



CHU Sainte-Justine
Research Center
Mother and Child
University Hospital Center

Université
de Montréal

Project title	UniVenture		
Study level(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> MSc	<input type="checkbox"/> PhD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Postdoctorate
Principal investigator(s)	Patricia Conrod, Ph.D.		
Project duration	5 years		
Start date	As soon as possible		

Research laboratory presentation

The Conrodventure Laboratory's research focuses on risk factors related to substance abuse and mental health in adolescents.

This research will be conducted out of the Conrodventure Laboratory,
<https://www.conrodventurelab.com/>

Research project description

The Univenture project is a targeted wellness program to address heavy drinking and other substance misuse on Canadian campuses. This study is funded by the Social Sciences and Health Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Canadian university undergrads have alarmingly high rates of risky patterns of alcohol, cannabis, and prescription drug use. This substance misuse has harmful short- and long-term effects that negatively impact students, their friends and families, and their communities. Harms can include academic struggles and even university drop-out. These persisting high rates of substance misuse reflect a lack of effectiveness of universal, one-size-fits-all prevention programs currently used by Canadian universities. Prevention programs that are targeted and personalized to characteristics of vulnerable students are greatly needed.

Univenture is a research partnership with one goal: to adapt, test, and begin sharing an effective, sustainable targeted wellness program to tackle the timely social issue of heavy drinking and other substance misuse on Canadian campuses. Our partnership involves: social science experts specializing in substance misuse, emerging adulthood (ages 18-25), and barriers to undergrad academic achievement; university Student Affairs units, student-led organizations, and in-house professional training clinics; and other methodological and national partner organizations (i.e., Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse, Post-secondary Education Partnership--Alcohol Harms, Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, Mental Health Commission of Canada, Nova Scotia Health Authority Research Methods Unit, Strategy for Patient Oriented Research SUPPORT Units, and the Strongest Families Institute). These partners bring together the necessary scientific and practical knowledge, methodological expertise, lived experience, and knowledge sharing capacity to tackle this critical social issue in a manner that no one group could alone.



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Our project is a 5-year, multi-site, controlled study involving 1st and 2nd year undergrads at 5 representatively diverse Canadian university sites (Dalhousie, St. Francis Xavier, Montreal, York, and British Columbia-Okanagan). We will test a program targeting personality traits linked to substance misuse. An earlier version of this program led to marked reductions in substance use and distress in adolescents. Our novel objectives are to examine the program's effects on: substance use and distress among emerging adults; uptake of prescription drug use given the opioid crisis; and undergrads' academic success. In parallel, we will assess 2 versions of the program: a face-to-face and an innovative and accessible technology-assisted distance-delivery format, both compared to normal campus services alone.

Our partnership will impact knowledge sharing and student training opportunities. With a diversity of academic and non-academic partners and an integrative knowledge sharing approach, we will share results with many audiences throughout the project. The academic researchers have recognized expertise in training and mentoring students. Further, trainees will be exposed to many opportunities and settings both inside and outside of the university in which to apply their research skills to substance misuse prevention.

Univenture may potentially have a dramatic effect on university policies on the prevention of substance misuse on Canadian campuses by helping partners appreciate the effectiveness of targeted and personalized approaches, and leveraging partners' expansive networks to inform other Canadian universities. A successful technology-assisted distance-delivered program will provide universities with an effective, relatively low-cost, and accessible tool to intervene with risky substance use behaviors in undergrads. A successful program for at-risk students will also profoundly impact their academic performance and goal achievement, as well as their lives beyond university.

Dr. Patricia Conrod is inviting a new postdoctoral research trainee to join the ConrodVentureLab to gain experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative translation research aimed at adapting evidence-based cognitive behavioural interventions for the university context, particularly the UdM context.

Required training and profile

- PhD degree in a related scientific field plus recent, relevant research experience. Clinical psychology and counselling will be prioritized
- Excellent written and verbal communication, in French and in English (must be bilingual)
- Trained to work with the baseline data to investigate ancillary research questions related to substance misuse, emotional wellness, academic performance, and their inter-relations
- Ability to produce academic papers and conference presentations
- The ability to prepare and coordinate primary ethical approval and support individual study site applications to local Research Ethics Boards
- The ability to support the development of data collection protocols and tools, support and ensure standardized data collection, management and analysis practices across all study sites
- Oversee timelines and assist with timely completion of implementation goals at each site, support communication between sites, recording minutes for all meetings, report to funding agencies



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- Collaborate with public, private and academic partners that may benefit from and contribute to the upcoming scientific studies
- The ability to work independently
- The ability to work in a dynamic, fast-paced and collaborative environment
- Very organized and detail-oriented

Conditions

Occasional travel within Canada may be required.

The candidate must register at the Université de Montréal as a postdoctoral fellow and must meet the eligibility requirements of the program. Postdoctoral fellows receive a stipend at the CHU Sainte-Justine, and not a salary. They are therefore not eligible to receive marginal benefits, employment insurance or retirement pension benefits. Taxes will be deducted at the source when the stipend is paid from the director's research funds.

The CHU Sainte-Justine has a minimum remuneration policy for all its students and postdoctoral fellows. Remuneration may come from the researcher's funds or from an external nominal award. The candidate will have to apply for external scholarships to obtain a nominative award.

The duration of the research refinement is conditional on:

- The availability of research funds;
- The progress of the project;
- The candidate's eligibility to maintain a postdoctoral fellowship status at the university.

Submit your application

Candidates must send the required documents before **October 18, 2019** to **Audrey Livet** at audrey.livet@recherche-ste-justine.gc.ca

Please provide:

- ✓ *Curriculum vitae*
- ✓ Most recent transcripts
- ✓ Cover letter
- ✓ References

Dr Patricia Conrod
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Studies at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center

Pursue your [graduate or postdoctoral studies](#) at the **CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center**, and be one of the 500 students, fellows and interns involved in accelerating the development of knowledge in the field of maternal, child and adolescent health, whether in basic or clinical research. Under the supervision of prominent scientists, especially in leukemia, rare pediatric diseases, genetics, perinatology, obesity, neuropsychology and cognition, scoliosis and rehabilitation, you will have the opportunity to work with multidisciplinary scientific teams and collaborators from all over the world.

About the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center

CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center is a leading mother-child research institution affiliated with Université de Montréal. It brings together more than 200 research investigators, including over 90 clinician-scientists, as well as 500 graduate and postgraduate students focused on finding innovative prevention means, faster and less invasive treatments, as well as personalized approaches to medicine. The Center is part of CHU Sainte-Justine, which is the largest mother-child center in Canada and the second most important pediatric center in North America. More on research.chusj.org

