



**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. Megan Landes and Dr. Edward Xie

Hospital/Research Institution: University Health Network

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Field of Research (2 keywords): HIV, public health

Department: Family and Community Medicine

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? No

Project Title: FAST-HIV: Feasible, Accessible, Standard Testing (FAST) for HIV in the ED

Brief Project Description (<300 words):

An unmet need for early HIV diagnosis in EDs is related to system-wide process barriers: we simply do not have access to rapid point-of-care (POC) testing in Ontario hospitals. Currently, in Ontario, delays to receive results and no quality-assured mechanism for notifying patients means that patients can fail to receive their results and miss linkage to care. Evidence has shown that ED physicians are reluctant to initiate testing without clear reporting or counselling procedures.

We wish to investigate the current landscape of HIV testing in EDs across Canada to discover whether this 'diagnosis gap' similarly exists in other provinces, or whether there are EDs in Canada that have implemented rapid HIV POC testing - and if so, what we can learn from those EDs in order to improve access to testing in Ontario. Our objectives are:

1. To understand which, if any, EDs in Canada use POC HIV testing
2. To understand barriers and facilitators to implementing POCT in Canadian EDs
3. To gather best practices and lessons learned from implementation of POCT in the ED

To address objective 1, a purposive literature review will be undertaken to gather background knowledge of HIV testing in Canadian EDs, including whether any Canadian EDs have published information on implementing POC testing in their setting. The literature review will guide 15-20 semi-structured interviews targeting ED leaders (Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, or other stakeholders in leadership positions identified through the review or recruitment process) at Canadian hospitals that employ HIV testing, addressing objectives 2 and 3. Supervision will be provided for the student to design and complete the literature review. Interviews will be jointly conducted by the student and faculty on the project team. REB application will be submitted prior to the start of the CREMS project allowing sufficient time for approval.