



FACULTY OF MEDICINE



University
of Victoria

Island Medical Program

The University of British Columbia

Faculty of Medicine MD

Undergraduate Program

delivered in collaboration with

the University of Victoria

Job Title: *Silent Genomes Project - FNHA-UBC Silent Genomes Scholar*
Employer: University of British Columbia (Management & Professional (AAPS) employee group)
Location: Victoria/Vancouver with possible travels to Prince George
Term: Full-time (~35 hrs/week)
Desired start date: 03/18/2020
End date: 03/17/2021 (with possible extension)

JOB SUMMARY

The FNHA and UBC Department of Medical Genetics are partnered on a research project titled **Silent Genomes** which will address the genomic divide by reducing access barriers to diagnosis of genetic disease in Indigenous children. With our First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners we will:

- Establish processes, through an Indigenous lens, for safe governance of biological samples and genome data in the Silent Genomes project, which will lead to broader policy.
- Address barriers to accessing genetic/genomic health care and bring genomic testing to at least 200 Indigenous children with suspected genetic disorders.
- Develop an Indigenous Background Variant Library (IBVL) of genetic variation from a diverse group of 1500 FN Canadians and assess improvement in diagnosis for referred children.
- Assess effectiveness of the IBVL to lower health care costs and plan for long term use of IBVL for Canadian Indigenous children and adults needing genetic/genomic health care.

The successful candidate will report to Drs Nadine Caron and Laura Arbour, as well as designated personnel from FNHA. This role is a unique scholarly position shared between FNHA and UBC. As an Embedded Scholar at FNHA, the candidate will play a coordinating role between the Silent Genomes Activities 1, 2, and 3, and the FNHA, as part of the Silent Genomes Project. The focus will be on developing discussion papers that will lead to policy regarding the collection and study of biosamples (blood, urine, tissue, DNA, etc) and *their derived data* from Indigenous persons and communities. Clinical sample acquisition that may be used for further research and research samples will be considered. Other activities related to Indigenous health research policy, as directed through the Silent Genomes project and the FNHA may also be explored.

Primary responsibilities include:

- Collection and synthesis of relevant background materials, including relevant National and International literature to inform approach.
- Facilitates engagement between the FNHA and the Silent Genomes team.
- Plans, coordinate and organizes cross-organizational collaboration meetings
- Interviews or surveys relevant parties about their perspectives. Collate and report on the perspectives.
- Writing background reports for FNHA and Silent Genomes project use. Leading publications on topics mutually agreed upon. Preparing presentations for internal and external meetings. Represents FNHA/Silent Genomes perspectives (once established) in forums mutually agreed upon.
- Consider organizing discussion panels, and other forums to inform scholarly works.

- Contributes to the development of community engagement protocols for Silent Genomes research initiatives that integrate Activity 1 (engagement and governance) with Activities 2 (Precision Diagnosis) and 3, (the Indigenous Background Variant Library) within BC.
- Ongoing knowledge exchange development.
- Assistance in other Activities within the FNHA for the Silent Genomes Project on an as-needed basis, pending availability.
- Adhere to FNHA governance processes for research, ethics and knowledge exchange
- Incorporate the FNHA mandate into all project related work, including the 7 Directives, Policy Statement on Cultural Safety and Humility, and the First Nations Perspective on Health and Wellness
- Ensure adherence to OCAP® and develop policy documents on OCAP®, where relevant

Qualifications:

- A PhD preferably in an Indigenous health or health policy related area or relevant combination of education and experience for other professional degree such as an MD.
- Keen interest in Indigenous health, and or health policy, previous work experience with Indigenous communities.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, ability to use both professional and lay language in communication
- Ability to communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders, including Indigenous organizations, communities, researchers, policy-makers and the public
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills, including experience working with interdisciplinary teams, proficiency with MS Office and referencing software (e.g. Mendeley) are required.
- Ability to ensure timely completion of tasks by adjusting priorities as required
- Proven ability to work in a confidential environment and to work effectively in independent and collaborative team environments.
- Successful completion of Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 (TCPS2) tutorial and an Indigenous Cultural Safety Course (may be completed upon hiring).

Preference may be given to applicants who self-identify as Indigenous with the required combination of education and experience.

HOW TO APPLY:

The full application description can be found online at <https://www.hr.ubc.ca/careers-postings/staff.php>, under the Job ID **36540**.

Please email your cover letter and resume to silentgenomes@uvic.ca with “Embedded scholar” in a subject line. Due to the number of resumes we receive, we are unable to confirm receipt of submissions over the phone, or provide the status of competitions except to those who are selected for an interview.