

RECRUITING AND TRAINING PHYSICIANS-SCIENTISTS TO EMPOWER TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
A MULTILEVEL TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
FOCUSSED ON METHODOLOGY, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM

I. General Information

Title of the research project:

CLINICAL PROBLEMS IN THE HOSPITALIZED PARKINSON'S DISEASE PATIENT: LITERATURE REVIEW AND ON-FIELD RESEARCH

Name and address of the department:

Center for Research in Medical Pharmacology, University of Insubria

Student's supervisor:

Marco Cosentino

II. Description of the project

(max 1500 characters, spaces included)

Background - Parkinson's disease (PD) patients admitted to a hospital encounter numerous and serious problems. PD patients' hospitalizations range from 7 to 28% per year. According to available literature, acute events occurring during hospitalization are mainly urinary infection, confusion, and pressure ulcers. Medication errors are also frequent adverse events. During and after surgery PD patients had an increased incidence of infections, confusion, falls, and decubitus, and 31% of patients was dissatisfied in the way their PD was managed.

What is the aim of the project? – The aim of the project is twofold: first, since the most recent systematic review on PD patients and hospitalizations dates to 2011, a systematic review of the literature will be performed to cover the last 15 years. Second, by use of the best methodology available in the medical literature, hospital experiences of PD patients living in the University of Insubria's reference area will be collected and analysed with the collaboration of the Associazione Parkinson Insubria (AsPI).

What techniques and methods are used? – Systematic review of the scientific literature, survey of a relevant patient population sample by use of structured questionnaires, focus groups PD patients and family care partners to capture first-hand perspectives and generate consensus themes on PD care during hospitalization.

When did the department start working on this project? Our group has been working on PD-related clinical and pharmacotherapeutic problems since 1998-99. The collaboration with AsPI was established in 2016, and the topic of PD and hospitalization was prioritized in agreement with AsPI in 2019.

Type of research project:

Basic science Clinical research without lab work Clinical research with lab work

III. Student's involvement

The student will mainly observe YES NO

The student will observe the experiments but will be involved in data analysis YES NO

RECRUITING AND TRAINING PHYSICIANS-SCIENTISTS TO EMPOWER TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
A MULTILEVEL TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
FOCUSSED ON METHODOLOGY, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



- The student will take active part in experiments (“lab work”) YES NO
The student will take active part in clinical examination (clinical research) YES NO
The student will be allowed to work with patients YES NO

What are the tasks expected to be accomplished by the student?

(max 500 characters, spaces included)

The student is expected to take active part in planning and performing the literature search and selection for the systematic review. The student will be also involved in planning and performing the patients’ survey and to take part in focus groups.

What is expected from/what will be the general outcome of the student?

- To prepare a poster / presentation / scientific report / abstract
 The student’s name will be mentioned in a future publication
 Opportunity to present together with the supervisor the results on a conference
 No specific outcome is expected

IV. Requirements

What skills are required from the student?

(max 500 characters, spaces included)

In addition to initiative, enthusiasm and dedication, the ability to query and manage the main archives of medical-scientific literature, such as PubMed, Scopus, WoS and Google Scholar, is required. Previous experience in writing and publishing medical-scientific articles is a preferential requirement.

Is there any special knowledge or a certain level of studies needed?

Subjects passed:

Exams of the first three years.

Previous experience with:

Writing and publishing medical-scientific articles.

Certificate of:

None

Are there any legal limitatons in the student’s involvement in the project? YES NO

If yes, what are the limitations?

RECRUITING AND TRAINING PHYSICIANS-SCIENTISTS TO EMPOWER TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH
A MULTILEVEL TRANSDISCIPLINARY APPROACH
FOCUSSED ON METHODOLOGY, ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH



For the use of students considering participating in the project, further information can be found from the following references:

(please add specific references, max 3)

Gerlach OH, Winogrodzka A, Weber WE. **Clinical problems in the hospitalized Parkinson's disease patient: systematic review.** *Mov Disord.* 2011 Feb 1;26(2):197-208.

Cosentino M, Martignoni E, Michielotto D, Calandrella D, Riboldazzi G, Pacchetti C, Frigo G, Nappi G, Lecchini S. **Medical healthcare use in Parkinson's disease: survey in a cohort of ambulatory patients in Italy.** *BMC Health Serv Res.* 2005 Mar 24;5(1):26.

Leoni O, Martignoni E, Cosentino M, Michielotto D, Calandrella D, Zangaglia R, Riboldazzi G, Oria C, Lecchini S, Nappi G, Frigo G. **Drug prescribing patterns in Parkinson's disease: a pharmacoepidemiological survey in a cohort of ambulatory patients.** *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf.* 2002 Mar;11(2):149-57.

V. Schedule

Duration of the project:

1 month 2 months 3 months

There are approximately 8 hours of work per day.

Available months: ALL

January February March April May June
 July August September October November December

How many students can you accept to the project at the same time? 2

Special remarks:

(e.g., students should bring a stethoscope and a white coat, any vaccinations required, etc.)
none

NOTE: a scientific report is required at the end of the program