Area of Research: Clinical nutrition and physiology

Description of duties: Dr. Amy Kirkham, in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education (KPE) at the University of Toronto, invites applications for a 1-year postdoctoral fellowship in the areas of clinical nutrition and physiology. The successful candidate will be involved in various ongoing studies involving women with or at risk for breast cancer, cardiovascular disease or metabolic disease, depending on experience and interest. Various opportunities exist for candidates with registered dietitian credentials to provide counselling to follow time-restricted eating or healthy eating practices in clinical (cancer) or at risk (metabolic dysfunction) populations. Assessments for various ongoing studies involve MRI scans acquisition and analysis of ectopic fat in the viscera, liver, and skeletal muscle, cardiopulmonary exercise testing, venipuncture and analysis, continuous glucose monitoring, accelerometer or physical activity tracker, dietary record assessments. All projects in the lab follow a strong “team science” approach involving various trainees (undergraduate to doctoral) and both clinical (especially oncology and cardiology) and academic collaborators. Opportunities to lead publications and to assist with grant writing will be provided and encouraged.

The successful candidate will also assist in the development of the ‘Cardiometabolic, Oncology, Diet and Exercise in Women’ (CODE-W) research centre. This groundbreaking Canadian health research centre aims to understand, treat, and improve the cardiovascular and metabolic health of women across the life span. As part of the centre development, the postdoctoral fellow will assist in the procurement, setup, and training on state-of-the-art physiological assessment equipment, including metabolic carts, exercise equipment, non-invasive vascular and hemodynamic equipment, ultrasound and MRI software and hardware. This experience is expected to provide the candidate with unparalleled preparation for developing their own independent lab.

Salary: $50,000-$55,000 commensurate with qualifications

Please note that should the minimum rates stipulated in the collective agreement fall below the rates stated in this posting, the minimum rates stated in the collective agreement shall prevail.

Required qualifications:
- Ph.D. in Nutrition Sciences, Dietetics, Kinesiology, Human physiology, Biomedical Engineering or a closely related discipline involving Human Nutrition and/or Physiology.
Registered dietitian credentials are a major asset

Strong experience in RCT study design, CONSORT guidelines, and preferably clinical research are an asset

Experience and a strength in manuscript and grant application writing is a major asset.

Experience with indirect calorimetry, continuous glucose monitoring, blood sample collection, continuous glucose monitors use and data, and/or physical activity wearables (e.g., accelerometer, fitness trackers,) is an asset.

Strong track record of scholarly research productivity and ability to independently perform patient recruitment, research data collection and analysis

Exceptional organizational, interpersonal, and communication skills

Ability to work independently, while also working well as part of a collaborative team

Experience providing mentorship, direction, and support to junior researchers/trainees

About the University of Toronto and the Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education:

The University of Toronto is Canada’s largest university, and the only Canadian university to be repeatedly among the top 25 of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Situated in one of the world’s most diverse cities, The University of Toronto is a global leader in research and teaching. The University of Toronto is also committed to the support and development of postdoctoral research. A centralized postdoctoral office has been created within the School of Graduate Studies to ensure successful training experiences for postdoctoral fellows and resources to prepare for the next step in their careers.

The Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education is located off Bloor St. in downtown Toronto. Dr. Kirkham’s lab is located in the newly renovated Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport. The state-of-the-art facility houses cutting-edge laboratory infrastructure to enable human exercise and nutritional testing, and wet lab analyses of biological samples. Dr. Kirkham is part of a collaborative group of Faculty researchers that share resources, lab space and expertise, creating a highly dynamic and enriching environment for graduate and postdoctoral trainees.

Application instructions

Please submit your application to Dr. Amy Kirkham via her website as a single PDF file: https://amykirkham.ca/index.php/postdoctoral-fellow-applications-2022/

Application materials must include: a) a cover letter describing your expertise and suitability for the position; b) your CV; c) the completed application form in the link.

Closing date: September 30, 2022

Supervisor: Amy Kirkham

Expected start date: As early as September 1, 2022 up to January 1, 2023.

Term: This position is for one year and is potentially renewable based on performance and available funding.
**FTE**: 100%

The normal hours of work are 40 hours per week for a full-time postdoctoral fellow (pro-rated for those holding a partial appointment) recognizing that the needs of the employee’s research and training and the needs of the supervisor’s research program may require flexibility in the performance of the employee’s duties and hours of work.

*Employment as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto is covered by the terms of the CUPE 3902 Unit 5 Collective Agreement.*

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*The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from racialized persons / persons of colour, women, Indigenous / Aboriginal People of North America, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas.*