

Health Delivery Systems and Barriers to Living Donor Kidney Transplantation across Canada.

Graduate Student or Research Assistant position, case study methodology required.

Dr. Shaifali Sandal (Transplant Nephrologist)

Prof. Antonia Maioni (Political Science/IHSP)

We are looking for a graduate student or a research assistant who would be interested in conducting a case study of a health delivery system under the co-supervision of Dr. Sandal and Prof. Maioni.

An outline of the project is as follows: Patients who have end-stage renal disease need dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive. Kidney transplantation from a living donor is considered to be the best treatment option as it is associated with better longevity for the patient and lower costs to the health care system. Yet, the rates of living donation at several centers in Canada are low and are decreasing despite new initiatives. In addition, there are significant interprovincial variations. In the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia, <15%, 30-40% and 50-60% of the kidney transplants done annually are from living donors, respectively. Currently, efforts to increase living donation tend to focus on the patient, on teaching and training them how to seek donors. This has not been shown to be effective for all patients and is thought to have created an unfair system favoring those with the means to find living donors. However, health professional level barriers to discussing living donation with their patients and barriers at the level of the health delivery system have not been well studied. We have done some preliminary work and we now seek to identify what elements of a health delivery system contribute to high rates of living donor kidney transplantation. To do this we want to conduct a case study of BC transplant, which is a health delivery system in the province of BC that demonstrates the best performance in living donor kidney transplantation. We want to identify strategies, programs, mandates and operating structure that might be contributing to British Columbia being a leader in living donor kidney transplantation.

Benefits for the student/research assistant: The interested student will receive clinical and methodological guidance from the two supervisors to conduct the case study. The student will have the option of participating in a quantitative study of health professionals should they be interested. This project can also lead to more future research opportunities. Cost of travel to conduct field research in BC has been arranged and financial support for the graduate student will be provided.

Expertise: Should have training in conducting qualitative research and case studies, have meticulous organization skills and excellent communication skills. We prefer the student to be able to work in both English and French. Available by July 2019.

Contact: Those interested please send a CV and a letter outlining their qualifications and experience to Dr Sandal: shaifali.sandal@mcgill.ca