**MITACS Internship at BC Cancer Kelowna**

**Company name:** BC Cancer – Kelowna

**Contact name and title:** Dr. Rasika Rajapakshe, Senior Medical Physicist

**Phone number:** 250-712-3915 **Email address:** rrajapak@bccancer.bc.ca

**Mailing Address:** 399 Royal Avenue, Kelowna, BC, V1Y5L3

**Website:** http://earlydetection.ca

**Job title:** MITACS graduate Internship

**Length of the work term:** 8 months (May-December 2019)

**What we’re looking for:** Graduate student with interest in healthcare/ patient reported outcomes/ biostatistics.

**Project: Implementing a Web-Based Patient Follow-Up Platform into BC Cancer**

Against the backdrop of rising incidence of cancer in Canada, advancements in cancer care have allowed more patients to survive longer. Correspondingly, patients are increasingly experiencing treatment-associated morbidities that influence quality of life (QOL). This creates demand for more accessible methods of collection of patient reported outcomes (PROs). Cancer patients in BC are spread over a wide geographical area, and coupled with time and financial constraints, follow-up visits in clinic may not be convenient or feasible for patients. We will address this issue by evaluating the feasibility of an online platform for PRO collection. We will use Equicare’s (a comprehensive cancer care coordination software) online patient questionnaire platform to test a pilot questionnaire for patient feasibility and utility. Patients treated for breast cancer will be sent an online PRO questionnaire on QOL. Patient feedback will be analyzed for the value of the platform in follow up. A Pearson’s Chi-Squared test will compare QOL and platform satisfaction with patient characteristics. A Mann-Whitney U or Kruskal Wallis test will be used to analyze likelihood to participate in online follow-up based on patient characteristics. A successful online system could improve monitoring of treatment morbidities. Equicare will gain valuable insight into the implementation of their platform in a Canadian health care setting.

After becoming familiar with the Equicare platform, the successful candidate for this position will collaborate with oncologists at BC Cancer Kelowna to approach patients regarding the questionnaire, and electronically assign questionnaires to patients based on the patients’ schedules. During the accrual stage, the student will develop the appropriate analytics and provide weekly abstracts of the collected data. After completing patient accrual, the student will analyze feedback on the PRO platform, as well as patient QOL and participation rates. The student will perform statistical analysis on the collected data and will submit a project report at the end of the work term. This project will require a short period of time spent in Vancouver, BC at the Equicare office participating in set up and configuration the web platform.