

Part-time Research Assistant for the DEPRESSD and COVID-19 LSR Projects

September 01, 2022

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The DEPRESSion Screening Data (DEPRESSD) Project (<https://www.depressd.ca>) is a collaborative endeavor that was set up by Drs. Brett Thombs and Andrea Benedetti, who partnered with local and international experts to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of depression screening tools by conducting individual participant data meta-analyses (IPDMAs). To date, the DEPRESSD Project has been funded by 17 CIHR grants and includes over 350 investigators from 59 countries, with numbers growing as more data are accrued. The DEPRESSD databases represent a highly novel and valuable resource, which is beginning to lead to important outputs. In the past few years, the team has published important IPDMAs on (1) screening tool accuracy; (2) statistical methods in IPDMA; and (3) other methodological studies that advance work on screening questionnaires and their application.

The DEPRESSD team has also launched a Living Systematic Review of Mental Health in COVID-19 Project in 2020 (<https://www.depressd.ca/covid-19-mental-health>). COVID-19 is a serious health threat, and the situation is evolving daily. The risk will vary between and within communities. Mental health during the current COVID-19 outbreak may be negatively affected by fear of long-term personal, social, and societal implications of the crisis and from isolation due to social distancing and movement restrictions that have been put into place. Living systematic reviews are systematic reviews that are continually updated and provide ongoing access to results via online publication. The objectives of our living systematic review are to evaluate (1) changes in mental health symptoms among the same participants from pre-COVID or across delineated events during COVID-19 (e.g., outbreak announcement versus peak, peak restrictions on movement versus post-restrictions), and (2) the effect of interventions on mental health symptoms during COVID-19.

We are currently seeking a part-time Research Assistant to join the team. Possibility to develop an MSc/PhD thesis or MScPH practicum out of the project.



The tasks of the Research Assistant will include:

- Reviewing scientific publications and screening articles for eligibility as part of the systematic review process
- Extracting published results based on pre-developed coding manuals
- Basic data analysis, including transforming raw participant data into a uniform format for use in the project, based on existing codebooks; verifying that data submitted to the project can be used to replicate the results from the original studies
- Contributing to drafting manuscripts for publication

The ideal candidate will meet the following qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree in health sciences, or currently enrolled in a graduate program in the area of public health (e.g., Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Public Health)
- Research experience in the health sciences, including data management, evidence synthesis and manuscript writing are assets
- Good interpersonal skills and a strong capacity for teamwork
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office
- Excellent organizational and communication skills

Pay and Duration: Pay to be negotiated based on relevant experience and training. Flexible work hours (~ 8 to 10 hours per week)

Start Date: September 2022 (flexible)

To apply: Interested candidates should submit (1) a cover letter, (2) a curriculum vitae, (3) an unofficial transcript, and (4) a writing sample (optional) to Suiqiong Fan (suiqiong.fan@mail.mcgill.ca), the DEPRESSD Project Coordinator.

The position will remain open until filled.

