

Temporary - Lawson Research Associate – Pulmonary Hypertension Department

Job ID 72541 Location Victoria Hospital Full/Part Time Part-time Regular/Temporary Temporary

Posting Period

Open: August 22, 2020

Deadline: August 28, 2020



Pulmonary Hypertension Department, Lawson Health Research Institute

Pulmonary hypertension (PH) is an uncommon but serious, progressive, and often fatal lung disease. Patients with PH are quite ill, limited in everyday physical and household activity by dyspnea and fatigue, largely by right-sided heart failure. Moreover, PH remains a serious illness, with average survival of only 2-3 years if untreated. Patients with PH are quite ill, as well as being emotionally and psychologically burdened by many aspects of the illness, including the severity of symptoms and limitation in life, concerns about the potential shortened survival, and the social isolation.

In such a population, complex multidisciplinary care has been shown to improve both clinical outcomes as well as patients' health-related quality of life (HRQoL). Such care is led by a specialist physician with experience and expertise in the illness and its effects on patients on their lives. The role of a Research Associate is a critical one in order to address many aspects of PH patients' illness and journey with PH, including clinical assessment and monitoring, educational needs, as well as improving their psychological and social wellbeing through greater engagement with the local and national PH communities. We have made great strides in treating PH and in improving both clinical outcomes (including long-term survival of more than 10 years for many patients) as well as patients' ability to function better everyday and live better lives.

Dr Mehta and the Southwest Ontario LHSC PH Clinic are recognized throughout Canada as well as internationally for the excellence in clinical care of our PH population, as well novel educational initiatives, helping to found PHA Canada, and the long-term contribution to much research in PH.

General

This position requires someone with clinical experience in looking after patients with significant cardio-pulmonary disease, including clinical assessment and monitoring, health education about illness, medications, and self-care. The Research Associate will work most closely with Dr Mehta, his PH clinical/research Fellows, and his admin assistant. They will also interact with the Resp Clinic and inpatient ward nurses, as well as the Respirology resident/faculty team. They will require strong skills of organization, initiative, and independent working ability. The Research Associate in this position will make a critical contribution to the care, health and wellbeing of these very ill and fragile patients.

Responsibilities:

Research/Education

- Educate patients and their caregivers about PH and its complications, symptoms, etc
- Educate patients and their caregivers about complex treatment regimens (IV or SC prostanoid infusion medications) in order for patient to achieve skills/knowledge required to safely self-administer these medications long-term at home
- Connect patients with available educational, social, psychological support resources in the community (eg. London PH Support Group) and online (eg. PHA Canada charitable foundation)
- Support subject recruitment into local PH research studies and pharma-sponsored clinical trials
- Maintain online PH patient database
- Coordinate participation in Canada-wide and International PH Database Collaborative Research Project

Other

- Assess and document patient status (symptoms, wellbeing, quality of life) in physician-led dedicated PH clinic and by Telehealth/Telephone

- Serve as contact for patients and families on PH, symptoms, complications, treatment plans
- Assess and monitor patients' symptoms, status, side-effects/tolerance of medications especially during treatment changes
- Prepare documents required to assist patients to obtain government / insurance funding for complex PH medications.
- Maintain system to track funding expiration dates to ensure no interruption of ongoing funding for essential PH medications
- Liaise with pharmacies to ensure delivery of medications and supplies to patients
- Liaise with CCAC and provide education to nurses when necessary to ensure safe and continued community care after discharge from hospital

Rate of Pay: To commensurate with experience

Hours of Work: 3 days/week (22.5 hrs; very flexible and negotiable), weekdays / daytime

Duration of Contract: 1 year with opportunity to renew

Qualifications

- Successful completion of a degree in Health Sciences or other related field required
- RPN or RN preferred
- Minimum 3 years clinical experience
- Patient education training or experience would be an asset
- Research experience (eg. clinical trial participation, subject enrolment, clinical trial documentation) would be an asset
- Strong work ethic and excellent punctuality
- Strong problem-solving skills
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment
- Responsible and self-motivated with the ability to take initiative to work independently in an environment with limited supervision
- Highly conscientious, detail-oriented with strong organizational skills
- Proficient time management skills
- Flexibility to changing work priorities and schedules
- Proficient in Word and Excel
- Experience with Cerner / Powerchart an asset
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written
- Demonstrated practice and commitment to the principles of patient and family centered care
- Demonstrated practice and commitment to patient and staff safety at LHSC
- Demonstrated practice and commitment to LHSC's Mission, Vision and Values
- Demonstrated ability to attend work on a regular basis

Immunization Requirements:

- Provide vaccination records or proof of immunity against measles, mumps, rubella and varicella (chicken pox), Hepatitis B, Tetanus/ Diphtheria/Polio; Meningitis.
- Provide documentation of the Tuberculosis skin testing (two step)

We are committed to providing a safe, healthy and inclusive work environment that inspires respect. LHSC is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from women, visible minorities, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ2+ persons. We are committed to providing persons with disabilities equal opportunities and standards of goods and services, and are also fully compliant with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005), as applicable.

As part of the assessment process applicants may be required to complete a written examination or test. Please be advised that a reference check may be conducted as part of the selection process.

Your interest in this opportunity is appreciated. Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted. Successful candidates, as a condition of job offer, would be required to provide a satisfactory police information check (original document) completed in the last 3 months.