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Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Intelligent Assistive Technology and Systems Lab (IATSL), University of Toronto and Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, Toronto, Ontario
McMaster Health Forum, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario

Start date: Open, 1 year contract

A Postdoctoral Research Fellow is sought for a unique joint fellowship through the IATSL in Toronto and the McMaster Health Forum in Hamilton. The fellowship will be full-time, one year with possible renewal for 1-2 years based on mutual satisfaction and funding availability. The successful candidate's primary responsibility will be to conduct research, and coordinate and carry out knowledge translation activities for the project ***"Aging, Disability and Technology: A framework for research, implementation and policy"***. The project is part of a new Canadian Networks Centres of Excellence - Aging Gracefully across Environments using technology to Ensure Well-being, Engagement and Long Life (AGE-WELL; <http://www.agewellnce.ca/research>). The position is available immediately, but the start date is negotiable. The position will be based primarily in Toronto for the first year and primarily in Hamilton for the second year, with ongoing exchange at both sites so travel will be required.

About Aging, Disability and Technology (ADT):

Even though technology can increase independence, wellbeing and community participation with older Canadians, many experience unmet technology needs. Current policies for technology funding and services are not coordinated and vary across Canada, resulting in the inability to provide for those who need assistance, to meet our society's responsibilities to ensure services and opportunities are available in a fair manner and to address the high cost of providing healthcare. This project examines the ethical concern of equity in making technology available for those who need it. The project will: 1) study how assistive technologies are accessed by Canadians to identify funding and service gaps; 2) explore the ethical, social, and policy issues (including data privacy and confidentiality) around assistive technology access; and 3) work with policymakers, technology users (citizens) researchers and others involved in or affected by the issue to make recommendations for policies that can be directly put into place to improve access to technology in a fair way. The project will involve analysis of current scientific and policy literature, interviews and surveys with policymakers, citizens, researchers and others, and creating reports of the findings suitable for the general public. Citizen panels will be convened to identify citizens' views, experiences and values related policy options for improving technology access. The findings from the citizen panels will be used to inform a stakeholder dialogue with policymakers, stakeholders and researchers about policy options that could be used to improve access to technology. In the later years of the project, new technologies developed by AGE-WELL will be examined to identify policies and frameworks that can be used to help to ensure these technologies are available to those

who need them. This project addresses basic ethical and social issues of fair access to technology, and can ensure that Canadians have opportunities to benefit from AGE-WELL's new developments over the long term.

Responsibilities:

- Participate in the ADT research project under the direction of the project co-leads, Drs. Rosalie Wang (IATSL, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy) and Michael Wilson (McMaster Health Forum and Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics)
- Conduct research, including literature reviews, interviews and survey, as well as coordinate and carry out knowledge translation activities as described in the ADT project plans
- Work collaboratively with other researchers, policymakers, technology consumers and stakeholders
- With the project co-leads, assist in the supervision of graduate students and research assistants
- Develop proposals for additional research projects and funding applications relevant to ADT
- Work on multiple aspects of research projects to develop skills as an independent researcher
- Preparation/submission of ethics applications
- The candidate will be encouraged to identify and develop their own areas of interest within the research program

Requirements:

- Newly graduated (within the past 5 years) PhD in a health research or health policy-related discipline
- Experience in health technology, and health technology access and policy would be assets
- Experience in qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research
- Experience conducting systematic reviews, and preparation of reports and presentations for scientific and lay audiences
- Ability to work with other researchers, support personnel, and students in a collaborative research environment.
- Good organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills and strong written and oral English communication skills are required

To apply:

Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, including a summary of research interests, the names of at least two academic references, and a curriculum vitae to Dr. Rosalie Wang at rosalie.wang@utoronto.ca and Dr. Michael Wilson at wilsom2@mcmaster.ca .

Please contact Dr. Rosalie Wang or Dr. Michael Wilson should you have any questions regarding this position.