Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students
Summer Research Program 2020

Supervisor/Project Information Form
Due February 6, 2020 by email to crems.programs@utoronto.ca

Supervisor Name: Drs. Rachel Spitzer and Julie Thorne

Project Title: Retrospective Evaluation of the Women’s Equity Clinic and other related projects

Hospital/Research Institution: Women's College Hospital

Email: Rachel.spitzer@sinahealth.ca

Field of Research (2 keywords): equity and underserved populations

Department: ObGyn

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No: Yes – SGS and DLSPH

Brief Project Description (<300 words):
Women from underserved populations require unique elements of care. There has been ongoing and increasing interest on the part of our trainees to acquire formal expertise in global women’s health both locally and abroad (Millar H, JOGC 2015;37(10):927-935). Global Health fellowships are increasingly common in the US; in 2016 we launched the first Canadian Global Women’s Health and Equity (GWHE) fellowship at the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

As part of this fellowship we began the Women’s Equity Clinic at Women’s College Hospital in 2016. Patients in the clinic are seen by the GWHE fellow under the supervision of Global Health
ObGyn faculty. The demographic characteristics, and referral and care patterns for this clinic have not been evaluated.

Objective: to describe the demographics, referral patterns and care needs of the immigrant refugee women who present to the Women’s Equity Clinic for obstetrical and gynaecologic care.

Specifically, we aim to (1) develop a retrospective database of all visits for women who attend the clinic (2) analyze the data for a) client referral reasons b) the main referring source c) client socioeconomic risk factors, including existing (or non-existing) insurance, refugee status, and d) the number and nature of surgical procedures booked.

This proposal is submitted to the REB at WCH and is pending approval. The CREMS summer student will prepare a literature review, develop the data collection form, review client files to populate the database, learn and participate in data analysis, and contribute to a manuscript. They may participate in other evolving projects in GWHE in their capacity as a research assistant. A manuscript is anticipated and this student will have the opportunity to contribute to the project once the summer is over.