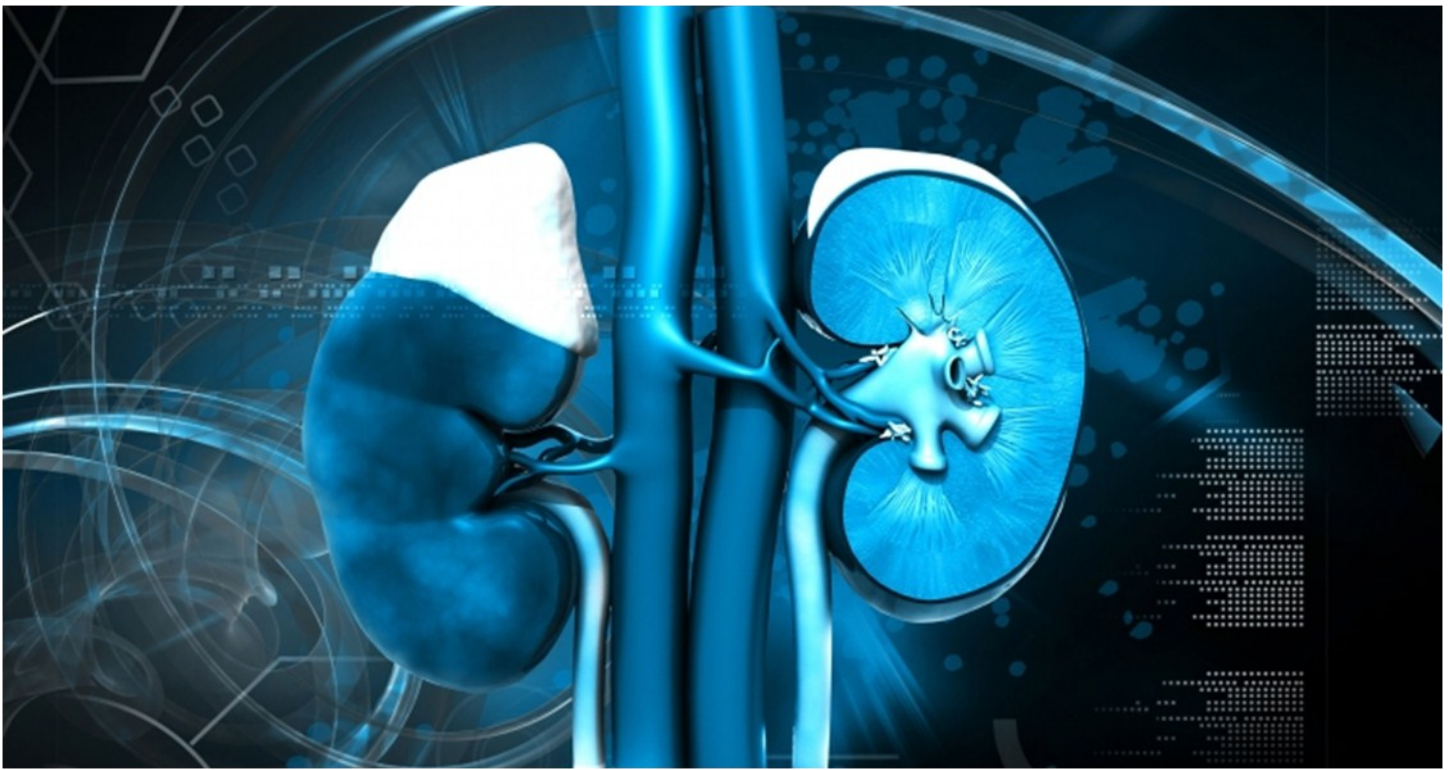


+ ASPIRE

**Advanced Student
Placement Integrating
Research Education**



ASPIRE

Our mission:

The Advanced Student Placement Integrating Research Education (ASPIRE) is a pilot initiative launched by Toronto General Hospital's Multi-Organ Transplant Student Research Training Program (TGH-MOTS RTP). ASPIRE is a summer - long volunteer opportunity offered exclusively to high achieving students in Grade 11 and 12 to gain both education and work experience in a clinical research environment .

ASPIRE students are exposed to clinical research and provided with basic education related to the field of solid organ transplantation and the etiology of related diseases. ASPIRE trainees benefit from this learning experience by contributing to ongoing MOTSRTP research and health services projects.



Message from the directors:

The integration of research in the curriculum of post-secondary students is an important feature of today's academic programs at most universities and colleges. The Multi-Organ Transplant Student Research Training Program (MOTSRTP) fulfills this role in the areas of healthcare and clinical research.

