JOB POSTING, POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

Area of Research: Health Impacts of COVID-19, Multimorbidity and Health Outcomes


Project summaries:

There is growing interest in understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to contain the pandemic on health outcomes and health inequities. In particular, there is interest in the indirect health impacts of COVID-19 that are the result of decreased access to the routine care during the pandemic for those with existing needs through delayed or postponed care and health impacts that containment strategies had as a result of unemployment and breakdown in social connections and support. A fundamental tenet of population health is that there is an association between socioeconomic status (SES) and the health of individuals, mediated through material deprivation and social deprivation, and by the degree of socio-economic inequality in the community. This health-deprivation gradient provides an important lens for assessing the impact of the indirect health impacts of COVID-19. This project will use data on the effects containment strategies had on social interaction including data on mobility and interaction from cells phones and examine the extent to which these are associated in healthcare utilization and outcomes by those with existing chronic conditions and those at risk from adverse outcomes related to employment loss and changes in social interaction.

The funding for this work will come from the Institute for Pandemics, BeACCoN and the World Bank. The work on postponed or delayed care will focus on older people with multi-morbidity who are at high risk of adverse events and on women, children and youth who are at risk of health effects due to loss of the work or social connection

The project team includes experts in health services research, epidemiology, statistics, and machine learning and health disparities who will investigate policy arrangements and policy alternatives that can mitigate the cross-SES health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and of the containment measures used to mitigate that pandemic in Ontario, drawing on primary data collection, existing evidence, and the team’s sophisticated data analysis of health outcomes, SES and employment.

Description of duties:

The Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) is seeking a Post-Doctoral Fellow who will take a leadership role in a set of health services and policy research projects that aim to provide evidence on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its containment strategies on high needs populations as well as to examine trajectories of the development of multi-morbidity in older people.

The successful candidate will have advanced training in a health services relevant discipline, and substantive expertise in the use of an analysis of administrative data from the health system and data from Statistics Canada.
They will report to the Principal Investigator, Geoff Anderson.

The post is available immediately. It is full time on a 12-months fixed-term basis, and renewable for another 12 months based on mutual agreement.

Responsibilities include:

- Work with research team to create, test and use a set metrics of the indirect health effects of COVID containment
- Lead work on the use of mobility data to assess the impacts of COVID-containment strategies
- Work with IC/ES staff to develop analytical codes, and conduct statistical analyses using DAS to perform research and produce reports on populations using these metrics
- Work with members of the team working at RDEN in the OHDP-Q to develop analytical codes, and conduct statistical analyses to conduct research and produce reports on these populations
- Abide by and maintain administrative tasks, e.g. amendments, important dates and other regulatory takas associated with the acquisition, preparation, and use of ICES DAS and RDEN and OHDP-Q data for applicable analyses and projects
- Design and populate tables, figures, and graphs to visualize study results and facilitate knowledge exchange with partners and stakeholders
- Liaise with a national research team to ensure consistency in methodology
- Work on manuscripts based on the research to be published as reports or academic articles
- Supervise junior staff (e.g., work-study students)
- Present findings at relevant conferences

Salary:

$65,000-72,000 per annum depending on candidate, skills and experience.

Please note that should the minimum rates stipulated in the collective agreement fall below the rates stated in this posting, the minimum rates stated in the collective agreement shall prevail.

Required qualifications:

Minimum Degree Required: Ph.D. obtained within 5 years from date of hiring

Preferred Qualifications:

The successful candidate must possess a PhD in a policy-relevant discipline. The successful candidate must have substantive expertise in the policy correlates of population health and health inequity, and methodological expertise and experience in analyzing administrative data and data on socio-economic status and employment. The candidate must have the ability to work independently and direct projects, while also working collaboratively with the PI and other research team members. Experience preparing manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals is also required along with experience presenting findings at relevant conferences.
Application instructions:

All individuals interested in this position must submit a CV and two letters of references to Alexandru Titeu at alexandru.titeu@utoronto.ca by the closing date. Optional application documents include cover letter, dissertation abstract, writing sample/publications and research abstract.

Closing date: Open until filled

Supervisor: Professor Geoff Anderson, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation

Expected start date: Immediately upon successful selection of an applicant

Term: This is a one-year position, renewable for a second year subject to availability of funding and performance of the postdoc.

FTE: Full time

The normal hours of work are 40 hours per week for a full-time postdoctoral fellow (pro-rated for those holding a partial appointment) recognizing that the needs of the employee, research and training and the needs of the supervisor, research program may require flexibility in the performance of the employee, duties and hours of work.

Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is covered by the terms of the CUPE 3902 Unit 5 Collective Agreement.

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The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of color, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.