

## Job Posting

Job ID: 36540

Classification Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Business Title: FNHA-UBC Silent Genomes Scholar

VP/Faculty: Faculty of Medicine

Department: Medical Genetics

Full/Part Time: Full-Time

Desired Start Date: 02/18/2020

Job End Date: 02/17/2021

Funding Type: Grant Funded

Closing Date: 02/15/2020

Available Openings: 1

### Organization Summary:

The **First Nations Health Authority** (FNHA) and its employees are committed to a proactive holistic approach to health and wellness, and to the delivery of services which are sustainable and honour the customs and traditions of First Nations communities.

The mandate of the **University of British Columbia** (UBC) is to pursue excellence in research, learning and engagement to foster global citizenship and advance a sustainable and just society across BC and the world. The UBC Department of Medical Genetics is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in basic and clinical research for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of genetic diseases. In partnership with other health authorities, the Department provides an engaging environment for our community of scholars and trainees actively working to advance translational research from basic science to medical applications.

The FNHA and UBC Department of Medical Genetics are partnered on a research project titled **Silent Genomes** which will address the genomic divide by reducing access barriers to diagnosis of genetic disease in Indigenous children. With our First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners we will:

- Establish processes, through an Indigenous lens, for safe governance of biological samples and genome data in the Silent Genomes project, which will lead to broader policy.
- Address barriers to accessing genetic/genomic health care and bring genomic testing to at least 200 Indigenous children with suspected genetic disorders.
- Develop an Indigenous Background Variant Library (IBVL) of genetic variation from a diverse group of 1500 FN Canadians and assess improvement in diagnosis for referred children.
- Assess effectiveness of the IBVL to lower health care costs and plan for long term use of IBVL for Canadian Indigenous children and adults needing genetic/genomic health care.

**Reporting To:** Dr. Nadine Caron, (Activity 1 Lead) and Dr. Laura Arbour (project lead) from the Silent Genomes project, as well as designated personnel from the FNHA.

**Position Summary:** This is a unique scholarly position shared between FNHA and UBC. As an Embedded Scholar at FNHA, the candidate will play a coordinating role between the Silent Genomes Activities 1, 2, and 3, and the FNHA, as part of the Silent Genomes Project. The focus will be on developing discussion papers that will lead to policy regarding the collection and study of biosamples (blood, urine, tissue, DNA, etc) and *their derived data* from Indigenous persons and communities. Clinical sample acquisition that may be used for further research and research samples will be considered. Other activities related to Indigenous health research policy, as directed through the Silent Genomes project and the FNHA may also be explored.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

- Collection and synthesis of relevant background materials, including relevant National and International literature to inform approach.
- Facilitates engagement between the FNHA and the Silent Genomes team.
- Plans, coordinate and organizes cross-organizational collaboration meetings
- Interviews or surveys relevant parties about their perspectives. Collate and report on the perspectives.
- Writing background reports for FNHA and Silent Genomes project use. Leading publications on topics mutually agreed upon. Preparing presentations for internal and external meetings. Represents FNHA/Silent Genomes perspectives (once established) in forums mutually agreed upon.
- Consider organizing discussion panels, and other forums to inform scholarly works.
- Contributes to the development of community engagement protocols for Silent Genomes research initiatives that integrate Activity 1 (engagement and governance) with Activities 2 (Precision Diagnosis) and 3, (the Indigenous Background Variant Library) within BC.
- Ongoing knowledge exchange development.
- Assistance in other Activities within the FNHA for the Silent Genomes Project on an as-needed basis, pending availability.
- Adhere to FNHA governance processes for research, ethics and knowledge exchange
- Incorporate the FNHA mandate into all project related work, including the 7 Directives, Policy Statement on Cultural Safety and Humility, and the First Nations Perspective on Health and Wellness
- Ensure adherence to OCAP® and develop policy documents on OCAP®, where relevant

**Training opportunities**

- Participate in trainee events at FNHA, collaborate and share knowledge with other trainees

- Present on research activities as needed (e.g., Research Executive Committee, Data Champions Committee)
- Seek opportunities to lead or collaborate on publications and knowledge-based products for communities and stakeholders

**Qualifications:**

- A PhD preferably in an Indigenous health or health policy related area or relevant combination of education and experience for other professional degree such as an MD.
- Keen interest in Indigenous health, and or health policy, previous work experience with Indigenous communities.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, ability to use both professional and lay language in communication
- Ability to communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders, including Indigenous organizations, communities, researchers, policy-makers and the public
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills, including experience working with interdisciplinary teams, proficiency with MS Office and referencing software (e.g. Mendeley) are required.
- Ability to ensure timely completion of tasks by adjusting priorities as required
- Proven ability to work in a confidential environment and to work effectively in independent and collaborative team environments.
- Successful completion of Tri-Council Policy Statement 2 (TCPS2) tutorial and an Indigenous Cultural Safety Course (may be completed upon hiring).

*Preference may be given to applicants who self-identify as Indigenous with the required combination of education and experience.*

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Please email your cover letter and resume to [silentgenomes@uvic.ca](mailto:silentgenomes@uvic.ca) with “Embedded scholar” in a subject line.

Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.