



HEALTH UTILITIES GROUP / HEALTH UTILITIES INDEX

The Health Utilities Index (HUI[®]) is a generic, preference-scored system used to measure health status, health-related quality of life, and producing utility scores. It relies on these methods of measuring the quality of life to help describe treatment outcomes and processes in clinical studies, for population health studies, and economic evaluations of health care services

(<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/hug/>)

CANCHILD

CanChild is a childhood disability research centre that tries to increase the quality of life for disable children, youth and their families. Their mission includes: taking a leadership role in identifying emerging issues for research, practice, policy and education, as well as conducting high-quality research. Furthermore, CanChild strives to provide education for consumers, service providers, policy makers and students.

The focus of the program is on interpersonal relationships between the disabled individual, his/her family and the community in which they live in.

(<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/canchild/>)



SMOOTH MUSCLE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

“The Smooth Muscle Research Programme (SMRP) is a multi-disciplinary, inter-professional, inter-departmental, and inter-institutional programme whose mission, is to provide a common forum for the researchers in this Faculty for the sharing of ideas and expertise, and for the promotion of collaborative and multidisciplinary research on smooth muscle structure and function in health and disease.”

(<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/smrp/>)

Information obtained from the health sciences' research website:

<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/res.htm>

C.O.M.P.E.T.E. - THE COMPUTERIZATION OF MEDICAL PRACTICES FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THERAPEUTIC EFFECTIVENESS

COMPETE will be the first project of the Patient Diagnosis and Therapy Review Network, a volunteer network of 50 family practices involving approximately 125 family doctors in the Hamilton-Wentworth area. COMPETE is a three year project with several objectives. The first is to set up the computer-based network and electronic medical record software to support all clinical activities and practice-based research. Each practice will be randomized to early versus late computerization. Next, they aim to study the quality of prescribing/drug utilization data obtained by paper chart reviews versus review of the electronic chart. This will be done using a before after design such that physicians serve as their own control. Furthermore, the project will study the influence of computerization on the appropriateness of prescribing for musculoskeletal conditions in each practice using a before-after design. Lastly, in the third year COMPETE will analyze the the randomized controlled trial design, the efficacy of academic detailing versus patient-specific, computer-based audit and feedback on prescribing for musculoskeletal and cardiovascular conditions.

It is anticipated that COMPETE will be the first of many such projects that involve this network, which will continue to expand in participants and research on areas of disease management. (<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/compete/>)



THE NURSING EFFECTIVENESS, UTILIZATION AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH UNIT

The Nursing Effectiveness, Utilization and Outcomes Research Unit (NRU) is a collaborative project of the University of Toronto, Faculty of Nursing and McMaster University, School of Nursing.

"Our [NRU] mission is to develop, conduct and disseminate research that focuses on design, management, utilization, outcomes and provision of nursing."

The programs overall purpose is first to investigate the appropriate supply, distribution and deployment of nurses and how to help enable the nurses to complete their tasks fully in light of restructuring of the health care system. Secondly, the program will try to determine ways in which quality can be maintained while still increasing funding efficiencies in the health care system. Lastly, they provide the MOHLTC with the basic information needed to make necessary changes to HHR practices in Ontario.

(<http://www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/nru/>)



Smooth Muscle Cells