolescents with cancer to achieve the best possible quality of life in their home environments. The 2020 summer studentship will focus on exploring these issues through methods that may include qualitative interview analysis, quantitative data analyses, and systematic reviews. The student will have the opportunity to participate in grant writing and to present their summer work at the SickKids Summer Research Student Day.

Samantha Mayo, RN, PhD, Assistant Professor

**RBC Financial Group Chair in Oncology Nursing Research**

**Priorities for patient navigation after diagnosis of blood cancer**

After diagnosis for blood cancers, such as leukemia and lymphoma, patients can face challenges with finding the information they need to help make treatment decisions, access appropriate medical and supportive care services, and manage with their symptoms. In order to support the development of appropriate patient navigation resources for this growing population, we are leading a multi-phase project comprising: 1) a focused literature review; 2) environmental scan of available resources; 3) purposive telephone interviews and focus groups; and 4) national web-based survey. **Focusing on identifying priority content areas for inclusion in a patient navigation program**, we are seeking a summer student to assist with the data management and analysis across these four initiatives, with a particular focus on the literature review and environmental scan. Responsibilities will include: data collection and management, data entry (MS Excel), qualitative data synthesis, manuscript preparation, and various study administration tasks.
Katherine McGilton, RN, PhD, FAAN, Professor (Status)

Advancing our Understanding of Transitional Care Programs
This Canadian Institutes of Health Research funded study is focused on understanding the influence of transitional care programs on older adult outcomes that influence the program’s effectiveness. Students will assist with conducting a literature review and synthesizing the literature.

Kelly Metcalfe, RN, PhD, FAAN, FCAHS, Professor and Associate Dean, Research & External Relations

Bloomberg Professor in Cancer Genetics
Breast Cancer Screening
Dr. Kelly Metcalfe’s research focuses on the prevention and treatment of hereditary breast cancer. She has published extensively on the psychosocial implications of preventive options, including prophylactic mastectomy and oophorectomy. Dr. Metcalfe has developed a decision aid for individuals with a BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation to help them assess their breast cancer prevention choices. Current research studies include examining rapid genetic testing and follow-up genetic counselling by telephone. The summer research student may help with literature review, data collection and analysis and other research-related activities.

Monica Parry, RN, PhD, Associate Professor

Development and Usability Testing of HEARTPAIN: An Integrated Smartphone and Web-Based Intervention for Women with Cardiac Pain
The overall goal of this program of research is to develop and systematically evaluate an integrated smartphone and web-based intervention (HEARTPAIN) to provide evidence-informed symptom triage and self-management support to reduce pain and increase health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in women with cardiac pain. We will be finishing Phase 2B of the study (usability testing) and finishing development of the WebApp content. Phase 3 (pilot RCT) is scheduled to begin in June 2020. Students could assist to screen and recruit women for the pilot RCT. They can also assist to track any issues during trial implementation. There may also be opportunity to further develop content for the WebApp, to increase knowledge in patient-oriented research and sex/gender influences in cardiovascular disease, and assist to develop content for a few chapters I am writing for an Atlas on Women’s Cardiovascular Health in Canada.
Martine Puts, RN, PhD, Associate Professor
CRC Chair in the Care of Frail Older Adults
Clinical and Cost-effectiveness of Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment and Integrated Care Plan in Canadian Elders receiving Chemotherapy: The 5C study
There are two research programs the student may participate in. The first is a multicentre study of the role of comprehensive geriatric assessment in improving health outcomes for older adults with cancer – the 5C Study. The student may be involved with a variety of research activities (e.g., literature research, data collection, etc.).

The second is the CHAMP study: Comprehensive Health Assessment for My Plan. In this study, the team is developing and evaluating an online geriatric assessment for older adults with cancer to improve treatment decisions and health outcomes. The student may be involved with a variety of research activities (e.g., literature research, data collection, etc.).

Jennifer Stinson, RN-EC, CPNP, PhD, FAAN, Professor (Status)
Mary Jo Haddad Chair in Child Health Research
The iPeer-to-Peer (iP2P) Mentoring Program for Youth with Sickle Cell Disease: A Pilot Feasibility Randomized Controlled Trial.
The overall aim of this program of research is to examine the feasibility and preliminary impact of a Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Internet Peer-2-Peer mentoring program (iP2P program) on health outcomes and health-related quality of life (HRQL) of adolescents with SCD. This program matches young adults with SCD (19-25 years of age who have learned to cope effectively with their SCD and transitioned to adult health care) with adolescents 12-18 years of age with SCD using Skype/Facetime-based phone calls. The student will help with the project implementation and evaluation of the iP2P SCD program through participant recruitment, obtaining consent, and data collection. This project emphasizes the importance of the integration of peer relationships in the provision of healthcare, particularly as healthcare shifts away from treatment of disease towards health promotion. Peers are advocates and sources of support for effective chronic disease self-management.

Kim Widger, RN, PhD, Associate Professor
Pediatric Palliative Care
Professor Kim Widger’s research is focused on understanding and improving pediatric palliative care, for children with life-threatening illness and their families. She also has an interest in knowledge translation and recently completed a study that aimed to improve earlier involvement of specialized pediatric palliative care teams and earlier discussion of advanced care planning. She currently holds two CIHR-funded grants to investigate the use of administrative data to understand the impact of palliative care on child and family outcomes.
TERMS OF PROGRAM AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

Undergraduate Student Summer Research opportunities are provided over the summer period (exact dates to be determined in consultation with faculty advisor).

- Applicants must be enrolled in the undergraduate program at the Lawrence Bloomberg S. Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, in the first year of academic study.

- Applicants who have completed their undergraduate program are not eligible.

- Applicants should have a minimum grade point average of A- (3.7) to be eligible.

- A stipend of $4,500.00 will be provided.

- Each applicant may submit only one application for this program.

- It is expected that recipients will be notified sometime in April 2020.
APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applications should include the following:

• The application cover sheet (see following page).

• A one-page description which must include the following:
  - Faculty member(s) you would be interested in working with and why;
  - Past research experience; and
  - Other related skills, e.g. computer, statistics, etc.

• A current curriculum vitae.

• An official academic record of the GPA (current ROSI/ACORN print out/screen shot acceptable).

• Email submissions are acceptable

• Please save all files as “LAST NAME_FIRST NAME_DOCUMENT TYPE”

• A fillable Word form is available upon request.

DEADLINE: February 25, 2020, 4:00 PM Eastern.

Please submit your application package (by email or hard copy; do not mail):

Marian Smith, Administrative Assistant
Office of Research & External Relations
Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing
155 College Street
Toronto, ON M5T 1P8
Tel: (416) 978-8533
E-mail: research.nursing@utoronto.ca