



RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM – 2018 SUPERVISOR & PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Please complete and return, via email only (crems.programs@utoronto.ca) by **November 3rd 2017** (*forms received after this date will not be posted*).

Supervisor Information

Name: Dr Heather Ross

Email:

heather.ross@uhn.ca

Degree: MD MHSc

SGS Appointment (IMS, IHPME,

LMP etc.): IMS

Academic Rank: Professor

Field of Research: Heart

Failure

Research Institution Affiliation (if applicable): Toronto General Research Institute

Allocation of student contact time (number of hours per week YOU are available to the student for any concerns or to review progress):

Always available via email.

Face-to-face – I typically schedule 30 minutes/month for 1:1 meetings with my team.

Project Information

Title: Heart Failure Advance Care Planning (HF-ACP)

To date there is little evidence regarding the content heart failure patients and their caregivers consider important to include in heart failure advance care planning (HF-ACP). Incorporating these suggestions into advance care planning may improve ACP completion rates for patients living with heart failure. The HF-ACP initiatives consist of 2 separate but related studies.

The first study uses qualitative methods to identify the content heart failure patients and their caregivers consider important to include in advance care planning. Individual, paired and focus group interviews are being used to collect data for about 30 heart failure patients +/- their caregivers from the Peter Munk Cardiac Center. Interim data analysis is in progress. The results of the interim analysis will determine if we continue with individual interviews or conduct focus groups for feedback on the content areas identified to date. With supervision the student will be able to participate in qualitative data analysis, conducting interviews and participating in the focus groups. There will be an opportunity for the student to present the results of the research at a national cardiac meeting and co-author a manuscript. We anticipate that most of this work will occur over the summer months of the first year.

We have a robust clinical research program in heart failure palliative care. In the past students have generated a research question from their observation and participation on the Heart Function team. In these situations we work with the student to ensure the study is feasible, develop the protocol and complete the REB application. Typically protocol development and REB application are completed during the fall/winter and data is collected during the second summer placement. The student will be supported to be the lead author on any presentations or publications related to their study.

If human subjects are involved, have Ethics been obtained?

YES NO Application Submitted N/A

Do you expect this work will be published within the 20 months?

YES NO Uncertain

Student's roles and responsibilities (please be specific)

Dr Jane MacIver, Ted Rogers Professor of Cardiovascular Research will provide direct supervision to the student.

The student will be responsible for:

- learning about the qualitative research process for this specific study, including how to analyze data.
- Interviewing patients +/- caregivers – with supervision until able to conduct interviews alone
- Managing data using NVIVO qualitative research program
- Presentation of findings to the study team
- Development of an abstract for presentation within the team, at IMS research day, Canadian Cardiovascular Congress.
- Participation in preparing a manuscript for publication.
- Participating in our Summer Research learning series with other undergraduate and graduate students. Including presentation of their research to the group.