**Instructions to supervisors**

* If you have yet to identify a student partner for your project, you may submit a completed Project Posting form for posting on the FoM SSRP website. Interested students will be able to view your project description and contact you. **It is your responsibility to find an appropriate student partner for your FoM SSRP application.**
* \*If you have already identified a student partner for your project, you should not post your project online. You need only work with your student partner to submit an [online application](https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2c9NAKAQDWxAjsx) by the application deadline (February 15, 2023; 4:00 pm PST).
* Supervisors may submit more than one project for posting on the website; however, **only one** completed application per supervisor will be accepted for the competition and put forward for adjudication. Multiple applications will be disqualified.
* Faculty members who wish to post their projects on the FoM SSRP website are encouraged to submit this document to the Student Research & Education Coordinator as early as possible at [fom.ssrp@ubc.ca](mailto:fom.ssrp@ubc.ca).
* Additional information on the FoM SSRP, including application forms, funding terms, adjudication criteria and program procedures can be found on the FoM SSRP website: [med.ubc.ca/ssrp](http://www.med.ubc.ca/ssrp).
* Content boxes will expand as you type but be mindful of the character limits on the online application form when you submit your actual application; the application form will not allow extraneous text.
* The information you choose to post in this form need not be the same as your online application. You may wish to post a more simplified description here, or include additional information relevant to possible student partners but not relevant to your eventual application. You can also leave sections blank on this form that you will fill out on your eventual application.
* If you are having difficulties using the fields in this form, you can disable "form mode" by going to Review>Restrict Editing and clicking on "Stop protection" or contact [fom.ssrp@ubc.ca](mailto:fom.ssrp@ubc.ca) for assistance.

|  |
| --- |
| **Applications will be accepted from:**  Both MD & non-MD Undergraduates  MD undergraduate students only  non-MD undergraduate students only |
| **Project Duration:**  Suitable for either a 4 or 8 week project (Only Yr 3 MD students are eligible to apply for 4-week projects)  Only suitable for an 8-week project  Only suitable for a 4-week project |
| **Additional information for potential student partners:**  E.g. desired skills/interests/experience, scheduling restrictions for the project timeline, additional info you want applicants to provide when contacting you about this position, etc.       Ideally a student who has experience with patient-oriented research, and/or qualitative study designs. |

## PROJECT INFORMATION

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Title:** Examining the role of non-expert navigators in an online sexual health intervention |
| **Hypothesis or Research Question being addressed (400 character limit, ~55 words):**  The overall goal of this project is to test the efficacy and implementation of an online intervention for women’s sexual difficulties. Specific aims during the funding period include:  1. Testing whether higher levels of non-expert treatment navigator protocol adherence are linked to greater improvements in treatment outcomes.  2. Identifying best practices for common challenging situations that navigators experience, and updating the navigator training materials accordingly. |
| **Keywords:** **Provide approximately 5 key words that describe the proposed research project.**        sexual health; digital health; women’s health; video coding; intervention |

