CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center
Mother and Child University Hospital Center
Université de Montréal

Project title	Behavioral economics of pediatric lifestyle habits		
Study level(s)	☒ M.Sc.	☐ Ph.D.	☐ Postdoctorate
Principal investigator(s)	Olivier Drouin , M.D. , M.Sc. , MPH , FRCPC		
Project duration	2 years		
Start date	April-May 2020		

Research laboratory presentation

The Drouin lab studies how children and parents make decisions regarding their health, and uses this knowledge to improve the prevention and management of chronic diseases in pediatrics. Located at the intersection of public health, clinical medicine and behavioral science, the lab draws from health services research, behavioral economics, epidemiology, experimental psychology and health economics to improve the delivery of care for children.

Research project description

Behavioral economics of pediatric lifestyle habits will serve to understand cognitive factors associated with children retention and success in the CIRCUIT program, a lifestyle behavior change program targeting children at high-risk of cardiometabolic diseases. Information campaigns and traditional approaches to improve screen time, physical activity and nutrition have not yielded expected benefits. Behavioral economics is a novel framework that could be leveraged to improve the effectiveness of lifestyle behavior change programs.

Specifically, in this project we will:

- Describe the trajectory of four constructs of behavioural science among patients referred to a paediatric lifestyle behaviour modification program and their parents: delayed gratification, affective forecasting, optimistic bias, and descriptive social norms.
- Explore the correlation between each of those four constructs, with cardiometabolic risk factors (sedentary pursuits, low physical activity, BMI, body composition and VO_2 max) upon entry in a lifestyle behaviour modification program.
- Determine whether each of the four constructs of behavioural science at baseline are correlated with dropout from the program.
- Explore the correlation between the trajectories of four constructs of behavioural sciences with *improvement* in the cardiometabolic risk factors above during the course of the program.

Required training and profile

- The interested candidate should hold an undergradute degree, ideally in a discipline related to the project, for ex : nutrition, kinesiology, public health, communication science, psychology.

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- Excellent academic track record
- Good knowledge of statistics is required
- Working French and English (spoken and written) is required.
- Good level of autonomy is required.
- Research experience is an asset, although not strictly required.
- Experience with statistical packages (SAS, Stata, R, etc.) is an asset, but not required.
- Experience interacting with children and families is an asset.
- Applicants from visible minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Conditions

Candidates will be strongly encouraged to apply for training awards (FRQS, CIHR) for this position.

Submit your application

Candidates must send the required documents before **January 2020** to **Dr, Olivier Drouin** at o.drouin@UMontreal.ca

Please provide:

√ *Curriculum vitæ*
√ Most recent transcripts
√ Cover letter
√ References

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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.

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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