

**Student Program**

**Mission Statement**

**Mission:** Advancing transfusion science through innovative methodology and collaborative research to improve patient health outcomes.

**About the McMaster Centre for Transfusion Research (MCTR)**

MCTR is a joint partnership between the [Canadian Blood Services (CBS)](http://www.bloodservices.ca) and [McMaster University, Faculty of Health Sciences](http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca).

MCTR is actively involved in several broad research areas:

* Conducting and coordinating multi-centre clinical research in Transfusion Medicine and Blood Disorders including randomized controlled trials, qualitative studies, economic evaluations and cohort/case control studies, utilization/conservation, transfusion practices, quality management, donor-related issues and education;
* Initiating and supporting transfusion research across Canada through establishment of Research Networks and support for the coordination and analysis of study data;
* Promoting education by disseminating research results and conducting research methodology training;
* Providing evidence-based scientific information for policy development;
* Aid in the development of alternative treatments for non-oncological hematology and blood disorders.

MCTR projects focus on three broad research areas:

1. **Blood Utilization**, the study of evidence-based blood product use, including alternatives, sustainability, and donor research.
2. **Health Outcomes Research**, including large epidemiological studies to understand patterns of blood product utilization, and link donor characteristic, product processing methods and transfusion outcomes.
3. **Hemostasis and Bleeding Disorders**, both inherited and acquired, including basic mechanistic studies in immune cytopenias and clinical studies on specialized blood product utilization.

**Personnel**

The centre is comprised of biostatisticians, research coordinators, research assistants, administrative coordinators, a business manager, several associated physicians, faculty members, hematologists and a director.

**Students**

The McMaster Centre for Transfusion Research aims to provide students with an environment rich in educational activities as well as exposure to current practices in clinical research. Students are encouraged to develop research ideas, engage in writing activities for their research projects, engage in all activities associated with the collection and analysis of data, attend research meetings with study teams and attend regular meetings with their supervisors.

The students are may be externally funded from a number of sources such as Canadian Blood Services (CBS)(e.g. summer student or internships), Co-op programs, undergraduate programs etc.

Students will work under the supervision of the MCTR faculty and Business Manager in accordance of their sponsoring program (e.g. CBS interns require a designated supervisor).

Students will are expected to:

1. *Attend Research in Progress session (RIP)* - Monthly

These sessions are conducted by the MCTR and are generally a forum for investigators to gather and explore new ideas for research and work on existing research projects or ideas with experts and colleagues in the field. These sessions provide students with an excellent opportunity to witness how a research project moves from idea to reality.

1. *Attend MCTR Operational Meetings* – Once per Month

The MCTR research group meets each month to discuss current projects. At each of these meetings, an educational session is given by one of the members on current research practices and team building exercises. These meetings provide students with an opportunity to engage in ongoing research projects and provide them with exposure to the day to day progress of the MCTR research activities.

1. *Attend regular Student Meetings –* Every two to four weeks

Students will be asked to meet as a group with other students, the business manager and any supervisors for their projects. These meetings are intended to keep the students ‘on track’, engage other students in their activities, get advice on project procedures, work out any operational issues and obtain any information required to perform study activities. (Mandatory)

1. *Complete a Project* *& Presentation* (Co-op and summer students)

Students will be assigned a project for their term. Under the guidance of an MCTR member, the student will develop a protocol, collect and analyze their data and present their results to the MCTR team either in a Team Meeting or at an RIP session. (Mandatory)

1. *Teaching Sessions:*

Research fellows and junior faculty will be available to coach and mentor the students. The summer students are expected to attend teaching sessions or other sessions as developed and conducted by the Transfusion Medicine research fellows and junior faculty. Based on progress updates and project requirements students are provided with coaching on research methodology, the fundamentals of transfusion medicine, career development and healthcare systems.

The MCTR sincerely values the contribution of its students. Students are an integral part to the MCTR team. They often become long term members of our team. We strive to provide an environment that is mutually beneficial to the student and our Centre.

If you are interested in student position within MCTR please send your CV and cover letter to:

Julie Carruthers

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