The Alberta Indigenous Mentorship in Health Innovation (AIM-HI) Network  
First Nations, Métis and Inuit Graduate Student Experiential Internship Opportunity

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<td>Dr. Richard Oster</td>
<td>Agricultural, Food &amp; Nutrition Science Department, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Science, University of Alberta</td>
<td>Restoring the Healthy Family System in Indigenous Communities: A Collaborative Research Partnership in Alberta to Address the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes</td>
<td>The student will work with the Project Researchers from the University of Alberta as well as community partners as part of the Alberta I-HeLTI team to learn about and help conduct community-based research to support pregnant mothers in and around Maskwacis and communities in the Wood Buffalo area of northern Alberta (Chipewyan Prairie Dene First Nation, First Nations communities in Fort Chip, and urban Indigenous population in Fort McMurray). Activities may include assisting with community engagement and relationship building activity, organizing and attending community meetings, participant recruitment, qualitative data generation and analysis, project promotion and advertising, and other research-related tasks.</td>
<td>The Indigenous component of the Healthy Life Trajectories Initiative (I-HeLTI) in Alberta is team research project that brings together partners from across research disciplines and Indigenous communities with the overall goal of supporting optimal health during preconception, pregnancy and postpartum for diverse Indigenous populations through community-led and community-specific strategies that promote the best possible healthy life for families and children. Specifically, the project aims to incorporate the strengths and resilience embedded in Indigenous knowledge, wise practices, and cultural teachings into appropriately designed and effectively evaluated strategies that help Indigenous communities move in the direction of rebuilding family and community systems that have been systematically dismantled. The project is designed to strategically inform the development of a successful national Indigenous-driven</td>
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| Dr. Janice Victor | Aboriginal Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge | Ai’aoksiikowaata (providing guidance to youth): Supporting healthy transitions from government care to independent living | The AIM-HI intern will be responsible for data generation and initial stages of knowledge translation. Specific responsibilities will include:

- Participant recruitment
- Data generation through closed-ended survey interviews (in-person and telephone)
- Data entry and management
- Annotated bibliographies and a literature review
- Provide support as needed for the second study, a multi-media storytelling project

*Note: due to the nature of project activities, someone residing in Calgary is preferred.* | Disproportionately represented in child welfare systems, Indigenous youth are at higher risk for homelessness, addiction, criminalization, and poor educational and health outcomes. Indigenous homelessness describes a deep sense of dislocation from traditional lands, cultural knowledge, community, family, and identity that are interwoven with intergenerational trauma. Placement in government care magnifies the experience of Indigenous homelessness by disconnecting youth from the cultural resources that provide resilience. In the absence of Ai’aoksiikowaata, Blackfoot for “providing guidance to youth (through ceremony and culture),” Indigenous youth are preemptively pushed into independence without adequate supports or resources; there is not a one-size-fits-all resource structure. |
that policy, service, and programming can turn to. Through a multi-media storytelling project and post-transition survey, this project investigates youths’ experiences of transitioning out of government care in three southern Alberta locations. The objective is to develop culturally-appropriate strategies that uphold cultural connection. Results can inform legislators and knowledge users on a Wise Practice approach that is specific to individual circumstance, history, geography, and educational knowledges.

| Dr. Peggy L. St. Jacques, | Department of Psychology, Faculty of Science, University of Alberta | Cognitive Neuroscience of Human Memory | Assist with recruitment and testing of human participants in behavioral and neuroimaging studies of human memory, stimulus creation, data organization and analysis. Participation in weekly lab meetings and journal club discussions. | Lab website: http://sites.psych.ualberta.ca/MElab/ |
| **Dr. Cary A Brown & Dr. Shaniff Esmail** | Department of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta | Surveying Indigenous undergraduate students to understand influences on application to train for an occupational therapy healthcare career | The student would help with:  
- designing the online survey  
- applying for Ethics approval  
- distributing the survey online  
- analyzing and writing up the findings  

Skills the student will develop:  
- Survey design  
- Data analysis  
- Report writing  
- Team work  

*Note: Due to nature of project, work can be completed in Edmonton or Calgary.* |
| **Dr. Shalina S. Ousman,** | Departments of Clinical Neurosciences and Cell Biology & Anatomy, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary | Understanding the role of Cystatin C in astrocytes in a model of multiple sclerosis. | Characterization of the brain and spinal cord of an astrocyte specific Cystatin C conditional knockout mouse using immunohistochemistry and western blotting.  
Proposal: Cystatin C is a protein that is highly upregulated in the brains of multiple sclerosis (MS) patients. It is expressed by astrocytes, a central nervous system cell that plays a role in the pathogenesis of MS. Our ongoing work suggests that Cystatin C impacts the activation of astrocytes. We are now interested in elucidating if the presence of Cystatin C in astrocytes affects the course of disease in MS. |