

Postdoctoral Fellowship

- Position Title:** Postdoctoral fellowship in epidemiological or health services research
- Location:** University of Calgary and University of Alberta (one position at each location)
Dept. of Medicine, Division of Nephrology
- Salary and Conditions:** Commensurate with training and research experience and following CIHR and AHFMR guidelines.
- Research Team:** The Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration is an AHFMR funded research team led by Drs. Brenda Hemmelgarn and Braden Manns (Calgary) and Dr. Marcello Tonelli (Edmonton). Members come from various departments at the Universities of Alberta and Calgary as well as Statistics Canada, Alberta Health and Wellness, and other health-policy bodies. The team is multidisciplinary with experts in administrative data, biostatistics, clinical epidemiology, policy development, health technology assessment, health economics, knowledge transfer, pharmacoepidemiology, survey methodology and qualitative methods.

The research program focuses on non-communicable health conditions (diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease) in adults.

Overview of Research

This integrated program of research will consist of several simultaneous and complementary research activities including

- 1) using existing survey data, population-based laboratory data and administrative data to identify patients with unmet medical need and/or at high risk of adverse complications to assess existing care,
- 2) developing and completing population based surveys of patients with or at high risk of chronic disease to assess patient-level medical and nonmedical barriers to care; and
- 3) using state-of-the-art techniques to design and implement selected interventions aimed at improving access to care and clinical outcomes.

Specific Objective: To determine the characteristics of people with known chronic disease, identify the current gaps in care, and focus on those where further study may facilitate effective policy change

Research plan: Using existing databases, including national surveys conducted by Statistics Canada, a provincial repository of clinical and laboratory data (Alberta Kidney Disease Network; www.akdn.info), Alberta Health and Wellness Administrative data and the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) Cycle 3.1, characteristics of patients with self-reported hypertension, diabetes and vascular disease will be described. The prevalence of chronic disease in Alberta will be calculated. Postal codes will be used to map the prevalence and geographic locations of these patients. Initially, administrative data will be used to identify patients with unmet need, or who

have identified gaps in care. Using a population-based survey and both qualitative and quantitative methods, the specific factors that these individuals identify as barriers to care and unmet healthcare needs will be determined. We will also identify patterns of healthcare utilization, and markers of care quality, for Albertans with self-reported hypertension, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and vascular disease.

Results will be used to identify high-risk adult populations with unmet health needs. Together with our decision-maker partners in the government and healthcare delivery sectors, this information will be used to design strategies aimed at improving health outcomes.

Eligibility:

Successful applicants will have completed their PhD within the last 3 years, have expertise in one of the methodological areas highlighted above, with a competitive publication list and academic record.

Application Process:

Individuals interested in this excellent opportunity should submit:

- letter of interest indicating your preference for site (University of Alberta or Calgary)
- curriculum vitae
- any relevant publications
- names and contact information of three references

Duration:

2 years

Deadline:

Until filled

Contact:

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