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

**Supervisor Name:** Claire Jones

**Project Title:** Egg Freezing Prior to Risk Reducing Salpingo-oopherectomy for Carriers of a BRCA Gene Mutation: Needs Assessment for Decisional Support

**Hospital/Research Institution:** Mount Sinai Hospital and Women’s College Hospital

**Email:** Claire.jones@sinaihealthsytem.ca

**Field of Research (2 keywords):** Gynaecology, Fertility

**Department:** Obstetrics and Gynaecology

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

**If YES, please name:**

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

Women who carry the BRCA gene mutation are in a unique situation where they face a substantial risk of breast cancer and ovarian cancer at a younger age, and are strongly recommended to consider removing their ovaries to significantly reduce this risk as early as age 35. Currently in society, delayed childbearing is so prevalent, that many of these women have not yet completed or even started their families, making this decision even more challenging. We hope to be able to identify what factors lead to this decisional conflict in order to be able to develop tools to better help our patients make this difficult decision. We hypothesize a need for development of a decision aid for patients considering egg freezing prior to RRSO. Our research goal is to better qualify this potential need, in particular determining the areas in which patients and practitioners counselling patients feel decisional conflict and uncertainty, and the determinants of the decision of whether or not to pursue egg freezing.

We are currently interviewing patients facing this decision on important factors that influenced their decision. We are also interviewing health care providers about how they feel patients go
about making this decision. Students will be involved in recruiting patients at the Familial Ovarian Cancer Clinic (FOCC) as well as at Mount Sinai Fertility (MSF). They will interview patients and providers using a semi-structured interview framework. They will perform a literature review on qualitative coding. They will then transcribe and qualitatively code each interview on an ongoing basis. They will be involved in writing a manuscript and publishing their findings. There will also be opportunities to observe salpingo-oopherectomies being performed at WCH and counselling for patients with the BRCA gene mutation both at MSF and FOCC.