

## Ontario Drug Policy Research Network Post-Doctoral Fellowship

### Background

The [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network](#) (ODPRN) is seeking a **Post-Doctoral Fellow** to join its team. The ODPRN is a collaboration of established researchers who provide timely, high-quality, drug policy relevant research to decision makers to guide and inform their decisions. The ODPRN has expertise in generating real world evidence related to the utilization, outcomes, safety, effectiveness, and costs of drugs in Ontario. The ODPRN's work has informed decisions related to system efficiency, quality of care, and health outcomes at regional, provincial, national, and international levels.

### Post-Doctoral Fellow Position

In this role, the Fellow will work primarily on research contributing to ODPRN's body of work focused on **understanding drivers and potential solutions to Canada's substance toxicity crisis**, including studies describing factors associated with opioid-related harm, and assessing accessibility and effectiveness of treatment and harm reduction strategies. Specifically, objectives of this work are as follows:

1. **Patterns of Use and Harm**: To conduct ongoing analysis of trends in prescription opioid use and opioid-related harm and provision of services in Ontario and evaluate the impact of new drug policies and the COVID-19 pandemic on these measures.
2. **Access to Treatment and Harm Reduction Strategies**: To evaluate the safety, effectiveness, and barriers to accessing different forms of treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) and harm reduction strategies across the province.
3. **Pathways through Care**: To assess how rapid access to treatment and primary care impact future patterns of healthcare use and patient outcomes among people hospitalized for serious opioid-related outcomes.

This work will involve identifying research gaps, generating research questions in consultation with the ODPRN's large network of partners (including people with lived and living experience), and developing research proposals and analysis plans for studies that will rely primarily on large administrative health databases (e.g., prescribing data, coronial records, and other health databases at ICES). The Fellow will contribute to, and lead, peer-reviewed publications, public reports, and funding applications, and will have opportunities to present to and engage with numerous stakeholders (including government stakeholders, service providers, data providers, community-based organizations, and people with lived and living experience).

### Our Core Team & Approach

The Fellow will be supervised by Dr. Tara Gomes, and will be joining a multidisciplinary team with vast experience conducting research that has informed drug policy across North America. The Fellow will also work collaboratively with core ODPRN staff, including epidemiologists, biostatisticians, knowledge translation and engagement specialists, project managers and trainees.

### **Preferred Qualifications & Skills**

Ph.D. in public health, epidemiology or other health-related science or relevant social science, or in the last year of completing a recognized Doctoral (PhD or MD) degree where submission of a Doctoral thesis by postdoc application period is required AND successfully defend a Doctoral thesis within a three (3) month time period of starting the postdoctoral position required.

Ideal candidates are those with previous experience using health administrative data and conducting research related to substance use, drug policy and community engagement.

### **Application Instructions**

All individuals interested in this position should submit a CV and a cover letter explaining their interest in the position and how their experience and interests align with the research program outlined above. All documents should be sent to Dr. Tara Gomes at [tara.gomes@unityhealth.to](mailto:tara.gomes@unityhealth.to) with subject "Post Doctoral Fellowship Application" clearly stated in the subject line.

**Expected start date:** TBD

**Term:** 1 year, full-time, with the possibility of renewal.