

### Master of Science or PhD (Rehabilitation Sciences) Opportunity

The UBC Pulmonary Rehabilitation Research Laboratory is recruiting keen individuals who are interested in pursuing a Master of Science or PhD degree in Rehabilitation Sciences at UBC. Our focus is on improving the health outcomes of individuals with chronic lung disease, with a specific focus on interventions related to pulmonary rehabilitation. Individuals living in remote and rural locations, including First Nations people, have an increased risk of developing chronic lung disease but little to no access to rehabilitation services. We are interested in learning more about the lung health needs in First Nations communities and working in partnership with communities to develop and evaluate programs and services to improve lung health.

Carrier Sekani Family Services (CSFS) is a First Nations organization whose mandate includes providing primary care, rehabilitation care, and research support to 11 First Nations communities in central British Columbia. They have a robust health service and research delivery framework in place and have led and supported numerous research projects in the communities they serve.

Dr. Pat Camp of UBC and Dr. Travis Holyk of CSFS have received Canadian Institutes of Health Research project grant funding to support MSc or PhD graduate students who are interested in pursuing thesis work in one of the following areas:

1. Indigenous lung health. The student will be involved in a community-based project that works to better understand the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in remote and rural First Nations in north-central British Columbia. This project learns from First Nations members about their lung health and what factors may increase or decrease their risk of having COPD. Students will learn how to measure lung function, gain information via questionnaires, and collect air quality information in a community setting.
2. Physical activity measurement. The student will be involved in learning more about the practice of physical activity in remote and rural First Nations communities. The student will learn how to measure physical activity using wearables such as activity monitors and GPS systems.
3. Physical activity values and barriers. The student will be involved in learning more about the values and barriers of being physically active in remote and rural First Nations communities. The student will learn how to conduct qualitative research using personal interviews and/or focus groups and using qualitative methods such as Photovoice to better understand how physical activity is valued.

The successful candidate will preferably be a member of one of the following First Nations: Burns Lake Band, Cheslatta First Nation, Nadleh Whut'en, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Stelat'en First Nation, Saik'uz First Nation, Takla Lake First Nation, Yekooche First Nation, Skin Tyee Nation, Nee Tahi Buhn Band, or Lake Babine Nation; however, applications from: 1) members of other First Nations, or those who are Métis or Inuit; 2) Indigenous peoples from other countries; and 3) non-Indigenous peoples – will be accepted and seriously considered. The applicant will have the opportunity to work in community, in the Carrier Sekani Family Service head office in Prince George, and in Vancouver on their project, where necessary. Distance learning may be possible. MSc applicants must have an undergraduate degree from a recognized university, in one of the following disciplines: kinesiology, rehabilitation sciences, health sciences, education, First Nations studies, geography, or other relevant discipline. PhD candidates must have a thesis-based Masters degree and evidence of writing/publication potential. Other criteria for admission to the program can be found here:

<http://rehab.med.ubc.ca/>

Questions can be directed to Barbara Karlen, UBC Pulmonary Rehabilitation Research Laboratory manager, at [barbara.karlen@hli.ubc.ca](mailto:barbara.karlen@hli.ubc.ca).