JANUARY 24, 2018

JOB TITLE: POST-DOCTORAL TRAINEE
DEPARTMENT: CENTRE FOR HEALTH SERVICES AND POLICY RESEARCH

DESCRIPTION:

The Bell Canada Mental Health and Anti-Stigma Research Chair is looking for two post-doctoral research fellows to participate in the development and testing of a smartphone application targeting military personnel and family members. The #HERE4U Military Version will be an instant messaging smartphone chatbot application that will connect adult military personnel and family members with mental health or emotional problems or questions to a mental health counselling solution that uses the IBM Watson cognitive analytics platform. The goal of this project is to collect data to train Watson in the conversational language that military personnel would use to describe mental health and emotional challenges, determine what features of a chatbot app would be helpful, and work with the Centre for Advanced Computing at Queen’s to guide their development of the Military Version of the application. The incumbent will have excellent collaborative opportunities with a diverse group of mental health scholars and data scientists.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT:

These are two 2-year positions, starting in April 2018.

Post-doctoral fellows at Queen’s University belong to the Public Service Alliance of Canada and its Local PSAC 901, Unit 2 bargaining unit. The collective agreement can be found on the queensu.ca website (Post-Doctoral Fellows Collective Agreement).

Incumbents will have one day/week (7.5 hours) to work on personal professional development (including scholarly activities related to thesis work, continuing education, etc.) and 30 hours (4 days/week) to work on project related activities.

Post-doctoral fellows are entitled to three weeks of vacation per year, in addition to public holidays and other observed holidays.

Post-doctoral fellows may audit any graduate or undergraduate course with permission of the instructor. They may also take courses for credit under the status of Special Student, as described in the Calendar of the School of Graduate Studies and Research. Post-doctoral fellows are not eligible for tuition reimbursement under Queen’s Tuition Assistance Program.

SALARY:

The salary is $57,500 plus benefits.
NATURE OF RESEARCH TO BE UNDERTAKEN:

Conceptualize, design, recommend, and implement innovative research plans and experimental protocols using scientific methods and principles, in which overall goals are set by the Supervisor and the Project Management group, but approaches and procedures are developed by the incumbent. Provide expert advice to project team regarding potential initiatives in the incumbent's field of expertise, and coordinate resulting adjustments as appropriate. Personal judgement and initiative is used in adapting protocols to meet the needs of the project and to test new hypotheses. Incumbent exercises a high degree of autonomy.

Prepare results for presentation and publication. Analyse results using computer programs such as Stata or SPSS. Contribute to, co-author, or author papers or reports. Prepare and deliver presentations at meetings and conferences. Do background research such as literature searches. Prepare grant proposals.

Ensure the exchange of information and results in order to foster collaborative research efforts. Obtain new ideas and formulate hypotheses based on information gathered.

Coordinate with the Centre for Advanced Computing to assist in the “training” of the Watson application.

Undertake other duties or special projects as required in support of the project.

REQUIRED BACKGROUND:

- The incumbent will have a PhD in health research methods (either qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods) and be within 4 years of graduation.
- Knowledge of mental health services research and evaluation would be an asset, including survey development, undertaking focus group and individual interviews, qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, systematic reviews, and meta-analysis.
- Communication and interpersonal skills to facilitate information sharing and knowledge exchange.
- Technical and scientific writing skills in order to compose reports, publications, grant applications, and presentations.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

Employees of Queen's University work in a challenging and diverse environment. Queen's is committed to encouraging the development of new skills and attributes in its workforce. It is critical that staff are able to adapt to a changing work environment and to acquire new skills as these become necessary.
APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Interested applicants should email a detailed curriculum vitae, availability, statement of research interests, and names of two referees to:

Professor Heather Stuart  
Bell Canada Mental Health and Anti-stigma Research Chair  
Abramsky Hall, Queen’s University  
Email: heather.stuart@queensu.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 9, 2018