REBECCA CORREIA

PhD Student @ McMaster University

Research Associate @ Big Data & Geriatric Models of Care Research Cluster

ABOUT ME:

I am a first-year PhD student in Health Research Methodology at McMaster University after recently transferring from the MSc program.

Before attending McMaster, I graduated from the University of Waterloo with a BSc in Honours Health Studies with an Aging Studies Option and Medical Physiology Minor. As part of my undergraduate studies, I completed five co-op work terms in health informatics, public health, and research settings, which motivated me to pursue graduate training in health services research.

CURRENT RESEARCH:

My dissertation will establish the first validated cohort of family physicians with 'Care of the Elderly' (COE) certifications within administrative health records at the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences (ICES). I will investigate COE family physician practice patterns, workforce trends, access to care, and health services outcomes among older primary care patients.

In addition, I research physician practice patterns and quality indicators in nursing homes. For example, I am leading a descriptive analysis to characterize physicians who practice in nursing homes and an investigation of factors that drive non-routine physician visits in this setting. I also conduct medical education research about geriatric-focused disciplines, including an analysis of applicant trends in pursuing geriatric training and core competencies of geriatric-focused physicians.

FUN FACTS:

1. Skiing is my favourite form of physical activity.
2. I have a food blog on Instagram where I take aesthetic photos of food from local restaurants.
3. I love playing board games, card games, and trivia.

GOALS FOR THE SPA:

- To expand my professional network of trainees, researchers, and mentors from different disciplines and institutions who share an interest in aging research.
- To develop tangible analytic and methodological skills in conducting longitudinal studies.
- To develop a robust research protocol and grant application for a longitudinal study using CLSA data that I can pursue during my PhD.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

My primary career goal is to pursue a productive research career as an independent scientist by conducting rigorous epidemiological studies concerning the organization and delivery of health care services to older patients in a variety of settings. My ideal career portfolio will comprise both research and teaching responsibilities at an academic institution and/or health care setting.

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