Staff Burnout and Resident Outcomes in Nursing Homes

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Nursing homes (also known as long-term care homes) provide round-the-clock care to some of the most vulnerable members of society. Residents have a number of health challenges, including a range of physical and cognitive limitations associated with conditions such as dementia, stroke, and Parkinson’s disease. Because residents live in nursing homes, the care that staff provide must include everyday self-care activities (such as toileting and bathing), social care (such as recreation), as well as medical care. Care aides provide the vast majority of the day-to-day care while nurses oversee the management of medical issues. Given the range of care duties and residents’ high level of need, staff experience high levels of stress that can lead to burnout. Moreover, low staffing ratios (the number of staff per resident) in most nursing homes put additional pressures on staff. Although there has been some research on burnout among nursing home staff, there has been limited work to establish the impact on resident outcomes, such as physical restraint use or psychotropic medication use. Our goal is to undertake a series of studies to: a) systematically review the literature on the effects of staff burnout on resident/patient outcomes in health care settings; b) identify a set of resident outcomes that would be sensitive to nursing home staff actions; and c) test the effect of burnout among different staff types (care aides, nurses, etc.) on selected resident outcomes using data collected through the Translating Research in Elder Care (TREC) program.

FACULTY-DEPARTMENT
Family Medicine

OPEN TO STUDENTS FROM THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS
All/No Preference

DESIRED FIELD OF STUDENT STUDY
Health and Social Sciences (e.g. Nursing, Psychology, Medicine, Gerontology, Public Health, etc)

INTERNSHIP LOCATION
North Campus

NUMBER OF INTERNSHIP POSITIONS
1

INTERNSHIP START AND END DATE
May 1, 2017; length 12 weeks

ARE THE DATES FLEXIBLE?
Yes.