Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students
Summer Research Program 2021
Supervisor/Project Information Form

Due February 24, 2021 by email to crems.programs@utoronto.ca

**Supervisor Name:** Dr. Marcus Butler

**Project Title:** Understanding outcomes following adjuvant immunotherapy in the treatment of stage III melanoma

**Hospital/Research Institution:** Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network

**Email:** marcus.butler@uhn.ca

**Field of Research (2 keywords):** oncology, immunology

**Department:** Department of Medicine, Division of Medical Oncology

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

**If YES, please name:** Affiliation with Department of Immunology
Brief Project Description (<300 words):

Recent breakthroughs in clinical oncology have demonstrated that immune based and targeted therapies can result in meaningful clinical responses patients with a variety of liquid and solid tumors. Recent Health Canada approvals of immune checkpoint inhibitors have revolutionized the treatment of melanoma in advanced stages and have also resulted in the use of these agents in the adjuvant setting. As such, melanoma patients are now receiving adjuvant therapies as part of standard of care therapy, in the “real world” setting that includes patients who would not have been eligible for clinical trials. Additionally, in parallel, there is decreased use of completion node dissection in stage III melanoma patients with non-clinically evident nodal involvement. Although 25-30% of patients will relapse in the first few years after adjuvant therapy, the patterns of failure after the initiation of adjuvant therapy, is incompletely understood. A CREMS would remotely carry out a chart review identifying patients with stage III melanoma, and subsequently analyze outcomes for these patients by reviewing baseline patient and tumor characteristics, course of adjuvant therapy, patterns of subsequent recurrence, and clinical outcomes. With the completion of this work, students would ultimately have the opportunity for presentations at national meetings and publication in peer reviewed journals.