# Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students
## Summer Research Program 2019

## Supervisor/Project Information Form
*Due February 20 2019 by email to crems.programs@utoronto.ca*

**Supervisor Name:** Dr. Pieter J. Jugovic

**Project Title**:
Creating a Novel Virtual Whiteboard -  A New Multidisciplinary Dementia Care Tool

**Hospital/Research Institution:** Michael Garron Hospital

**Email:**pieter.jugovic@utoronto.ca

**Field of Research** (2 keywords): Dementia Care

**Department**: Family Medicine in the Division of Complex Continuing Care

**School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)?** Yes/No: No

**If YES, please name:**

**Project Title**:
Creating a Novel Virtual Whiteboard -  A New Multidisciplinary Dementia Care Tool

**Brief Project Description** (<300 words):

In 2015, Michael Garron Hospital embarked upon a journey to enhance the care it provides to patients with a diagnosis of advanced dementia who have behaviours and psychological symptoms associated with their dementia (BPSD). They represent a growing population whose vulnerabilities deserve special attention.  They do not easily fit into standardized care pathways and daily routines of hospitalization.  As such, Michael Garron Hospital dedicated resources to create a novel strategy designed to manage these patients called the Memory Care Unit. The Memory Care Unit (MCU) has the singular mandate of improving care delivery to patients with advanced dementia and BPSD.  It is a closed unit, much like an ICU, and offers specialized care that attends to the distinctive physical, emotional, cognitive and behavioral needs of these elders.

To improve the care of patients in our MCU, we created a virtual whiteboard (vWB) to bring together all the relevant elements of care needed to make therapeutic decisions for these complex patients. The vWB was created in 2017 and contains an array of evidence-based clinical assessment tools for dementia patients.  By design, the vWB is using these tools to explore the many facets of dementia care including its clinical features, patient-caregiver relationships, healthcare system barriers, etc.

To date, we have not evaluated the impact of the MCU. This project will focus on analyzing data we have collected on past and present patients using the vWB.  We hypothesize that regular attention to individual variables of care such as bowel care, sleep patterns and pain management have an impact on behavioral management.  Additionally, we think there is a correlation between elements of care and behavioural

management and the reduction of antipsychotic use.  If you are interested in using a novel virtual tool to explore dementia care, this project is for you.  Let's get started…