**Things to consider before applying to the Clinician Investigator Program**

**Before Applying to the Clinician Investigator Program**

**1.** Consider your future career goals and opportunities in academic research.

* For clinicians pursuing formal research training, there are several options with their own merits, so consider them all and determine the best fit for you. These options may include:
  + The Clinician Investigator Program (thesis based degrees): provides a structured research curriculum with formal mentorship and training beyond the graduate training program as well as resident stipend funding at the current PGY level.
  + Degrees pursued during fellowship training, sometimes encouraged by various fellowship programs to combine clinical and research expertise within a specific field.
  + Non-thesis based degrees which are typically completed in 1 year and are more flexible with respect to scheduling but would not be eligible for the CIP designation and funding.
  + Degrees pursued following a clinical and academic appointment, allowing for part-time clinical work.
* Research the available graduate degrees and find the right research discipline. Review the courses provided and determine the best experience for you based on the research skills acquired, the mentorship provided by potential supervisors and thesis committee members, and the professional networking opportunities. In past years, CIP trainees in Ottawa have pursued the following degrees:
  + Masters of Epidemiology
  + Masters of Medical Education
  + Masters of Science (Cellular and Molecular Medicine; Biochemistry; Microbiology and Immunology)
  + Masters of Health Systems
  + Doctor of Philosophy (Biochemistry; Microbiology and Immunology)

**2 .** Identify a potential research focus of interest for your thesis, keeping in mind that this is preliminary and can be updated later on. Consider the technical research skills and clinical expertise acquired.

* You may decide to pursue a specific topic of clinical interest and begin building the foundation of a research program during your thesis. The research work completed during your thesis has the potential to be methodologically rigorous and lay the ground work for future external funding applications as you start to build your academic research career.
* Alternatively, you may decide to pursue technical expertise within a domain that is especially applicable to your clinical field (ex. Survival Analysis in Epidemiology or Simulation Training within Medical Education), allowing for flexible application within a variety of related clinical topics.

**3.** Identify a potential research supervisor for your thesis. Your research supervisor should share similar interests and be able to fund and support your research activities. Once again, consider the technical research skills as well as the clinical expertise that you want to pursue.

* Consider browsing the researcher profiles on the OHRI and University of Ottawa websites.
* Your thesis supervisor must be appointed to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
* Meet with potential supervisors to discuss your career goals and research objectives. Discuss the CIP training requirements and agreement to ensure that your priorities are mutually aligned and that you will be able to receive the mentorship and support you need to succeed.

**4.** Meet with your clinical program director to ensure that they are aware of your interest in CIP training as well as the CIP requirements. Confirm that they are able to protect your dedicated research time.

**After Being Accepted into the Clinician Investigator Program**

Apply for External Funding (specific timing may depend on your clinical program and research discipline of interest)

* All CIP trainees are required to apply for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship as well as the Canada Graduate Scholarship (CIHR) at a minimum (deadlines typically in November-early December)
* Allocation of external salary funds (if received) is at the discretion of your clinical program; programs may choose to use all or most of these funds to offset their own funding toward your training ; if you anticipate requiring some funding to support your research activities, it is encouraged that you pre-determine an agreement with your program beforehand.

**Special Considerations in Medical Education Research**

* You can additionally apply for the Robert Maudsley Fellowship ($40,000 x 2 years, Sept deadline), DIME Health Professions Education Grant ($20,000, Oct deadline), PGME Educational Initiatives in Residency Education Grant ($120,000, March deadline), RCPSC Medical Education Research Grant ($50,000, March deadline), RCPSC CANMEDS Research Development Grant ($25,000, March deadline); there is also Medical Education TOH Grant for project funding
* Consider applying for the DIME fellowship, an option pursued by most of the Med Ed CIP trainees in past years. It is a program offered jointly with the uOSSC (simulation centre) that consists of weekly educational sessions. Similarly, trainees may also apply to FEAST (Foundational Elements of Applied Simulation Theory), a program which teaches the theory of simulation as it applies to medical education. These programs can be useful for translating and applying theoretical concepts accrued during coursework and providing networking opportunities with medical education researchers at TOH.