

2021 Seed Grant Recipient Spotlight



Ghazal Fazli, PhD

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Postdoctoral Fellow

“Nothing about us, without us”: The need for trauma-informed intersectional analysis of diabetes risk during COVID-19 through patient and public engagement

While involvement of patients in health research has increased tremendously, meaningful partnerships with patients and community members to co-develop solutions for disease prevention are lacking. This research will partner with representative members from racialized and marginalized communities who are at risk of developing diabetes as co-researchers and will use an equity, diversity, and social justice lens to understand their lived experiences and co-develop recommendations for potential policies and programs to prevent diabetes in these high-risk communities. To do this work, trauma-informed intersectional analysis will be used to discuss systemic barriers to attaining physical activity and healthy eating during the pandemic, while acknowledging past traumas. This will enable us to build stories that are critical for understanding inequities in diabetes risk. Moving forward, this research will be carried out ‘with’ or ‘by’ those with lived experiences, reflecting the ethos of ‘nothing about us, without us’ to inform equity-driven priorities and policy actions.

About Ghazal

Ghazal Fazli is a Diabetes Action Canada postdoctoral fellow based at Unity Health Toronto. She completed her PhD from the Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto and a Master of Public Health from the University of Waterloo. Her research explores the impact of sociodemographic, immigration, and environmental related factors on diabetes development among high-risk populations. As an epidemiologist, Ghazal has deep interests for research and policy initiatives that promote action on the social determinants of health to improve wellbeing and quality of life across the lifespan. In her current research, she is examining the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on prediabetes and diabetes development among Ontarians, and particularly among marginalized and racialized communities via population-based databases and patient and community engagement initiatives.



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