

S RTP - Project Description Form #223

PART I:

Name of Schulich faculty member who will supervise the project Ji-Hyun Jang

Supervisor's Schulich, Western, Hospital or Lawson Email ji-hyun.jang@lhsc.on.ca

Schulich Department Obstetrics & Gynaecology

PART II - Project Description

Title of Project The London HPV Immunization Project

Background

The human papilloma virus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection. It is estimated that over 70% of sexually active Canadians will be infected with a form of HPV in their lifetime. HPV infection can cause a variety of cancers including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, penile, anal, and oropharyngeal. Canada introduced publicly funded HPV vaccination programs in 2008, and since then, vaccination uptake has varied based on province along with a multitude of other factors. In Canada, vaccination uptake among females ranges between 46% to 94%, and among males between 75% to 87%. In 2018-2019, vaccine uptake in Ontario was 58% for 12 year old youths, and 62% for 17 year old youths in school-based programs.

There are many barriers to HPV vaccine access. For example, newcomers to Canada may experience financial barriers preventing them from receiving the HPV catch-up series, costing \$500 CAD, and individuals who live in rural regions may also experience barriers due to the shortage of healthcare providers offering the vaccine in their geographical areas. Along with barriers to HPV vaccine access, there are also barriers to HPV vaccine uptake. These barriers include lack of knowledge about HPV, cervical cancer and the protective benefits of the vaccine. The lack of a health care professional's recommendation for HPV vaccination is another common institutional barrier to uptake.

While there exists a base of literature on HPV vaccination hesitancy, the Canadian data is largely limited to vaccine hesitancy in the context of school-age vaccine programs. This study aims to understand the barriers to HPV vaccination from adult patients' perspectives, stratified by demographic and health data.

Hypothesis

The objectives of this study are to understand patients' perceived barriers to HPV vaccination, including but not limited to financial barriers, knowledge gaps regarding HPV and cancer, recommendation by a healthcare provider, and prioritizing vaccination among other healthcare concerns.

Proposed Methodology

This study will be a needs assessment based on a quantitative, cross-sectional survey. Study questionnaires will be administered to participants recruited at St. Joseph's Hospital Colposcopy Clinic. The survey will be created using questions from the validated HPV Attitudes and Beliefs Scale (HABS) to analyze demographic data and assess participants' perceived barriers to receiving the HPV vaccine. The survey will be comprised of four sections: 1) demographic information (age, gender, race, education, employment, housing status, income), 2) knowledge of HPV and cancer, 3) attitudes towards HPV vaccination, and 4) post-education attitudes towards HPV vaccination.

Expected Outcomes

To gain better understanding of patients' attitudes and barriers towards HPV vaccination.

Research Environment - Description of the number of research personnel, primary location of research, size of lab, etc

Primary location of research will be at St. Joseph's Hospital and Victoria Hospital. This study currently has other medical student research members who have been participating at different stages of the project. The research student for this project will be connected to the larger research group including the PI, Co-PI, residents, medical students, research manager, and statistician.

Names and titles of other individuals who will be involved with the research project?

Dr. Ji-Hyun Jang (PI, Assistant Professor Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Oncology), Dr. Taryn Taylor (Co-PI, Assistant Professor Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology), Sukhman Brar (Year 4 Medical Student), Kimya Manouchehri (Year 4 Medical Student), Alleen Liang (Year 4 Medical Student), Yasaman Javadzadeh (Year 3 Medical Student)

Can this project be done remotely? No

Duration of Project One Summer

Expected Objectives/Accomplishments for Student?

- 1.) To gain a better understanding of HPV immunization, barriers to access, and patient experience regarding immunization, dysplasia, and cancer
- 2.) To gain a better understanding of operations of a colposcopy clinic
- 3.) To gain a better understanding of quantitative and qualitative research methods
- 4.) Completion of participant recruitment and administration of questionnaires
- 5.) Preliminary data analysis and interpretation for presentation

PART III - Certifications

If the project will require any certification - Human Ethics approvals from one or more of the following offices, please check the appropriate box below.

Human Ethics: If you have the protocol information, please enter it below (or enter the status of the approval). 119668 - Human REB approved. Will need to add the summer research student as an amendment to REB.

Note: certification approval should be obtained prior to the start of the summer. Projects without this approval will not be a priority for funding.