The Creative Professional Activity grant competition was introduced in 2005 to encourage and promote the clinical academic scholarship activity and careers of the members of the Department of Paediatrics at the Hospital for Sick Children. The competition is open to all clinical departmental faculty, priority being given to junior faculty whose roles involve a significant amount of clinical time. Faculty are encouraged to submit innovative research approaches to improving the scholarly care of patients, as well as clinically relevant projects that will have a direct impact on better care for our patients and families. Dr Jeremy Friedman, the Associate Paediatrician-in-Chief, highlighted that ‘successful grant winners over the last decade have a strong record of publishing their work in high impact peer reviewed journals, presenting nationally and internationally and leading to external funding for further work in the area of study. Importantly these projects have also resulted in many rapid innovations in models of care and advances in practice with direct impact on children at SickKids and elsewhere.’

Dr Friedman said that ‘this year, in addition to the regular competition, we elected to run two focussed parallel competitions in support of our new Department of Paediatrics strategic plan (Vision 2023), geared toward CPA in the area of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and Virtual Care.’

About the Grant

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 SICKKIDS DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS CREATIVE PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY GRANT WINNERS!
Congratulations to the three EDI competition grant winners:

1. Dr. Ashley Vandermorris from Adolescent Medicine. A critical consideration of barriers and enablers to accessing gender related care for racialized gender-diverse youth, was awarded $9,897.82

Dr. Indra Narang, Associate Chair for EDI and faculty development, detailed that ‘this study will highlight the unique challenges faced by racialized gender-diverse youth and will ensure that their perspectives, experiences, and needs are considered and included in future health care delivery models for vulnerable youth.’

Here’s a little background on what Dr. Vandermorris will be exploring with her funds:

Access to gender-affirming care is associated with a significantly decreased lifetime risk of suicidality among gender-diverse youth. Racialized gender-diverse youth, however, whose multiple stigmatized social identities place them at heightened risk of the adverse effects of structural violence, are under-represented in clinical populations across North America, including at the SickKids Transgender Youth Clinic. This qualitative study, which will be conducted in partnership with community leaders and organizations, seeks to develop a better understanding of the care-seeking experiences of racialized gender-diverse youth. This is considered a first step towards a critical appraisal of how the health system can more effectively reach and engage this population. It is our hope that findings from this study will elucidate potential opportunities to work with racialized communities to increase access to gender-affirming care for all youth.

2. Dr. Adrienne Davis from Paediatric Emergency Medicine
   Inequity and Barriers in Pediatric Emergency Medicine Clinical Research Participation by Caregivers with Limited-English Language Proficiency

3. Dr. Laila Premji from Paediatric Medicine
   Microaggressions: The Female Physician Experience in a Paediatric Academic Center
Virtual Care

Congratulations to the two virtual care grant winners:

1. Dr. Sasha Litwin from Paediatric Emergency Medicine. Designing a Chatbot to Support Caregivers After Discharge from the Emergency Department, was awarded $9,564.

Dr. Mark Palmert, Associate Chair for Ambulatory Care, commented that 'as we embrace all the benefits of virtual care in our ambulatory programs, it is important to continue to think of new and innovative uses of other virtual technologies. We hope this innovative bot-related study leads to a new use of virtual care that benefits patients and families and prevents unneeded ED visits.'

Here’s a little background on what Dr. Litwin will be exploring with her funds:

Parents often have questions about managing their child’s illness after they are discharged from the emergency department. They turn to the internet or text messaging with friends and family for answers. Chatbots, which are common in other industries, are automated systems that use algorithms and/or machine learning to create interactive text or voice exchanges with a human user. We aim to design a texting chatbot that can support parents after discharge from the emergency department. The chatbot will answer common questions and provide virtual assistance for parents of children diagnosed with fevers and viral illnesses. We will develop the chatbot with a user-centred design approach. We will use iterative cycles of usability testing to develop a tool and evaluate it for acceptability and engagement.

2. Dr. Julia Orkin from Paediatric Medicine:
Transition to Adult primary care for youth with medical Complexity through the use of Telemedicine (TACT)
A Special Congratulations To Our Remaining CPA Grant Winners:

**Dr. Kate Nelson**  
*Paediatric Medicine*  
Identifying Hospitalized Children with Neurological Impairment in Health Administrative Data: A Validation Study

**Dr. Gabrielle Freire**  
*Emergency Medicine*  
Variation in Diagnostic Imaging Utilization in the Emergency Department: a Study of Ontario Hospitals.

**Dr. Jessie Hulst**  
*Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition*  
Paediatric Malnutrition: Quantifying the Burden and Improving Practices Related to Screening, Assessment and Management across a Tertiary-Care Centre (IMPACT-QI)

**Dr. Jackie Chiang**  
*Respiratory Medicine*  
Implementation of a New Model of Respiratory Care for Infants with SMA Type 1 Identified on Newborn Screening and Treated with Nusinersen