

Project title	Effects of vitamin D3 supplementation on severity, functional and economic burden of asthma attacks of young children		
Levels(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MSc	<input type="checkbox"/> Doctorate	<input type="checkbox"/> Postdoctoral
Researcher(s) in charge	Francine M. Ducharme		
Project duration	2-3 years		
Begin date	As soon as possible.		

Offered position

Funded MSc position in clinical epidemiology or related sciences.

Internship location:

Laboratoire du Dre Francine Ducharme,
Centre de recherche Azrieli du CHU Sainte-Justine
3175, ch. Côte-Ste-Catherine
Montréal (Québec) H3T 1C5

Project duration: 2 - 3 years

Research laboratory overview

The clinical laboratory of Dr. Ducharme, clinician-researcher and clinical epidemiologist, focuses on various clinical studies testing the efficacy and safety profile of various interventions in pediatric asthma.

Research project description

Asthma is the most common chronic disease in children and viral infections are the main triggers for asthma attacks in young children. Despite standard treatment, young children continue to have asthma attacks triggered by colds. The proposed thesis project derives from a large multicenter clinical trial testing the efficacy of high-dose vitamin D versus placebo in addition to standard treatment to reduce the severity of asthma attacks in young preschool children who have required rescue oral corticosteroids in the past year. During

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the study, parents documented for each asthma attack their child's symptoms and functional status (validated questionnaire), their personal quality of life (validated questionnaire), as well as the direct and indirect costs. With over 320 children recruited, this study is a unique opportunity to establish the real burden of an asthma attack on the child and parents.

Objectives:

The main objective of the proposed thesis topic is to document whether and how vitamin D supplementation modifies child's symptoms and affects the functional and economic burden on parents; and secondarily, to describe the burden of recurrent asthma attacks in young children and their parents.

Student's role in the project

The student's role is to review related literature, proceed to the data management, analysis and interpretation of the found data with the R software and to write a thesis with a scientific manuscript to submit for publication.

Profile and training required

- Bachelors or Master's Degree in biostatistics, pharmacoepidemiology, epidemiology, biomedical sciences or related discipline.
- Expertise in statistical analysis and/or mathematics.
- Good knowledge of statistical software programming (R, SAS, or SPSS) is an asset.
- Comfortable working with databases is an asset.
- Excellent academic record
- Research experience
- Excellent command of written and spoken English and, ideally, French.

Conditions

A competitive student scholarship will be offered for the first year; the successful applicant will be invited to apply for scholarships in various competitions for years two and three.

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Submitting your application

Applicants must send the required documents by email to **Dr. Francine M. Ducharme** francine.m.ducharme@umontreal.ca

Please include:

- √ *Curriculum vitae*
- √ Most recent academic transcript
- √ Cover letter
- √ 3 references

Recipients' full address:

Francine M. Ducharme, MD, MSc, FRCP(c), CAHS

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About the Centre de recherche du CHU Sainte-Justine

The Centre de recherche Azrieli du CHU Sainte-Justine is a flagship facility for mother-child research affiliated with the Université de Montréal. Focused on the discovery of innovative means of prevention, less intrusive and faster treatments, and promising avenues of personalized medicine, it brings together over 200 researchers, including more than 90 clinical researchers, as well as 500 graduate and post-doctoral students. The center is an integral part of the Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine, the largest mother-child center in Canada and the second largest pediatric center in North America. Details at [Centre de recherche du CHU Sainte-Justine \(chusj.org\)](http://chusj.org)



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