



### **Summary**

There has been an increasing number of critically ill patients, related to an aging population, improved chronic disease management, and expansion of critical care services. In Canada, there are >230,000 ICU admissions annually, with an increased number of survivors of critical illness, also known as ICU survivors. Traditionally, ICU survivors would be transferred to a hospital ward prior to being discharged home. Follow-up care would be arranged by the healthcare provider team on the hospital ward or with the patient's family physician. However, critically ill patients are now increasingly being directly discharged home (DDH) from the ICU. Delayed transfers from the ICU to the ward has been a key factor in this process. In three large Canadian cohorts, 10-23% of ICU survivors were DDH.

Many ICU survivors have difficulties during the transition from critical illness to recovery, in physical and mental health, return to work, provider-to-patient communication, medication reconciliation, and follow-up with healthcare providers. Many are also at risk or suffer from post-intensive care syndrome (PICS). PICS is characterized by the presence of ICU-related weakness, neurocognitive dysfunction, and/or mental health concerns (for example, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression). The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for further research and understanding in this area.

Dr. Eric Sy is an Intensivist practicing in Regina, Saskatchewan, with research interests in critical care epidemiology, transitions in care, and extracorporeal membrane oxygenation. Dr. Sy is currently looking for a graduate student (MSc) to advance the field of transitions in care, particularly DDH from the ICU. The MSc student, under Dr. Sy's supervision, would have the opportunity to work on both qualitative and quantitative research in this field.

### **About the Department of Critical Care**

The Department of Critical Care is a clinical department within the Saskatchewan Health Authority – Regina Area, and provides clinical care to critically ill patients in Regina, SK, with a combined total of 27 critical care beds. We are committed to excellence in patient care, research, and education. Our critical care units are staffed by an attending Intensivist, critical care associate physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, and a social worker. Many of our clinicians have cross-appointments, with the University of Saskatchewan.

### **Qualifications:**

- Successful candidates will demonstrate evidence of academic excellence (minimum GPA of 80).
- Training in the areas of health sciences and/or related fields
- Experience with health sciences-related research
- An interest in patient-oriented research
- Basic statistical knowledge and familiarity with a statistical software package (i.e., Stata, R, SAS)

**How to apply:**

- Prospective students should contact Dr. Sy directly ([ers728@usask.ca](mailto:ers728@usask.ca)). You should include:
  - A current CV (with at least three references who may be contacted)
  - A letter of intent summarizing your research interests, relevant experience, strengths/weaknesses, and career goals.
  - A copy of your transcripts.