

# USRI Summer Experience: Psychological Research Intern

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Supervised by Colin King

## My Summer Goals

- Expand research skills
- Learn about new programs commonly used in research (i.e. R, Qualtrics), as well as a variety of different psychological measures (i.e. The Connor Davidson Resilience Scale, The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, etc.)

## Who am I?

- Jessica Ierullo
- Third Year at The University of Western Ontario
- Honours Specialization in Psychology

## Clinic Goals

I had the pleasure of working with Colin King under the Mary J. Wright Child and Youth Development Clinic to aid in their new research project. Studying children, the goal for the project is to assess the psychological impacts that long-term, intensive PCCU care has on the youth. Throughout the summer, I worked as an intern, helping to establish a base from which the project can stem from.

# About The Research

## Measures/Categories of Interest

- Resilience
- Psychological distress
- Infant temperament
- Developmental progress
- Emotional/behavioural problems
- Stress
- Adaptive skills

These measures will be assessed three times during the child's stay in the PCCU; 2 weeks prior to their clinic visits, 3 months following clinic care, and 6 months following clinical care. The wide scope of categories ensures proper assessment of the children's psychological state before, and after entering PCCU care.

## Current Progress

Reached out to several professionals in hopes of obtaining access to psychological measures they created.

Converted several psychological measures into online questionnaires. These will be sent out to families with children in long-term PCCU care, and will be used to assess a variety of categories at various points during their hospital stay (i.e. the child's resilience, distress, temperament, etc.). In the future, these measures will be options to include in the study.

Conducted research on ways in which potential psychological measures could be used for the purpose of the project.

Created PDF manuals on how to work the online tools containing the surveys to ensure a smooth and stress free experience for the families of the children.

# Future Plans

Measures

Begin choosing between measures, to narrow the scope of the research.

Pilot

Test pilot the format with a few families to ensure proper results.

Conduct

Conduct the study.

Analysis

Analyze and code results. Assess the child's mental state prior to, and following PCCU care, paying special attention to how the long-term stay may have impacted the measures stated on the previous slide.