

The Lawson Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Child Health and Development (28/03/14)

An exciting opportunity for candidates with enthusiasm, initiative and a strong commitment to interdisciplinary work in the area of child health and development

The Offord Centre for Child Studies, McMaster University and the McMaster Children's Hospital invites applications for one to two-year post doctoral fellowships in the area of child health and development. Over the next two years, we wish to recruit 4 to 6 trainees from a variety of disciplines. Trainees will work within a collaborative team framework to establish their own research programs. In addition to supervision from a primary mentor, trainees will be supported by faculty from multiple disciplines (psychiatry, pediatrics, psychology, sociology, nursing, epidemiology and statistics).

The faculty complement (and their research areas) include the following:

- Kathryn Bennett (knowledge synthesis, translation and implementation in youth mental health);
- Terry Bennett (development and mental health of children with ASD);
- Khrista Boylan (classification and treatment of youth with oppositional defiant disorder);
- Michael Boyle (contextual influences on child health over the early life-course);
- John Cairney (epidemiology of mental health and mental health service use);
- Jennifer Couturier (the etiology and treatment of adolescents with eating disorders);
- Charles Cunningham (modeling children's mental health service delivery preferences);
- Scott Davies (determinants of school achievement);
- Eric Duku (statistics, research methodology and measurement in healthy child development);
- Jim Dunn (the impact of housing and neighbourhood interventions in healthy child development)
- Mark Ferro (children with physical illness and mental disorder);
- Kathy Georgiades (the health of immigrant children and children born into adversity);
- Stelios Georgiades (classification and life-course of children with autism);
- Andrea Gonzalez (biological processes and early adversity);
- Geoff Hall (neurodevelopmental disorders and psychopathology);
- Susan Jack (community approaches to preventing family violence);
- Magdalena Janus (social determinants of children's health and transition to school);
- Ellen Lipman (child psychiatric epidemiology; community-based intervention studies);
- Harriet MacMillan (prevention of family violence);
- Alison Niccols (infant/child development; parent-child interaction);
- Louis Schmidt (socio-emotional development; developmental psychophysiology);
- Noam Soreni (cognition and neurobiology of pediatric obsessive-compulsive disorder);
- Ryan Van Lieshout (prenatal programming of mental disorders, parental psychopathology effects).

The fellowship will appeal to individuals wishing to establish a research program that will lead to a career in academia or government. Offord Centre faculty has considerable experience in the development and implementation of both observational and experimental studies in general and clinic populations. In addition to implementing primary research studies, the faculty is well versed in the conduct of secondary analysis studies, examining an extensive array of environmental and biological influences on child health & development at the national, neighborhood, school, family and

individual levels. Available to trainees is a large repository of studies which can be used to investigate many different questions on child health.

In addition to a strong commitment to and interest in child health and development, the ability to think and work both independently and collegially in a research program are the key requirements for these positions. Candidates from a variety of backgrounds will be considered, including psychology, sociology, education geography, economics, and anthropology. Demonstrated writing ability and strong methodological and analytic skills are important. These fellowships are currently open and will be filled as soon as possible.

The successful candidate will have completed a PhD (or submitted a Ph.D. thesis for defense) and/or have a professional degree (e.g., MD) plus an MA or MSc in a substantive area. The primary focus of this appointment is to develop independent researchers, capable of working within an interdisciplinary context. This fellowship training will provide skills which can be used in future research careers in the academic or government sectors. There is an expectation that successful candidates, with mentor support, will apply to traditional funding bodies (e.g., CIHR, OMHF) for continued fellowship funding.

McMaster University is committed to employment equity, and encourages applications from *all* who are eligible. Interested candidates are invited to identify one or more faculty mentors at the Offord Centre and to send a letter of application, curriculum vitae, and the names of three academic referees agreeing to send reference letters on behalf of the candidate. The letter of application should include the following: (1) a statement of research experience and interests; (2) learning objectives for the fellowship; (3) a discussion of 'fit' between the candidate and the Centre; (4) a statement of long-term career objectives. We will examine electronic or written mailed submissions on two occasions this year on June 1 and October 1 and within two weeks invite selected candidates to give a 20-minute presentation in person at the Offord Centre or by skype, followed by a meeting with 2-3 members of the Offord Centre. Please forward correspondence by mail or email to:

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