Post-doctoral fellowship

Background

McMaster University, Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics is seeking a two-year Post-Doctoral Fellow to work in a well-established program of health services research on improving end of life planning and care in acute care hospital and community primary care settings. The fellow’s primary supervisor will be Dr. John You with co-supervision from Dr. Michelle Howard (Department of Family Medicine, McMaster) and Dr. Daren Heyland (Department of Medicine, Queen’s University). The studies involved are iDEcIDE (Improving DECision-making about goals of care for hospitalized, elDerly patiEnts: A multicentre, interventional study) and iGAP (Improving General practice Advance care Planning). More information can be found at www.thecarenet.ca.

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is a communication process wherein people plan for a time when they cannot make medical decisions for themselves. An ACP is a verbal or written description of what kind of care an individual would want (or not want) and the nomination of a substitute decision maker if they are no longer able to speak for themselves (see www.advancecareplanning.ca). ACP has been shown to increase the quality of life of dying patients, improve the experience of family members and involved health care professionals, and decrease health care costs. Goals of Care Designation (GCD) is a medical order reflecting “in-the-moment” decisions made in the context of an illness episode used to describe and communicate the general aim or focus of care (e.g., life-prolonging care, comfort care, etc).

The program of research aims to test and implement tools and practices in acute care and primary care settings to improve the uptake of ACP and GCD. The studies involved have sites in BC, Alberta, Ontario and Quebec with varying policies and practices around ACP.

The post-doctoral fellow will work with study investigators and research staff locally and in other provinces to develop, adapt and evaluate tools and resources to be used by patients and health care providers to facilitate ACP/GCD. This will involve working closely with participating hospitals and community family practices to ensure rigour in tool development, data collection and evaluation processes.

This opportunity is supported by a research grant from TVN-Improving Care for the Frail Elderly, a Network Centres of Excellence (www.tvn-nce.ca).

Role of the Fellow

To assist the study teams with:
- creating an evaluation framework and metrics for implementation of ACP/GCD
- developing/adapting and testing tools and resources to promote ACP/GCD activities by patients and health care providers
- developing/adapting and testing measures of ACP engagement by patients and health care providers

The fellow will also participate in the TVN Interdisciplinary Training Program activities. The fellow will have a travel allowance of $1,500 each year to fund visits to participating sites across Canada.

Qualifications and Skills:
- PhD in Social Sciences, Health Research Methods or related field
- Familiarity with quantitative and qualitative research methods, with an emphasis on quantitative methods
- Familiarity with survey methodology
- Experience applying theoretical models of behavior and system change to interventions
- Familiarity with program evaluation methodology
- Excellent facilitation, prioritization, organization and multi-tasking skills
- Previous experience conducting research in a health care setting would be an asset

Salary

$50,000/year for 2 years. Benefits will be provided.

Application Instructions

Applications will be accepted until May 5, 2014.

Anticipated start date: June 16, 2014.

Applicants should send via email a cover letter outlining their research expertise and interests, a Curriculum Vitae, and 2 to 3 letters of reference to Dr. John You at:

Dr. John You, MD MSc FRCPC
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