RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM 2017
SUPERVISOR/PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

Due on or before October 21 2016. Forms received after this date will not be posted on the website.

SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

Supervisor Name: Girish Kulkarni

Mailing Address: 700 University Ave, 6th Floor, Room 6-824, Toronto, ON, M5G 1Z5

Telephone Number: 416-946-2246

Email Address: girish.kulkarni@uhn.ca

Degree (MD, PhD, MD/PhD): MD/PhD

Academic Rank: Assistant Professor

Field of Research: Clinical Effectiveness, Clinical Epidemiology, Health Economics, Health Services Research

Graduate School Appointment (IMS, IHPME etc..): IHPME
Please note that you must be appointed to the SGS in order to be a supervisor in the Scholar Program

Research Institute Affiliation (if applicable): Princess Margaret Cancer Centre - Cancer Clinical Research Unit (CCRU)

Allocation of student contact time (# of hours per week you are available to the student for any concerns or to review progress): 1 hour / week

Do you have a student that you have already agreed to work with? No
Please note, you may go ahead with a self-initiated project with a student of your choosing. If you choose this option, your project will not be posted online, meaning it will not be open to student applicants.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Development of a Utility Weighting Function for the Bladder Utility Symptom Scale (BUSS-U)

Project Description (max 500 words):

Bladder cancer (BCa) patients face many decisions regarding treatment choice. Patients' preferences regarding tradeoffs in health-related quality of life (HRQOL) and cancer control play major roles in many decisions. "Utility" is a global, composite measure of HRQOL that describes preference for a health state. Generic utility questionnaires lack vital BCa-specific domains (i.e. urinary, sexual) and to date, there are no existing BCa-specific utility instruments. Creating such an instrument requires: I) developing and validating a multiattribute health state classification system (questionnaire design) and II) creating a set of utility weights that allow generation of a global score anchored at 0 (dead) and 1 (full health). Using rigorous methodology, the study team completed the first step by developing the Bladder Utility Symptom Scale – Psychometric (BUSS-P). Our current objective is to measure the utility weights necessary to convert the BUSS-P to the BUSS – Utility (BUSS-U). We will obtain utilities from BCa patients and community members using the Time Trade-Off (TTO) method and the statistical inference approach to developing weights for multiattributed outcomes. These methods will allow for the development of a regression model from a selected sample of all possible health states described by the BUSS. The final product, an indirect BCa-specific utility instrument, will provide patient- and community member-derived utilities for patient decision-making and cost-effectiveness models. We expect that the BUSS-U will be widely adopted by cancer centres and researchers as a "first of its kind" instrument for bladder cancer.

The student project will consist of a secondary analysis using the BUSS-P, utility, and health history data collected, with the specific project objectives being determined by the student and the Primary Investigator.

If human subjects are involved, has Ethics been obtained?

☒YES ☐NO ☐Application Submitted ☐N/A

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

☐YES ☐NO ☒Uncertain

Student's Roles / Responsibilities (Please be as specific as possible) Please indicate who will serve as the student's direct report. (PI, PDF, PhD student, technician etc…):

The student's responsibilities will include:

- Completing research interviews with study participants (bladder cancer patients and community members)
- Completing chart reviews for bladder cancer patient participants
- Date entry
- Data analysis corresponding to the objectives determined by the student and the PI

The student will directly report to the research associate managing the study.