Sustainable health technology regulation: Mobilizing regulation to improve the environmental performance of health technologies

Postdoctoral Fellowship - University of Toronto

Term: Full-time, 1-year renewable contract, maximum 4-years  
Pay scale: $70,000-85,000 per year + depending on qualifications  
Start date: Immediately; before January 2022

Description

Dr. Fiona Miller, Professor in the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Health Systems, invites applications for a Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Fellow will take a leadership role in a CIHR-funded health policy study of health technology governance, examining how the agencies that collectively regulate the adoption of health technologies by health systems, and inform their utilization, influence the environmental sustainability of healthcare products and services.

In recognition of the fact that pharmaceuticals and medical devices are estimated to contribute 35% of healthcare’s carbon footprint, alongside solid waste and pollution, the study aims to generate and translate knowledge and identify policy options to improve the environmental performance of health technologies.

The study uses a multiple case study design to investigate the core phenomenon: How regulatory action affects the environmental performance of health technologies. We aim to analyze three cases of the phenomenon (market access, HTA, procurement), with technology type (drug, device) as an embedded unit of analysis. We address 3 sub-questions across 3 sequential phases, engaging an Expert Advisory Committee for cumulative debriefing and learning. The project uses multiple methods (documents, interviews, ethnographic observation) to: (1) map each case; (2) characterize regulatory system effects (by case, across cases); and (3) characterize regulatory intermediary effects (by case, across cases). Regulatory action will be explored across multiple sites, in Canada and internationally, to enrich understanding.

Qualifications

The successful candidate will possess a PhD in a relevant social science discipline (e.g., medical sociology, science and technology studies, environmental studies, innovation studies, sociology of health and illness, public policy, public administration, political science, organizational sociology, etc.). They must have extensive experience with qualitative data collection and analysis, case study research, as well as document analysis and literature reviews. Ideally, candidates will also have a working knowledge of the research topic (or relevant components thereof, e.g., environmental sustainability, health technology policy). Bilingualism (French/English) would be an asset. The incumbent must have the ability to work independently and directly projects, while also working collaboratively with the PI and other research team members. Experience preparing manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals and presenting findings at relevant conferences is also required.
Responsibilities

- Conducting literature and document reviews and analyzing findings
- Conducting non-participant observation at conferences, workshops and related clinical, scientific or industry meetings
- Identifying appropriate participants and conducting qualitative interviews with leading scientific, clinical, industry and regulatory actors and other key informants
- Performing qualitative analysis of interview data and field notes
- Conducting case analysis and comparative case analysis, using multiple data sources
- Working with research staff supervised by Co-PIs at other universities to advise on and integrate findings from related research, including legal and environmental impact analysis
- Liaising with an international research team and international advisory committee to ensure excellence in methodology and robust and policy relevant results
- Summarizing findings and playing a lead role in manuscript preparation and knowledge translation activities, such as presenting findings at local, national, and international conferences
- Assisting in the preparation of other research proposals to be submitted to granting agencies
- Supervising junior staff (e.g., work-study students)
- Participating in related team research activities

Position and application details:

The position is available immediately with a negotiable start date (the incumbent is expected to start in 2021; i.e., before January 2022); the position can extend to project end (March 31, 2025), and potentially beyond. Salary range is $70,000 - $85,000 Canadian per year, depending on expertise, plus university health benefits; the fellow will also have access to funds to support conference travel. The Fellow will be a university employee represented by CUPE Local 3902, Unit 5. Additional information on benefits can be found at http://benefits.hrlandequity.utoronto.ca/cupe-local-3902-unit-5/.

Applicants should submit a cover letter clearly indicating their interest in the research area and their relevant experience, a curriculum vitae, and copies of two publications. Applicants should include names and e-mail addresses of two potential referees and should indicate the date they will be available to begin. All application materials must be submitted as PDFs in a single email to: Fiona Miller <fiona.miller@utoronto.ca>

About IHPME:

The Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (the “Institute”) brings together leading researchers from a wide variety of disciplines to develop and translate innovative ideas into evidence-informed practices that improve the planning, delivery, and outcomes of health care.

The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to further diversification of ideas.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.