

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 SICKKIDS DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS CPA COVID-19 GRANT WINNERS

About the Grant

The Creative Professional Activity grant competition was introduced in 2005 to encourage and promote the clinical academic scholarship activity and careers of the members of the Department of Paediatrics at the Hospital for Sick Children. The competition is open to all clinical departmental faculty, priority being given to junior faculty whose roles involve a significant amount of clinical time. Faculty are encouraged to submit innovative research approaches to improving the scholarly care of patients, as well as clinically relevant projects that will have a direct impact on better care for our patients and families. Dr Jeremy Friedman, the Associate Paediatrician-in-Chief, highlighted that 'this year, in addition to the regular competition, we elected to have an additional competition to recognize the importance of clinical research related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on children.

The successful grant submissions for this competition were:

Shaun Morris (PI)
Infectious Diseases

\$5,050

Questionnaire Based Assessment of Paediatrics and Family Physicians Routine Childhood Immunization Practices During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Indra Narang (PI)
Respiratory Medicine

\$9,756

Mitigating the Risk of Discontinuing CPAP Therapy in Obese Children with Obstructive Sleep Apnea During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Julia Orkin (PI)
Paediatric Medicine

\$9,670

The Hidden Danger: A Surveillance Study to Describe the Unintended Health Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

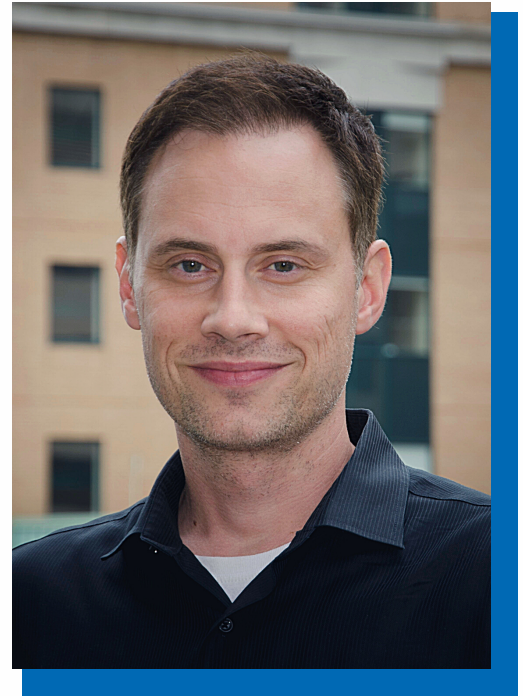
Natasha Saunders (PI)
Paediatric Medicine

\$10,000

Paediatric Primary Care Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Shaun Morris (PI)

Working with ID fellow Dr. Pierre-Philippe Piche-Renaud and others, this study aims to survey family physicians and pediatricians to: 1) quantify the impact of COVID-19 on the provision of routine immunizations, 2) identify key factors and reasons that are associated with disruptions to routine immunization, 3) identify practice related factors that may be associated with disrupted routine immunization, and 4) begin to explore potential innovative solutions that have been developed by practices to optimize safety for both families and health care workers in order to continue routine immunization of children.

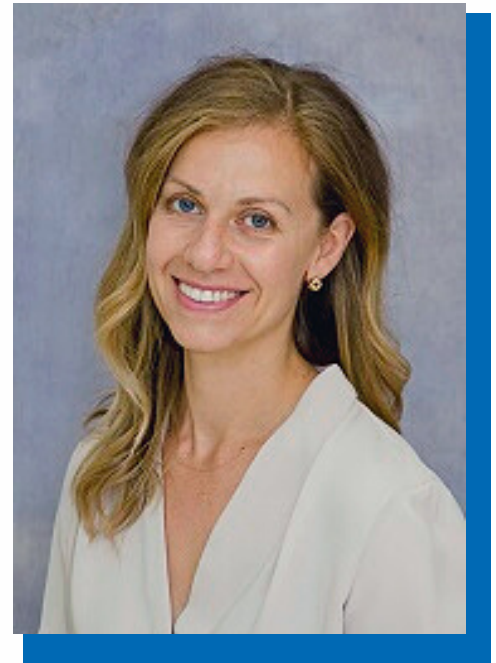


Indra Narang (PI)

The World Health Organization has listed CPAP as a high-risk aerosol-generating procedure that can transmit COVID-19. Currently, there are many obese children with co-existing OSA maintained on CPAP and there is emerging evidence that families are discontinuing CPAP use to minimize the risk and spread of COVID-19 infection. There is a real concern that the COVID-19 pandemic may result in discontinuation of CPAP permanently. The primary objective of this study is to compare the changes in CPAP adherence and sleep patterns among obese children with OSA during the COVID-19 pandemic compared with a 3-month period prior to the pandemic. These results will bring about actionable system changes to refine and improve our ambulatory clinical model of care to promote CPAP adherence safely during and after the pandemic.

Julia Orkin (PI)

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare experience and delivery has changed significantly at SickKids. The inpatient hospital census has been reduced by 30% percent and attendances at the Emergency Department by 57% compared to previous years, yet children are assumed to be experiencing illnesses at a typical rate. Children are presenting to the hospital at a more advanced stage of their illness with downstream impacts on treatment and complication rates. This study aims to describe clinical care that was altered at SickKids due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This study is also identifying thematic similarities between cases to inform clinical practice change and is exploring the associated negative effect of health care delivery changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.



Natasha Saunders (PI)

The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to a shift to virtual health care delivery to reduce unnecessary in-person presentation to health facilities. The effects of rapid changes in health care system delivery during the pandemic provides an opportunity to explore its impact on access to primary care. It's not known to what extent the pandemic has impacted access to care on a population level, and whether vulnerable populations are at increased risk. While virtual care may mitigate some health inequities, it may increase others, such as among those with inadequate internet access or those with limited Canadian-language proficiency. The purpose of this study is to: a) compare the amount of overall-, in-person, and virtual paediatric primary care utilization before and after the onset of the pandemic; and, b) to explore the association of socio-economic status with access to primary care during the pandemic. This study will improve our understanding of the amount and type of primary care access for specific paediatric populations during potential future waves of COVID-19 and other pandemics. Many have postulated that even after the pandemic ends, telemedicine is “here to stay”. Our proposal will illuminate whether this modality may widen inequities to inform strategies to mitigate a crucial potential unintended consequence of the pandemic.