Project title	Improving adherence to controller medication in children with asthma - the unexplored contribution of behavioural sciences
Study level(s)	☒ MSc ☒ PhD ☐ Postdoctorate
Principal investigator(s)	Dr. Olivier Drouin
Project duration	2 to 4 years
Start date	Flexible, as of January 2022

Research laboratory presentation

Dr. Drouin's lab studies how children and their parents make decisions about their health and how they navigate and use the health care system and uses this information to improve prevention and management of pediatric chronic diseases.

At the intersection of public health, clinical medicine, and behavioural sciences, the lab uses techniques from health services research, behavioural economics, epidemiology, experimental psychology, and health economics to improve children health care.

Research project description

Asthma is one of the most common pediatric chronic diseases, affecting one out of 10 children, and more than 3 million Canadiens. Asthma disproportionally impacts patients of low socioeconomic status. Given their more severe asthma and greater exposure to harmful environments, children from low socioeconomic status would benefit the most from controller medications, such as inhaled corticosteroids. However, some evidence suggests that adherence to controller medication in this population is low. Two cognitive mechanisms; scarcity and future discounting, may be important to understanding medication nonadherence and to mediating the relationship between unmet social needs and adherence.

The primary objective of this prospective, observational cohort study is to understand the impact of having unmet social needs on these two cognitive mechanisms (scarcity and future discounting) and whether these mediate the relationship between unmet social needs and medication adherence. Using existing electronic health databases and questionnaires, the presence of unmet social needs, scarcity, and future discounting will be measured at baseline and throughout a 12-month follow up.

Required training and profile

- The candidate must have obtained at least a bachelor's degree, ideally in a discipline related to the project, such as but not limited to health sciences (respiratory therapy, nursing, physiotherapy, etc.), public health, communication sciences, psychology.
- Excellent academic record
- A strong understanding of statistics is required
- Proficiency in both French and English, (spoken and written) is required.
- A high level of autonomy is expected.

Research project offer
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- Previous research experience is an asset, but not absolutely required
- Experience with a statistics program (SAS, Stata, R, etc.) is an asset, but not required.
- Experience interacting with children and families is an asset.

Candidates who identify as visible minorities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Conditions

The candidate will be invited to apply for training awards in the various competitions and programs of the granting agencies (FRQS, CIHR) for this graduate degree.

Submit your application

Candidates must send the required documents before **December 15, 2021** to **Dr. Olivier Drouin** at **o.drouin@UMontreal.ca**.

Please provide:

√ *Curriculum vitæ*

√ Most recent transcripts

√ Cover letter

√ Two letters of references (one of which must be academic in nature)

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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

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