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| **Applications will be accepted from:** [ ]  Both MD & non-MD Undergraduates [x]  MD undergraduate students only [ ]  non-MD undergraduate students only |
| **Project Duration:** [x]  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.      |

## PROJECT INFORMATION

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| **Project Title:** Developing an intervention for sexual dysfunction after obstetric anal sphincter injury       |
| **Hypothesis or Research Question being addressed (400 character limit, ~55 words):**Pelvic floor trauma from childbirth can lead to incontinence, prolapse and sexual dysfunction, with significant impact on women’s quality of life. Pelvic floor physiotherapy (PPT) and cognitive behavioral therapy(CBT) are effective interventions to address sexual dysfunction. We propose to develop the content of a multidisciplinary online intervention that combines CBT and physiotherapy for female sexual dysfunction after vaginal birth complicated by obstetric anal sphincter injury. |
| **Keywords:** **Provide approximately 5 key words that describe the proposed research project**Obstetric outcomes, sexual dysfunction, physiotherapy |

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| **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)**Pelvic floor trauma from childbirth can have significant impact on women’s quality of life. Pelvic floor physiotherapy (PPT) and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) are effective interventions to address sexual dysfunction. However, there are no accessible programs designed specifically for postpartum patients and that accommodate their unique needs as busy parents. Our team has existing platforms to deliver evidence-based CBT and PPT to patients with female sexual dysfunction (FSD), but these are not specific to patients with childbirth trauma. We will conduct focus groups of postpartum patients to inform the development of a multidisciplinary intervention that combines CBT and PPT in a single platform and considers the specific needs of patients post childbirth trauma. We hypothesize that postpartum women who sustained obstetric anal sphincter injury (OASIS) during childbirth have specific healthcare needs to address sexual function, different from women who experience sexual dysfunction not related to childbirth. These needs can be addressed with an online platform that combines CBT and PPT that is designed specifically for patients post childbirth trauma.The Specific Aims of the project are:* To assess female sexual dysfunction in postpartum patients with OASIS
* To administer an existing online CBT and PPT curriculum that addresses sexual dysfunction, but is not specific to a postpartum population with OASIS
* To conduct focus groups and identify the needs of postpartum women with sexual dysfunction post OASIS
* To perform qualitative analysis of the data gathered through focus groups
* To administer validated questionnaires and gather quantitative data on patient outcomes
* Based on patient’s feedback to develop the content of a multidisciplinary e-health intervention that combines CBT and PPT to address sexual dysfunction specifically for postpartum patients with OASIS.
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| **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)**Since patient recruitment will be staggered, the student is expected to be involved in different stages of the research project. The student will be involved in recruiting postpartum patients for the study. The recruitment will take place at the maternity wards of two hospitals in Vancouver. For patients that have agreed to participate, the student will administer validated questionnaires to identify those with sexual dysfunction. While the patients complete the CBT and PPT modules, the student will send regular reminders to patients. Once the patients complete all the modules the student will be involved in administering validated questionnaires as well as conducting focus groups. With the quantitative data obtained from the questionnaires, the student will be responsible for cleaning and analyzing the data under the supervision of a statistician. For the qualitative data, the student is responsible for transcribing the data and will have the opportunity to be involved in data analysis under the supervision of a statistician. The student will have the opportunity to prepare an abstract for presentation at conferences, write a manuscript for publication and engage in online knowledge translation.  |

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| **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):**[x]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes please indicate if you:[ ]  Already have approval [x]  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:**[x]  Yes [ ]  NoIf yes please indicate if you: [ ]  Already have approval [x]  Will obtain approval before the SSRP funding period [ ]  Plan to obtain approval during the SSRP funding period**This project requires operational/institutional approval:**[x]  Yes [ ]  NoIf 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 |

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| **Research Location (As applicable, indicate where the project will be conducted.)** |
| City or Region: Vancouver, BCResearch Centre:      Hospital: St Paul’s HospitalProgram or Unit: OBGYNAdditional information (building, lab etc.): 1125 Howe Street, Suite 930 |
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| **Supervisor’s Information** |
| **Supervisor Last Name:**      Roa | **Supervisor First Name:** Lina |
| **FoM Department/School (Main FoM Appointment):**      OBGYN | **UBC FoM Division (if applicable):**     Gynecologic Specialties |
| **Preferred contact method (for students)****[ ]** Phone supervisor**[x]** Email supervisor | **[ ]** Phone alternate contact**[x]** Email alternate contact |
| **Preferred Phone:**       | **Supervisor Rank (Instructor, Professor etc.):**     Clinical Instructor |
| **E-mail Address:**       lroa123@gmail.com |  |
| **Optional Alternate Contact** (e.g. co-supervisor, research/lab coordinator, assistant etc.) |
| **Contact’s Name: Nicole Koenig**      | **Contact’s Role: Research Coordinator**      |
| **Contact’s Phone Number:604-806-9829**      | **Contact’s E-mail Address:**     nkoenig@providencehealth.bc.ca |