Supervisor Name:  Daphne Korczak MD FRCPC

Project Title:  The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children’s mental health

Hospital/Research Institution:  Hospital for Sick Children/SickKids RI

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Field of Research (2 keywords):  child and adolescent psychiatry, COVID-19 impact

Department:  Psychiatry

School of Graduate Studies Appointment (IMS, LMP, IHPME etc)? Yes/No:  Yes
If YES, please name:  IMS
COVID-19 and Children’s Mental Health

Children and adolescents have experienced increased mental health symptoms over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide. In our longitudinal research project, approximately 70% of children and adolescents in Ontario report a worsening of their mental health since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. In our study of 1,013 parents and youth during the first wave, approximately 70% of children reported worsening mental health across domains of depression, irritability and inattention. The most significant predictor of worsening mental health symptoms across domains was the degree of social isolation that children experienced. The successful applicant will work with an established team examining the impacts of pre-existing mental health problems on child outcomes, which many include the role of virtual schooling or public health mitigation strategies as potentially modifiable factors in this association. Students will be expected to participate in weekly meetings, determine a feasible research question and analytical plan, conduct descriptive data analyses, and summarize their results for oral and written dissemination in the form of a scientific manuscript. Students can expect to interact with other clinical and non-clinical trainees, research staff, and collaborators with our team, and to gain greater knowledge of the research and knowledge translation processes.