

Canada Excellence Research Chair in Microbiome of Early Life

Date of posting: April 19, 2022

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) Research Institute invites applications for a full-time position in research on the role of the microbiome in early life health and disease. The appointment will be at the rank of Associate Professor or Professor, with an expected start date between October 14th, 2022, and Spring 2024.

Successful candidates may also be nominated for a [Canada Excellence Research Chair](#) in the early life microbiome research, valued at \$1M per year for eight years. The CERC program is intended to support world-renowned researchers and their teams in establishing ambitious research programs at Canadian universities. Nominees to the CERC opportunity will be internationally leading researchers whose proposed research program aligns with one or more of the [Government of Canada's Science, Technology and Innovation priority areas](#).

Applicants must have earned a PhD degree in a relative discipline, with a clearly demonstrated exceptional record of excellence in research, service, training, and teaching. The successful candidate will be an internationally recognized leader in microbiome research, whose accomplishments have made a major impact on the field and/or societal impact. Applicants' research interests may include respiratory, intestinal or skin microbiome research including questions of early life development and function of microbiota, microbial genomics, host responses to microbial antigens and metabolites, pathogenesis of inflammatory and allergic diseases including autoimmunity, inflammatory bowel and metabolic diseases, maternal and infant health and nutrition and, responses to infectious viral and bacterial disease. Candidates will be expected to sustain and lead innovative research that will advance the global frontiers of knowledge in the microbiome in health and disease, and to maintain a competitive, externally funded research program.

The SickKids' Research Institute includes specialized core facilities for our scientists and their collaborators supporting basic, translational, and clinical research. These facilities provide state-of-the-art technologies including comprehensive genomics, proteomics, high parameter single cell analysis, high resolution microscopy, computational modeling and analysis, animal models, high through-put drug screening as well as associated technical expertise and services to conduct leading health research and maximize impact for patients, families, communities and economic innovation.

Candidates must provide evidence of research excellence, which can be demonstrated by a record of sustained high-impact contributions and publications in top-ranked and field-relevant journals, the submitted research statement, presentations at significant conferences, distinguished awards and accolades, evidence of impact on the field, and other noteworthy activities that contribute to the visibility and prominence of the discipline, as well as strong endorsements from referees of high standing.

Candidates must also possess a strong record of service to the research community (e.g., peer review committees, faculty recruitment committees, academic and industry advisory committees) and a record of mentoring diverse students, trainees, and research personnel, and establishing an equitable and inclusive research environment. Nominees for the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program will be expected to establish and maintain a diverse research team and create an inclusive research and training environment. Salary and rank will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and The Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute recognizes the legitimate impact that leaves (e.g., parental leaves, slowdowns due to illness or disability, impacts of COVID-19) can have on a nominee's record of research achievement. These leaves will be taken into careful consideration during the review and assessment of application materials.

The successful applicant's research program will be housed at the [SickKids Research Institute](#) in the state-of-the-art Peter Gilgan Centre for Research & Learning (686 Bay Street, Toronto, Canada), located in the Discovery District in the heart of downtown Toronto. SickKids is fully affiliated with the [University of Toronto](#) - Canada's largest and top-ranked university, and our researchers benefit from the extensive research facilities at the UofT and other affiliated institutions. The position offers a unique environment for medical science discoveries, with nine teaching and research hospitals in close proximity. The position offers the opportunity to conduct research, teach, and live in one of the most vibrant, safe, and diverse cities of the world.

All qualified candidates are invited to apply and must email a cover letter; a current *curriculum vitae*; and a 3-page research statement outlining current and future research interests; to facultysearch.microbiome@sickkids.ca by **May 24rd, 2022** (preferably in PDF format). The search committee will review applications as they are received, selecting candidates for interviews starting June 1, 2022, with a potential start date between October 14th, 2022, and Spring 2024.

Applicants must also arrange to have three letters of reference sent directly by the referee via email (on letterhead, dated, and signed) to facultysearch.microbiome@sickkids.ca by the closing date. All application materials, including reference letters, must be received by **May 24rd, 2022**.

To meet the CERC Program timelines, the University of Toronto must select and confirm the nominee in advance of the registration deadline of September 15, 2022, with a full nomination package submitted to the Program by October 13, 2022. The CERC Program does not impose any restrictions regarding nationality or country of residence of the nominee. However, given the Program's focus on the attraction of outstanding researchers to Canadian institutions, candidates who currently hold an academic appointment outside of Canada will be prioritized.

The University of Toronto and SickKids Research Institute are 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, LGBTQ2S+ persons, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. As part of the application process, you will be asked to complete a brief voluntary diversity survey. Any information directly related to you is confidential and cannot be accessed by either the search committee or human resources staff. Results will be aggregated for institutional planning purposes. The self-identification information is collected, used, disclosed, retained and disposed of in accordance with the [Privacy Act](#) and the [Access to Information Act](#). The University and SickKids Research Institute strives to be an equitable and inclusive community, and proactively seeks to increase diversity among its community members. Our values regarding equity and diversity are linked with our unwavering commitment to excellence in the pursuit of our academic mission.

The University of Toronto and SickKids Research Institute are committed to the principles of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). As such, we strive to make our recruitment, assessment, and selection processes as accessible as possible and provide accommodations as required

for applicants with disabilities. Please email facultysearch.microbiome@sickkids.ca of your accessibility needs during the recruitment process. Information received relating to accommodation will be addressed confidentially. For further information on the Canada Excellence Research Chairs Program, including eligibility criteria, please consult the [Program website](#).