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

Project title	Risk perception and COVID-19 – implications for vaccination		
Study level(s)	☒ MSc	☒ PhD	☒ Postdoctorate
Principal investigator(s)	Dr. Olivier Drouin		
Project duration	1-3 year(s)		
Start date	Flexible		

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. It endeavours to use this information to improve the 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 pediatric health care.

Research project description

COVID-19 is the most important public health threat of a generation, and the greatest hope of controlling the disease lies in the development of an effective vaccine. Yet, close to a third of potential vaccine recipients are hesitant about getting vaccinated against COVID-19, threatening vaccine efficacy at the population level. Given the scope of the potential problem and the expected approval and distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine in the coming months, it is imperative to understand people's perception of COVID-19 risk, and how this perceived risk influences acceptability of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The project *Risk perception and COVID-19 – implications for vaccination*, seeks to understand how people assess risk in the context of a novel threat, as well as the acceptability of a COVID-19 vaccine. Specifically, we will explore factors modulating risk perception, including impact of disease novelty, personal connection to the disease, and perceived control over the disease. We will then test the extent to which risk perception predicts acceptability of the COVID-19 vaccine and the intention to vaccinate against COVID-19. Finally, we will develop and pilot-test nudge-type interventions to improve the acceptability of a future COVID-19 vaccine.

Required training and profile

- The candidate must have a bachelor's degree, ideally in a discipline related to the project, such as (but not limited to), health sciences, psychology, public health, biomedical sciences.
- Excellent academic record
- A good knowledge of statistics is required
- Knowledge of French and English (spoken and written) is required.
- A good level of autonomy is required.

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- Experience interacting with children and families is an asset.
- Research experience is a plus, although not absolutely required.
- Experience with a statistical program (SAS, Stata, R, etc.) is required.

Visible minority candidates 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 master's degree.

Submit your application

Candidates must send the required documents before **January 15, 2021** 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.

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