|  |
| --- |
| **Project Attributes and Benefit to the Student**  Please review the [online adjudication criteria](http://www.med.ubc.ca/current-learners/summer-student-research-program/adjudication/) carefully prior to completing the next two sections to ensure your application is addressing the adjudication criteria outlined in “Project Attributes and Benefits to the Student”. |
| **A) Background and Summary of Proposed Research. Summarize the proposed project including the rationale for the project, the context within the relevant field of research, the proposed research approach and the expected project outcomes.** *If this is an ongoing project of >8 weeks duration (or 4 weeks for MD 2022 students) clearly distinguish the expected project outcomes at the end of the FoM SSRP funding period from the overall project objectives.* **Please write in lay terms for a non-specialist audience.**  **Character Limit: 3050 characters (~430 words)**  Sexual desire and arousal difficulties are very common in women, impacting about one-third of women worldwide. These difficulties can negatively affect women's mental, interpersonal, and physical health. Although there are effective face-to-face treatments for women's sexual concerns, these treatments can be expensive and often have long wait lists. Online interventions may provide more accessible alternatives.  We are currently finishing up a randomized controlled trial (RCT) on the efficacy of eSense, a sexual health intervention that delivers separate modules of cognitive-behavioural therapy and mindfulness-based therapy skills that have been adapted for online delivery. We are now starting a scale-up study where we are partnering with multiple clinics in Canada and the United States to offer eSense to women who are on the wait lists for treatment from a healthcare provider (e.g., sex therapist or physician) for their sexual concerns. The goal of this project is to assess the implementation of eSense. In other words, we aim to examine how eSense is used in the real world and how eSense may fit in with the existing frameworks of clinics. Our eventual goal is to make helpful treatments available for many more women.  For both of these studies, we recruited and trained a team of non-expert treatment navigators, who are undergraduate students in psychology, to meet with participants weekly via Zoom. These weekly meetings have been recorded with the consent of the participants. Navigators provide encouragement to engage in treatment, accountability for completing between-module activities, and answers to practical questions. Prior research indicates that individualized support for participants in online interventions—even support that provides no formal therapy—can decrease attrition, increase adherence, and improve treatment outcomes. As part of navigators’ ongoing supervision, navigators attend weekly group meetings where they discuss solutions and best practices for common situations that navigators experience in their meetings with participants.  See our lab website for more information about the eSense project: <https://brottolab.med.ubc.ca/studies/esense-study/> |
| **B) Outline the student’s role in the project and describe how they will benefit from their involvement.** This section must address how involvement in this project will help the student gain an understanding of how high quality research is conducted. This includes addressing the opportunities to learn new skills in the context of the relevant learning objectives listed in the [adjudication criteria](http://www.med.ubc.ca/current-learners/summer-student-research-program/adjudication/); their anticipated interactions with other researchers and the available resources that will contribute to a beneficial experience.  *Clearly indicate which items will be completed during the FoM SSRP funding period and which (if applicable) will be completed before or after the funding period if the student and supervisor have chosen to also work together outside of the funding period. Project feasibility is considered during the adjudication process; 4-week and 8-week projects will be adjudicated separately, with appropriate consideration given to each.*  **Character Limit: 3800 characters (~540 words)**  During the funding period, the student would be responsible for reviewing the recordings of the participant/navigator meetings and the recording of the navigator weekly group meetings. This would be done for two purposes:   1. We aim to test whether navigator protocol adherence is positively linked to treatment outcomes. In other words, we hypothesize that participants who meet with navigators who have greater protocol adherence will be more likely to experience sexual health improvements. The student will be trained on how to code the participant/navigator meetings for protocol adherence. Next, the student will code a random 20% of the videos. The student will be instructed on and responsible for entering these data in a data analysis program. These data will be used in the RCT analyses. Through coding these videos, the student will increase their knowledge of women’s sexual health, active listening skills, and digital health interventions. 2. We aim to identify best practices for common challenging situations that navigators experience, and update the navigator training materials accordingly. First, the student will watch all recorded navigator group meetings. During these meetings, navigators and the study team discuss solutions and best practices for common situations that navigators experience in their meetings with participants. The student will compile the solutions discussed in these recordings and then update the navigator training materials to reflect these. This will assist in identifying areas where navigators could use more support and guidance. Additionally, it will assist in streamlining the navigator training process as eSense moves closer to commercialization.   The student will also attend weekly lab meetings where they can learn about other projects that the lab is involved with. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please indicate if your project requires the following and indicate their status as appropriate.** This will help clarify the scope of the project for potential student partners. |
| **This project requires ethics approval (human or animal):**  Yes  No  If yes please indicate if you:  Already have approval  Will obtain approval before the SSRP funding period  Intend for ethics application to be a focus over the funding period  \*Please note that as ethics approval can be a lengthy process it is recommended that this be obtained well in advance of the funding period unless the intention is for this activity to form a major part of the FoM SSRP-funded portion of the project.  **This project requires access to electronic medical records:**  Yes  No  If yes please indicate if you:  Already have approval  Will obtain approval before the SSRP funding period  Plan to obtain approval during the SSRP funding period  **This project requires operational/institutional approval:**  Yes  No  If yes please indicate if you:  Already have approval  Will obtain approval before the SSRP funding period  Plan to obtain approval during the SSRP funding period |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Research Location (As applicable, indicate where the project will be conducted.)** | |
| City or Region:       Vancouver  Research Centre:       VCHRI and WHRI  Hospital:       Vancouver Hospital  Program or Unit:       Department of Gynaecology  Additional information (building, lab etc.):       DHCC 6th Floor, Room 6231 | |
|  | | |
| **Supervisor’s Information** | | |
| **Supervisor Last Name:**       Brotto | **Supervisor First Name:**       Lori | |
| **FoM Department/School (Main FoM Appointment):**        Ob/Gyn | **UBC FoM Division (if applicable):**        Gynaecologic Specialties | |
| **Preferred contact method (for students)**  Phone supervisor  Email supervisor | Phone alternate contact  Email alternate contact | |
| **Preferred Phone:**       604-875-4111 ext.68898 | **Supervisor Rank (Instructor, Professor etc.):**       Professor | |
| **E-mail Address:**            lori.brotto@vch.ca |  | |
| **Optional Alternate Contact** (e.g. co-supervisor, research/lab coordinator, assistant etc.) | | |
| **Contact’s Name:**       Elizabeth Mahar | **Contact’s Role:**       Postdoctoral Fellow | |
| **Contact’s Phone Number:**       585-378-0655 | **Contact’s E-mail Address:**  elizabeth.mahar@ubc.ca | |