

Chiefs of Ontario and Ontario Drug Policy Research Network

Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Background

The [Chiefs of Ontario](#) (COO) supports all First Nations in Ontario as they assert their sovereignty, jurisdiction, and their chosen expression of nationhood. The main objective of the Chiefs of Ontario office is to facilitate the discussion, planning, implementation, and evaluation of all local, regional, and national matters affecting the First Nations people in Ontario.

The [Ontario Drug Policy Research Network](#) (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.

This is a **First Nations-led project**, and the following research objectives have each been identified by the Steering Committee as priority areas of investigation to address the opioid crisis within First Nations communities:

1. **Patterns and Trends:** To conduct ongoing monitoring of trends of prescription opioid use, treatment for opioid use disorder, and opioid-related harms.
2. **Pathways of Healthcare Use:** To understand clinical indications for prescription opioid use as well as factors and circumstances associated with fatal opioid overdoses.
3. **Treatment Outcomes:** To compare duration in treatment and health outcomes among First Nations people with an opioid use disorder participating in different treatment options.

In addition to these research objectives, the funding will create an infrastructure for community-based participatory research.

Post-Doctoral Fellow Position

In this role, the Fellow will work primarily on research contributing to the above stated project objectives. This work will involve identifying emerging research gaps, generating research questions, designing studies, and developing research proposals and analysis plans that rely 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 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 Bernadette deGonzague and Dr. Tara Gomes, and will be joining a multidisciplinary team with vast experience conducting research. The Fellow will also work collaboratively with core COO and 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 working with First Nation communities or organizations, as well as demonstrable knowledge and awareness of First Nation ways of learning, traditions, cultures, values, social determinants of health, health systems and intergenerational impacts of government policies.

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. Bernadette deGonzague at Bernadette@coo.org with subject "Post Doctoral Fellowship Application" clearly stated in the subject line.

Location: Toronto, Ontario, with the opportunity to work from home. Travel to the COO office or communities may be required.

Expected start date: TBD

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