



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE



Medical Alumni Association
University of Toronto



Comprehensive Research
Experience for Medical Students

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND CREMS-SPONSORED
DR. ELVA MAY ROWE FUND

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM
2018 SUPERVISOR PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

If you wish to act as a Supervisor for a first or second year University of Toronto medical student wishing to conduct a research project abroad between June and August 2018, please complete the below form with as much detail as possible.

PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF THE ON-SITE SUPERVISOR'S CV. THIS IS REQUIRED FOR THE ADJUDICATION PROCESS.

Submit this form to crems.programs@utoronto.ca by the deadline of **Thursday March 1, 2018.**

PART A: Supervisor and On-Site Supervisor Contact Information

UofT Researcher:	Dr. Arun Ravindran
Email Address:	Arun.ravindran@camh.ca
Telephone:	613-979-6933
Mailing Address:	100 Stokes Street 4 th Floor, Toronto, ON M6J 1H4
Department:	Mood and Anxiety Ambulatory Services
Degree (MD, PhD, MD/PhD):	MD PhD
SGS Appointment/where?:	
Selected Publications (3 most recent and relevant to the project the student will be working on):	
Name of On-site Supervisor:	Dr. Shehan Williams
Location of placement (Name of Institution/hospital; City; Country):	University of Kelaniya, Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry
Email Address:	shehanwil@gmail.com
Telephone:	011 94 779 548740
Degree (MD, PhD, MD/PhD):	MD
Area of Medicine of the Research Project (2 keywords):	Depression, myocardial infarction



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PART B: PROJECT INFORMATION

<p>Project Title (this can be modified later, but we would like to have working title from the start): DEPRESSION FOLLOWING MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION: AN INVESTIGATION OF RISK FACTORS AND ASSOCIATED PSYCHOSOCIAL CONTRIBUTORS IN SRI LANKA</p>
<p>Provide background information on the project and program/institution; max 500 words: Cardiovascular disease is among the leading causes of death and disability worldwide. In low- and middle-income countries, the incidence of cardiovascular conditions is on the rise, and is associated with increased tobacco use, air pollution, and persistent poverty. Depression is a common comorbid condition in patients with cardiovascular disease with symptoms occurring in approximately 31% of patients after acute myocardial infarction (MI) compared to 2-9% in the general population. This presents a complex and significant health concern as it has been shown that depressive disorders can impact subsequent morbidity and mortality of patients, as well as increase the risk of re-hospitalizations after acute MI. Nevertheless, depression is often overlooked in cardiac patients. This is particularly notable in Sri Lanka, where mental health knowledge is poor, and treatment of MI has been reported to be insufficient and the impact of psychosocial factors on the outcome has not been well studied.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to conduct a cross-sectional evaluation of depression, associated risk factors, and impact in hospitalized patients who have had a recent MI. The study sample will include 50 patients from the University of Kelaniya teaching hospital who have experienced MI in the past month. Under supervision, students will collect sociodemographic data and medical history, as well as assess severity of depressive symptoms, psychiatric comorbidities, as well as stress perception and psychosocial functioning using validated tools, including the MINI, QIDS, Brief COPE, and PSS. Further, measures of caregiver burden and patient support system will also be collected.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the findings of this study will contribute to the better understanding of risk factors (including cultural ones) contributing to depression after MI, and to the development of effective interventions as well as improved quality of life in patients following MI.</p>
<p>What, if any, second language is required for the student to successfully complete this project? N/A</p>
<p>Is this project for 1 or 2 students to complete? <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2</p>
<p>How long have you worked with the on-site supervisor and briefly describe your working partnership: I have collaborated with Dr. Shehan Williams for over 15 years. There is an official MOU between the Departments of Psychiatry at University of Toronto and University of Kelaniya. Dr. Shehan Williams and I have co-supervised two student placements annually over the past five years who completed projects on the psychological sequelae of thalassemia, youth suicide, first episode psychosis, and psychiatric interface in family practice.</p>
<p>Have you visited the city/town where the medical student will be placed? If yes, when was your last visit? Yes, I visit the University of Kelaniya regularly for global health work and was there most recently in the fall of 2017. I plan to visit it again in March 2018. I also co-supervise a senior graduate student at the University of Kelaniya for her doctoral work.</p>
<p>Student's roles/responsibilities in bullet form (Please be as <u>specific</u> as possible):</p>



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- Work under supervision to review patient charts, interview patients and family members and collect relevant data
- Develop database and analyze data
- Produce final report and disseminate the specific findings by presentations and publications.

Is this project for a specific student, or will you interview and select an interested student who would contact you directly for this opportunity?

Note: All supervisor/student applications will be adjudicated by a panel of faculty, given a score, and ranked based on the score given. Funding will be based on ranking.

For a specific student. Name of student:

For whichever student is chosen after interview

If human subjects are involved, has Ethics been obtained? *(Note: Written proof or an email indicating protocol approval may be requested prior to the student's arrival at on-site location)*

Yes No N/A

We will be submitting for ethics approval as soon as the grant is available. In the past, we have always been able to obtain the approval in time to start in June.

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