This unique program provides exceptional students with the opportunity to gain exposure to the clinical and research components of organ transplantation. Trainees admitted to the program come from diverse educational levels (e.g. undergraduate, graduate, and professional healthcare schools) and backgrounds (e.g. biological sciences, allied health, bioethics, statistics, economics, and medicine). Similarly, the mentors who provide guidance and support to these trainees are specialists in their disciplines including medicine, nursing, allied health, bioethics, and clinical research.

MOTSRTP Trainees partake in educational and clinical research activities relevant to the care of transplant patients. These educational activities include educational seminars/workshops and clinical observations in outpatient and inpatient settings. Students are also assigned to research and quality projects applicable to transplant care and patient engagement.

We aim to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning, mentorship and collaboration. The exemplary dedication of the mentors and program administrative staff to achieving this is evident in the additional efforts often made by trainees in producing high quality deliverables during their work placements.

If you have any questions regarding our research training program and its activities, please do not hesitate to contact us at motsrtp@uhn.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you.

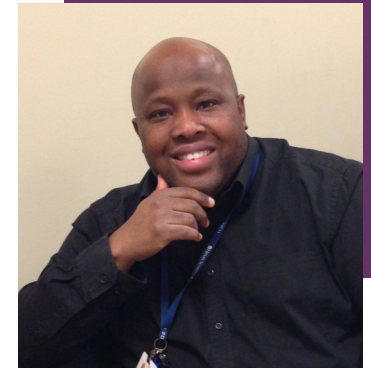
Sincerely,

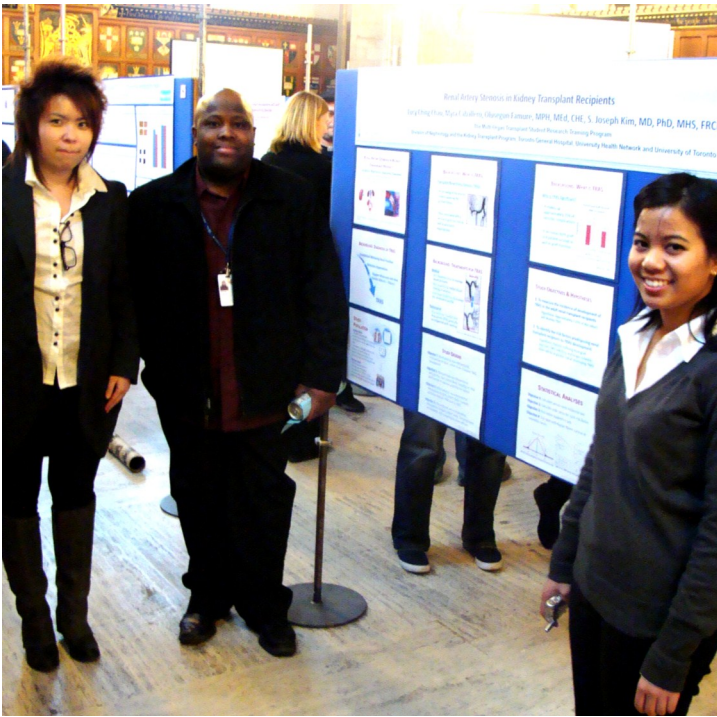
Dr. S. Joseph Kim
MD, PhD, MHS, FRCPC

Olusegun (Segun) Famure
MPH, MEd, CHE

Co-Directors,
Multi-Organ Transplant Student
Research Training Program
(MOTSRTP) & Advanced Student
Placement in Research Education
(ASPIRE)

Toronto General Hospital,
Toronto Ontario Canada



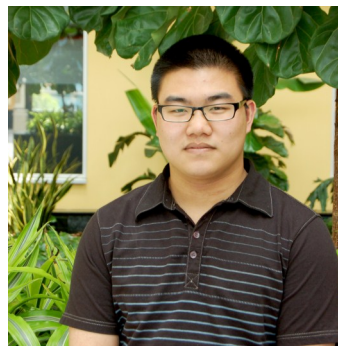


Projects:

The **responsibilities** of ASPIRE students include some of the following:

- Data collection and entry (patient information management)
- Assisting with administrative tasks of staff and senior trainees
- Communicating with hospital staff both within and outside of UHN
- Set-up of transplant assessment clinics
- Managing biological specimens in our Biobank

In addition, ASPIRE students will be assigned **individual projects in-conjunction with senior university trainees** addressing questions in the field of transplantation, bioethics, and patient engagement. Students will be provided with the opportunity to conduct extensive literature searches, analyze information pertaining to current issues in medicine, and present their findings to mentors and colleagues.



Education:

Enrichment of knowledge in transplantation:

ASPIRE students regularly receive seminar lectures from senior trainees and mentors on topics including organ physiology, immunology, and complications associated with transplantation. These introductory level lectures will provide comprehensive background information in transplantation.

