POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP POSITION

Global Health and Implementation Science
Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

A Post-Doctoral Fellowship position is available immediately to conduct implementation science (IS) for the adoption and scale up of WelTel SMS-based mHealth intervention across projects in Canada and Africa. The research program covers the use of mobile phone communication technology and text messaging (mHealth) for patient engagement in care and support services to improve health outcomes for various conditions. Originating from a trial that demonstrated improved health outcomes for patients with HIV in Kenya, current applications include patient support in HIV, tuberculosis, maternal child health, and asthma care in Africa, USA, and Canada, and are supported by CIHR, Grand Challenges Canada, and NIH among others. The successful candidate will develop a novel mHealth implementation evaluation strategy across these applications and conduct quantitative and qualitative field implementation research with time spent in Canada and abroad.

Motivated candidates with a Ph.D. or equivalent and a strong background in implementation research, epidemiology, mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative), and/or health policy are encouraged to apply. Experience in global health and project management and willingness to travel internationally for extended periods is also desirable. Ability to bridge positive relationships with industry and government partners is required.

The position is available for one year, renewable for up to three years, depending upon research progress and continuation of funding. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience and according to UBC guidelines. Candidates with a good list of publications will be encouraged to apply for Provincial and Federal Scholarships within, or prior to, the first year of training.

Applicants should send their curriculum vitae, contact information for three references, and a brief statement of research interest to Dr. Richard Lester by November 16, 2017.

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http://id.med.ubc.ca/person/richard-lester/
www.weltel.org

UBC hires on the basis of merit and is strongly committed to equity and diversity within its community. We especially welcome applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of minority sexual orientations and gender identities, and others with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.
JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Post-doctoral research fellow (PDF) in “Implementation Science for Patient-centered Global Digital Health”
1 FTE

Job Summary
The post-doctoral fellow (PDF) will conduct implementation research on the adoption, impact and sustainability of digital mobile health (mHealth) programs in Canadian and global settings. The research includes an adaptation of the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research and focuses largely on the WelTel program that originated from a landmark randomized controlled trial (RCT) in Kenya (Lancet 2010) and has since been deployed and evaluated in numerous global settings in Africa and North America and for multiple diseases and conditions such as HIV, TB, asthma, primary care, and maternal child health.

Responsibilities of the position include project planning, monitoring and reporting, strategic planning, facilitating and managing stakeholder (internal and external) contribution and participation, and budget development and forecasting. The incumbent will perform data analysis, interpret results and produce outputs such as manuscripts, presentations and reports for specific audiences.

The incumbent will seek and develop collaborative research partnerships with other parties, and create opportunities for new research by seeking and applying for funding opportunities with relevant organizations. International travel is expected. The incumbent will manage communications for all research development activities, and will provide leadership, guidance and support to multidisciplinary project teams and participants across multiple sites and countries.

Organizational Status
- The position reports to Dr Richard Lester, Principal Investigator
- Works closely with multi-disciplinary co-investigators, staff and students from Dr Lester's research group and UBC as a whole, as well as with research faculty located at external institutions within and outside of Canada
- Makes professional decisions and recommendations on all aspects of research work and is responsible for the quality of research activities
- Ensures proper implementation of study protocols and compliance with regulatory and ethical standards, and provides liaison and operational oversight with study sites, such as at the BC Centre for Disease Control and health authorities.
- Makes decisions regarding funding sources and the preparation of funding applications
- Maintains contact with other collaborating organizations and the study team

Work Performed
- Responsible for the overall planning, managing and communication of an implementation science evaluation of WelTel and other mHealth projects as appropriate.
- Develop communication strategies; manage communications for all research development activities, and provide leadership, guidance and support to multidisciplinary project teams and participants across multiple sites and countries.
- Seek and develop collaborative research partnerships with other parties; identifying research synergies and new research avenues with potential collaborators.
- Be responsible for budget forecasting and management for related research grants.
- Establish, implement and maintain research cost-effective measures to optimize budget utilization.
- Identify staffing needs and strengths, provide supervision and leadership to staff on project planning (development of project plans, including budgets, schedules, stakeholder registry, ethics applications, protocols and procedures).
- Identify potential funding sources, facilitates communication and engagement with potential funders and bring together multi-disciplinary research teams to apply for funding.
- Provide expertise in research study; lead training of relevant staff in qualitative skills such as interviewing and observation; quality assurance in data collection; data management; computer programs; data entry, coding and analysis;
- Be responsible for developing and managing research ethics procedures and submission.
- Establishes and maintains study schedule and develops strategies to ensure milestones and deliverables are met.
- Establishes procurement procedures with contractors, maintains relationships, ensures statement of work has been completed in a timely manner, ensures payment is made in timely manner.
- Manage the setup and maintenance of study files and establish team processes, procedures and team roles.
- Organize and facilitate team meetings, establish effective communication with team members, ensure timely notification to Principal Investigators of issues or problems.
- Oversee team work flow by identifying and documenting staff roles for each project.
- Clinician engagement and training on study procedures, manages staff working on the study (data manager and research assistant).
- Stakeholder engagement through project meetings, presentations and reports.
- Manages data collection and analysis at all stages; maintains high quality data through regular audits; oversee data entry, coding and analysis.
- Prepares, writes and submits manuscripts for publication.
- Prepares, writes and submits abstracts for relevant conferences.

**Supervision Received**
The PDF works toward developing research independence under the direction of the PI. Research work is reviewed against achievement of project objectives.

**Supervision Given**
Manage junior researchers, research assistants and technicians, junior staff or students.

**CONSEQUENCE OF ERROR**
Errors and failure to meet regulations and standards may have serious impact on research quality and outcomes. Good judgement, organization and communication are essential in this
position. Poor management could result in failure to obtain or maintain research grant funding, failure to retain appropriate research personnel, and failure of critical research progress.

Qualifications

Applicant requirements

The applicants must have a PhD degree in a relevant discipline awarded within the last five years (or an MD within the last 10 years) to be eligible, at the time of commencement. Foreign Postdoctoral Fellows are required to obtain a work permit in order to be employed at UBC. Related experience in health services research, project management and facilitating and managing consultation processes with a range of stakeholder groups is recommended. Demonstrated expertise in written and oral communication to function within a complex interdisciplinary, inter-institutional and international environment. Proven organizational, planning, coordination, and problem solving skills to ensure prioritization and management of multiple projects/tasks and an ability to meet deadlines. Detail oriented with an understanding of budgets and basic accounting practices. Computer literacy with word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and project management and database applications. Training and demonstrated knowledge of regulations and guidelines governing UBC clinical research. Knowledge of UBC Research Ethics Board requirements and ability to learn electronic submission process. Ability to work under the pressure of critical deadlines. Possesses self-motivation and the ability to work well with minimal supervision. Ability to use advanced computer software applications.

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