

## POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

### Physician Learning Program

The Physician Learning Program and Department of Oncology are seeking a candidate for a post-doctoral fellowship in Health Economics. Reporting to Dr. Konrad Fassbender, Scientific Director, Covenant Health Palliative Institute, Dr. Chris de Gara, Co-lead, Physician Learning Program, Dr. Ingrid de Kock, Medical Director, Physician Learning Program, the post-doctoral fellow will contribute to research and implementation activities in engaging physicians in evidence-based changes in practice. This full-time position is available for a period of 12 months, with the possibility of renewal. Salary will be commensurate with experience and skills.

The Physician Learning Program (PLP) was established in December 2009 as a collaborative program between the University of Calgary, University of Alberta, and Alberta Medical Association (AMA). A project based program, PLP assists Alberta physicians to (1) obtain and reflect upon individualized data with feedback reports in order to improve clinical care, and (2) identify and access learning activities and resources to support education in areas identified by the data with feedback reports. Overall PLP program direction is provided by an eight person Steering Committee of senior physicians and administrators from the Universities of Calgary and Alberta, AMA, Alberta Health (AH), Alberta Health Services (AHS), College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA), and Alberta College of Family Physicians (ACFP). For more information, please visit [www.albertaplp.ca](http://www.albertaplp.ca).

This position will support multiple projects designed to answer practice-based questions using data from provincial databases (e.g. AH, AHS, and others), and may involve: assessing practice compared to accepted clinical practice guidelines, identify clinical pathways for health conditions, describe practice trends over time, identify a new learning opportunity, provide evidence that practice is consistent with accepted approaches.

The position will involve:

- Using provincial databases, undertaking primary research (such as focus groups, surveys), and utilizing data from other quality improvement programs (such as Toward Optimized Practice) to identify underperceived learning needs of physicians and to identify areas where economic data (e.g. resource use data such as hospitalization rates, system cost data such as physician fees and laboratory charges, patient costs including drug fees) may be incorporated into clinical practice decisions and pathways. Data may be used to assess costs and benefits of interventions of potential interest to both primary care and specialist physicians.
- Acting as a member of the working group of physician leads and project management staff to respond to research requests by i) assessing feasibility of answering research questions and of obtaining relevant data and ii) identifying potential economic resource use questions that may be linked to clinical queries presented by physicians.
- Conduct data analysis and modelling to describe practice trends over time and to project the impacts of potential interventions, and to measure physician engagement in recommended changes in practice.
- Engage with PLP team and physician groups to develop pathways for behavioral change, employing frameworks of change management to identify and recommend ways of adopting interventions appropriate to physicians such as educational seminars and self-learning tools, or changes in availability of institution-based physical and human resources.

#### Duties and responsibilities

- Determine optimal methods to address questions posed by research team and provide expertise in health economic evaluation methods, and economic and change management behavioral theory.
- Recommend changes to improve methods, procedures and practices for primary and specialist physicians and relevant institutions.
- Contribute to the design of evaluation surveys and other instruments (e.g., questionnaires, focus groups or interview protocols).
- Conduct background research such as searches, critical appraisal and summary of literature.
- Design, operate and maintain databases and documentation.
- Perform statistical and econometric analysis and modelling, and provide interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data.
- Participate as a team member of study for drafting ethics submissions, data collection, cleaning and analyses.
- Contribute to drafting of documentation for ethics and manuscripts.
- Develop materials for presentation to local, national and international workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- Attend and contribute to meetings with key stakeholders, including health care managers and health care professionals, as required.
- Maintain professionalism in all interactions, being aware of the complex nature of the PLP program's multi-stakeholder environment.
- Initiate and undertake special projects as required for supervisory committee.

#### **Qualifications**

- PhD or equivalent in Economics, Health Economics, Health Services Research, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Public Health Sciences, Nursing, or a related field.
- Experience conducting economic evaluation analyses (i.e. cost minimization, cost benefit, cost effectiveness, cost utility analyses) and performing econometric or statistical modeling with appropriate software packages such as STATA, SAS, SPSS.
- Experience accessing and working with large datasets.
- Experience in coordinating research projects with clinical or patient-focused outcomes.
- Experience with knowledge translation and/or implementation science.
- Skills in facilitation, collaboration, negotiation, and problem solving with multi-disciplinary teams.
- Skills in interpretation and presentation of quantitative and qualitative information in reports to varied audiences.

#### **To Apply:**

Interested applications should submit an electronic application consisting of a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references addressed to:

Dr. Konrad Fassbender,  
 Department of Oncology  
 329 Brain and Aging Research Building  
 University of Alberta  
 Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2G2

Please e-mail applications to Angie Chiu, Department of Oncology, [angie.chiu@ualberta.ca](mailto:angie.chiu@ualberta.ca).

T: 780 248-5699 (+1 if outside Canada)

**Closing date:**

The position will remain open until a suitable candidate is found.

**We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.**

*The University of Alberta offers appointments on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity in employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and Aboriginal persons.*