Introduction to conducting research:

ASPIRE students receive library seminars from our senior trainees, where they will learn basic research tools such as structuring proper study design, conducting a comprehensive literature search and analyzing journal articles.

Career development & post-secondary education

A seminar on university/college program selection is often given by senior MOTSRTP trainees. Senior trainees from both the undergraduate and graduate levels will address any questions and concerns the ASPIRE students may have about their preparation for post-secondary education.

Clinic Observations:

At clinic observations, students shadow physicians and allied health professionals to gain first hand experiences in a clinical setting related to transplant. The variety of clinic observation opportunities allows all MOTSRTP students to experience the scope of the field of transplantation at TGH.

Clinics available for observation include:

- Post-Transplant Nephrology Clinic
- Renal Management Clinic
- Renal Assessment Clinic
- In-Patient Nephrology Rounds
- Heart Function Clinic
- Heart Transplant Clinic
- Kidney/Pancreas Transplant Clinic
- Transplant Infectious Diseases Clinic

Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Social Work and Occupational Therapy Observations are also available. Students may also have access to surgical research observations, for example pig liver surgeries.



Where to apply:



The ASPIRE program accepts students from all across the GTA.

Find out how to apply!

WHO can apply

ASPIRE recruits a select number of Grade 11 and 12 students with a passion for clinical medicine and research. Students must commit to 24 hours per week during the summer months to fulfill work and educational requirements.

HOW to apply

Interested individuals are asked to submit the most recent copies of their high school transcripts, a resume, a letter of reference from an educator, a completed application form, and a minimum 1000 word scientific paper on a healthcare related topic.

WHEN to apply

All required documents must be submitted by the applicant whilst in his/her Grade 11 or 12th year by the final day of February. Interviews will be scheduled thereafter, and successful applicants are notified no later than early April.

WHERE to apply

Send all documents to motsrtp@uhn.ca by the last day of February each year. Referees should also send reference letters via email by the deadline.



Our Core Mentors

The ASPIRE Program consists of a number of healthcare professionals who serve as important mentors for students in the program. Students may assist mentors in research projects, obtain guidance and career advice and may have the opportunity to shadow them in their clinic.



Dr. S. Joseph Kim, MD, PhD, MHS, FRCPC

NEPHROLOGY

Dr. Kim is a transplant nephrologist in the Multi-Organ Transplant (MOT) Program at Toronto General Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is a recipient of the Clinician-Scientist Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. His research interests lie in the areas of access and outcomes of kidney transplantation using data from both centre- and population-based cohorts.



Segun Famure, MPH, MEd, CHE

NEPHROLOGY

Mr. Famure is a Research Associate and current Manager of Education, New Knowledge, and Innovation in the Kidney Transplant Program. He is a past recipient of the Health Services and Policy Research Training Award (Ontario Training Centre). His research areas lie in the areas of curriculum development, chronic care delivery modeling, health program evaluations, and quality of life assessments.



Dr. Heather Ross, MD, MHSc, FRCPC

CARDIOLOGY

Dr. Ross is the Director of the Cardiac Transplant Program at Toronto General Hospital and a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Her research interests lie in the areas of immunosuppressive drug therapies, use of phenomenological methodology to address psychic distress experienced by transplant patients, organ preservation, and end of life care in heart failure patients.



Dr. Carolina Alba, MD

CARDIOLOGY

Dr. Alba is a cardiology fellow in the Heart Failure/Transplant Program at Toronto General Hospital. She is also pursuing a doctoral degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Health Research Methodology Program at McMaster University. Dr. Alba's research interests are related to patients undergoing mechanical heart implantation and to the prognosis assessment of patients with advanced heart failure.



Testimonials:



“ASPIRE has given me insight into the world of research and clinical practice. In addition to working with a collaborative team of talented individuals, this unique program has provided me the opportunity to attend educational seminars and journal club sessions, to shadow physicians and allied health professionals, and to learn about the field of science and medicine.”

- **Syed Ibrahim**

TOPS Program, Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute
Toronto, Canada



“The ASPIRE program has given me exposure to both clinical research and practice through experiences that are quite unique for a high school student. Through the seminars and clinic observations, I acquired a basic understanding of transplantation and gained insight into the medical profession. I also had the opportunity to work with an incredible group of students and mentors that will continue to shape my education as I begin my undergraduate studies.”

- **Magdalene Au**

TOPS Program, Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute
Toronto, Canada



"One of the most enjoyable aspects of my experience with ASPIRE so far has been meeting members of the MOTSRTP program as everyone is extremely helpful and welcoming. The seminars hosted for the ASPIRE students have also been very informative as well as engaging, and give an excellent background to the interesting issues this program is exploring."

- **Emily Xu**

Gifted Program, Northern Secondary School
Toronto, Canada



ASPIRE

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www.uhn.ca/MOT