

Postdoctoral fellowship on telehealth in rehabilitation services in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis

Yearly fellowship of 45 000\$
Combined with a start-up fund of 10 000\$

CONTEXT

The COVID-19 crisis has forced the healthcare system to undergo in just a few weeks a paradigm shift that would have otherwise taken months or even years: the use of telehealth technology in the delivery of care. The recent and ongoing experiences with COVID 19 reflects the necessity to have the infrastructure and training capacity to establish telehealth to deliver the support needed to patients, especially to the most vulnerable members of our population, most at risk of deteriorations and social isolation.

Thus far, clinical teams have mostly embraced the move to telehealth, and are rethinking the way they deliver care, needing to find creative ways to meet the same objectives of their professional roles. Clinicians for the most part, have not received adequate training and might not have had the chance to acquire a sense of self-efficacy that would allow them to intervene using best practices, and do so with confidence. Telehealth best practices are evolving over time as the demands increase and as clinicians recognise unanswered needs in relation to how they can maintain effective care, over a new medium. As organisations recognise the added value of telehealth, it is likely that a lot will remain, and clients will continue to have the option to receive care remotely, when appropriate.

To garner the experiences and insights gained during this current shift to telehealth for all clients (all impairments and ages), the Academics affairs directorate, the Layton-Lethbridge-Mackay Rehabilitation Center (LLMRC of the the CIUSSS West-Central and the Réseau de recherché en santé des populations du Québec are offering a 45 000\$ yearly postdoctoral fellowship combined with a 10 000\$ start-up research fund. The goal is to create evidence-based resources to train and support health professionals in the delivery of care as they adapt their practices to be delivered using telehealth, keeping in mind the specificity of rehabilitation at the CIUSSS West-Central, i.e. all deficiencies are treated.

CONDITIONS

- ❖ The candidate must hold a PhD degree before starting the postdoctoral research, but not for more than three years prior to the proposed starting date of the fellowship;
- ❖ The candidate must be supervised by at least one regular researcher of the CRIR affiliated with the CRLLM sites (affiliation with the RRSPQ is not mandatory) and the latter must formally agree to supervise the candidate in the postdoctoral research and will guarantee the feasibility of the project. [Click here for a list of CRIR researchers;](#)
- ❖ The candidate must have completed his or her university studies in a field relevant or related to rehabilitation and/or in telehealth;
- ❖ A proposal is currently being drafted and submitted by a group of CRIR researchers (principal investigator: Kairy Dahlia) to the FRQ. If this project is funded, the candidate will be asked to collaborate with this team to assure common alignment if possible and avoid duplication of effort;
- ❖ The postdoctoral fellow will take place from May 2020 to April 2021;
- ❖ You must submit your application before April 26th 2020;
- ❖ Our final decision will be made on the last week April 2020.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The application can be in French or English and must include the following elements:

- ❖ A letter of intent with a statement of your perception of the role of tele-health in rehabilitation, the opportunities and barriers it poses and how you can contribute to the stated goal of this competition, i.e. creating evidence-based resources to train and support health professionals in the delivery of care as they adapt their practices to be delivered using telehealth (2 pages);
- ❖ A curriculum vitae outlining your main achievements;

- ❖ Two reference letters: one from the candidate's thesis supervisor, and one from the CRIR researcher supporting the project;

CANDIDATE COMMITMENT

- ❖ Undertake your fellowship full time;
- ❖ Significantly contribute to the creation of an evidence-based resource to support health professionals in the delivery of care as they adapt their practices to be delivered using telehealth
- ❖ Write at least two articles in connection with the postdoctoral research project to be submitted to high-impact peer-reviewed scientific journals;
- ❖ Give at least one talk and one webinar for clinicians at the LLMRC and open to all CRIR members per year;
- ❖ Write a final report (maximum of 10 pages), summarizing the benefits of the research at the end of your fellowship (this report will be on our website);

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- ❖ Academic excellence and research abilities;
- ❖ The proposed project's relevance with regards to the above described.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send all of the documents by email in one PDF document to:

serge.maynard.ccomtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca