



# 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](mailto: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:**

Brian Feldman

**Email:**

brian.feldman@sickkids.ca

**Department:**

Pediatrics

**Hospital/Research Institution:**

SickKids / SickKids Research Institute

**SGS Department(s) (if applicable):**

Institute of Health Policy Management & Evaluation, IMS

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

0000-0002-7813-9665

**Location of Work:**

Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning – SickKids Research Institute

**Field of Research (up to 4 keywords):**

Quality of life

Childhood arthritis

Measurement

Social Participation

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

I will meet weekly with the student for ½ hour; I will be available during the week for consultation; the student will attend my weekly team meeting / lab meeting; Should covid restrictions allow it, the student will attend clinical service with me and clinic on a regular basis.





## **Project Information**

*NOTE: If this project is selected, this information will be posted on CREMS website for interested student applicants to view research opportunities.*

### **PROJECT TITLE:**

Developing a measure of social participation for children with arthritis and other MSK disabilities.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Including background, aim(s), methodS and significance of the project. **Maximum 300 words.**

The WHO (ICF framework) describes participation (social participation) as an important contributor to quality of life, and as the result of structural/functional limitations, activity limitations and personal and environmental factors.

While structure&function, and activity limitation have been well studied in childhood MSK disability, there has been very little work looking at participation.

With modern therapies, there has been great improvement in these children's structure/function and reductions in activity limitation, but there seems to be a continuing gap in social participation; however we lack the tools to study it.

We will develop a new questionnaire based method of measuring social participation for children with MSK disabilities. The project will comprise a literature review of existing measures. An exploration of the WHO ICF catalogue to select appropriate questionnaire items, a scaling exercise, and the development of a pilot proposal for submission to the research ethics board. Should covid restrictions and time allow, we will pilot the new questionnaire with children with childhood arthritis, hemophilic arthropathy, and childhood dermatomyositis.

Having a tool to measure social participation will give us the opportunity to study the remaining deficits in health-related quality of life for children treated with potent therapies in the modern era.

### **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.**

Dr. Feldman is Head of the Division of Rheumatology at SickKids, and Senior Scientist at the SickKids Research Institute. He is Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He has 3 decades of experience developing and testing measurement tools.

The student will be based at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning (PGCRL) at SickKids, and will have a desk in Dr. Feldman's lab; should covid restrictions apply, this project will be done virtually. The student will work with Dr. Feldman's research team and graduate students and will meet with Dr. Feldman at least weekly.

Additionally, the student will attend our weekly research meeting (lab meeting). Should Covid restrictions allow, the student will regularly shadow Dr. Feldman in clinic and on clinical service (schedule to be decided based on where things are at with the project).

The student will be responsible for all steps of this project up to the submission of protocol development and REB submission. The student will be directly supervised by Dr. Feldman; however, there will be plenty of folks around to provide secondary supervision as questions arise. Dr. Feldman's office is adjacent to where the student will be sitting.

This is a great opportunity to learn about health measurement, chronic childhood illness and rheumatic diseases.