



## ***The Cochrane lab is recruiting an MSc nutrition student!***

**Project title:** *Pasteurized donor human milk for HIV-exposed infants: Evaluating acceptability and feasibility*

### **Principal Investigator:**

Dr. Kelsey Cochrane, PhD, RD  
Assistant Professor  
College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, Division of Nutrition  
University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

### **Project summary & aims:**

To make sure that HIV is not passed on to baby through breastmilk, it is recommended that people living with HIV use formula to feed their babies. However, breastmilk has immune-boosting components that cannot be added to infant formula. Providing donated breastmilk might be a way to give babies the benefits of breastmilk without the risk of passing on HIV. We want to understand if providing donated breastmilk to HIV-exposed babies is something that caregivers want and if it can be done without too many challenges. In this study, we will invite pregnant people living with HIV and caregivers of HIV-exposed infants to participate in a focus group or semi-structured private interview to understand how they feel about providing donated breastmilk to their babies. Confirming acceptability is a necessary foundation prior to conducting any follow-up research, to ensure that any future work or donor human milk program is sustainable and patient-directed.

### **Skills & qualifications:**

- A cumulative weighted average from your undergraduate degree of at least 80%
- Knowledge related to HIV/AIDS, infant nutrition, and donor human milk, and experience working with Indigenous communities (Canada-specific experiences preferred)
- Qualitative research experience, including experience conducting focus groups, private interviews, and thematic analysis, is an asset (but not a requirement)
- Strong organizational and time management skills
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines
- Strong written and verbal communication skills

**Anticipated start date:** September 2024

**Financial support:** The candidate will be provided with a stipend and will also be expected to apply for internal and external scholarships.



### **How to apply:**

- Please send your CV, including any research experience, relevant expertise related to HIV/AIDS, infant feeding, and donor human milk, and any previous experience working with Indigenous communities
- If your undergraduate degree is from a school outside of Canada or the United States that is not ranked in the top 500 schools internationally, please provide some information to help us understand the caliber of your institution.
- Please send a transcript from your undergraduate degree
- If English is not your first language, please send proof of English proficiency
- If available, please describe any funding to support your studies at the University of Saskatchewan.

Submit your application to Dr. Cochrane: [Kelsey.cochrane@usask.ca](mailto:Kelsey.cochrane@usask.ca); please use the following subject title: MSc HIV Donor Milk. Review of applications will begin immediately; however, applications will be accepted and evaluated until May 31, 2024. We thank all applicants for their interest; only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, in accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. We are committed to providing accommodations to those with a disability or medical necessity. If you require an accommodation to participate in the recruitment process, please notify us and we will work together on the accommodation.

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The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is a world leader in water and food security, vaccine development and infectious disease, and human, animal, and environmental health, and a member of the [U15 Group of Canadian research-intensive universities](#).

USask is located centrally in Saskatoon, SK, on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respects to the First Nations and Métis ancestors and reaffirm our relationship with one another.