Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students (CREMS)

2022 Supervisor and Project Information Form

Please complete and return via email ONLY to crems.programs@utoronto.ca by February 18, 2022.

Supervisor Information

NOTE: CREMS will not support pre-determined pairings of students and supervisors. Supervisors must agree to open their projects to all students and interview all that are interested.

Name: Drs. Nadiya Sunderji and Andrea Waddell

Email: nsunderji@waypointcentre.ca

Department: Psychiatry

Hospital/Research Institution: Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care, Waypoint Research Institute

SGS Department(s) (if applicable):

Dr. Sunderji is cross appointed to IHPME, Dr. Waddell supervises through the MHSc Translational Research Program (LMP)

ORCID ID (see https://orcid.org/ - if you do not have an ORCID ID we encourage you to sign up for one):

Dr. Sunderji’s ORCID ID is 0000-0002-0188-0658
Dr Waddell’s ORCID ID is 0000-0003-1155-6015

Location of Work:

Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care

Field of Research (up to 4 keywords):

mental health, quality improvement, health services, transitions in care

Student contact time (number of hours per week YOU are available to the student for any concerns or to review progress):

We will schedule 1-2 hours per week of direct supervision time with us, supplemented by broader project team meetings with other stakeholders. We will be available throughout business hours each week for any ad hoc issues.
NOTE: If this project is selected, this information will be posted on CREMS website for interested student applicants to view research opportunities.

**PROJECT TITLE:**
Improving Mental Health Transitions in Care Using Quality Improvement Science and Experience Based Co-Design

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**
Including background, aim(s), method(s) and significance of the project. **Maximum 300 words.**

**Background:** Mental health lags other areas of medicine in applying quality improvement (QI) science to improve healthcare delivery. Provincial psychiatric hospitals can play a leadership role in testing and disseminating strategies to implement Health Quality Ontario’s mental healthcare quality standards.

**Aims:** To evaluate current practices at Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care for inpatients transitioning to outpatient care, explore stakeholders’ perspectives of improvement opportunities, and make recommendations for QI. We will describe current rates and timeliness of outpatient follow up (quantitative), analyze current practices to coordinate transitions in care (qualitative), and explore provider and patient perspectives and improvement ideas (qualitative), culminating in an experience-based co-design event.

**Methods:**
1. Quantitative analysis of data from EHR (working with decision support specialists)
2. Qualitative interviews with staff (physicians, interprofessional healthcare providers), community providers, and patients and families (working with Patient Client Family Council) incorporating experience-based co-design
3. Content and thematic analysis of qualitative data, triangulation with quantitative data
4. Synthesis and communication using QI tools such as Ishikawa (‘fishbone’) diagrams and process maps

**Significance:**
This project promotes evidence-based mental health practice and creates new knowledge about mental health quality standard implementation in ‘real world’ settings (‘practice-based evidence’). The student’s report on the initiative will be shared with hospital leaders and regional partners to inform QI initiatives. Our institutional and research partnerships provincially and nationally will support dissemination and knowledge translation opportunities.

Is this project remote-capable (in case of new restrictions) or have an alternative remote option?
☒ Yes, remote capable ☐ No
☐ Yes, alternate remote option. Please specify (100 words max): Click or tap here to enter text.

If human subjects are involved, have the appropriate Research Ethics Board approvals been obtained?
☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable

If yes, please list the application submission date:
Do you expect this work will be published?
☐ Yes  ☐ No  ☒ Uncertain / Other
Research Environment and Student Roles and Responsibilities

Please be specific as possible. Please describe the research environment, including availability of required facilities/equipment/expertise, supervisor’s experience and mentorship plans. Please clearly outline the student role(s) and responsibilities related to the project, potential educational value, and indicate who will serve as the student’s direct report for daily oversight (PI, PHD student, technician, etc.). Maximum 300 words.

Student Role:
The student will play a key role in: a) leading qualitative data collection and analysis of healthcare provider perspectives; b) observing qualitative data collection and co-leading analysis for patient experience with PCFC members experienced in patient-oriented research; c) visualizing and communicating the data using QI tools; d) developing recommendations and presenting findings to stakeholders, and; e) leading at least one peer-reviewed poster presentation at a national or international conference. These activities will provide a valuable introduction to mixed methods research (quan + QUAL), patient oriented research methods, quality improvement, mental health, and academic dissemination. This summer project is part of a multi-year initiative and if the cumulative work warrants publication the student will be offered co-authorship.

Supervisors: Dr. Sunderji has had the privilege of supervising CREMS summer students for the past 5 years. She is trained in quality improvement and is a senior hospital executive sponsoring the project. Dr. Waddell has unparalleled expertise in quality improvement and patient safety among psychiatrists in Canada and experience supervising graduate students in QI. Both are award winning medical educators who have sustained effective collaboration and both have dedicated time for the project and supervision. The student will report primarily to Dr. Waddell as the PI.

Research Environment:
Waypoint is a specialized psychiatric hospital and a community affiliate of the UofT with a rich tradition of research for over 40 years, with a research institute and independent REB. Our interdisciplinary research in mental health quality improvement benefits from close collaboration with experts in Waypoint’s Quality Patient Safety and Risk Portfolio, Data Analytics, as well as our Patient Client Family Council.

Resources: The project is supported by the hospital’s operating budget and the student will be provided space, hardware and software. They will be offered optional opportunities to shadow physicians in clinical settings.