

# Information Session

## MScPT Scholarly Practice Curriculum

### Department of Physical Therapy

### University of Toronto

Crystal MacKay, PhD, PT  
Nancy Salbach, PhD, PT  
Academic Co-Leads



# Session Overview

- Welcome and Introductions
- MScPT Scholarly Practice Curriculum goals & timelines
- Role and time commitment to serve as a lead advisor
- Project submission and selection
- Scope of the projects that can be submitted
- Q & A



**Nancy Salbach (she/her), PhD, PT**  
Unit 7 Academic Co-lead



**Crystal MacKay (she/her), PhD, PT**  
Unit 7 & 13 Academic Co-lead



**Darlene Reid (she/her), PhD, PT**  
Unit 13 Academic Co-lead

# MScPT Scholarly Practice Curriculum Goal

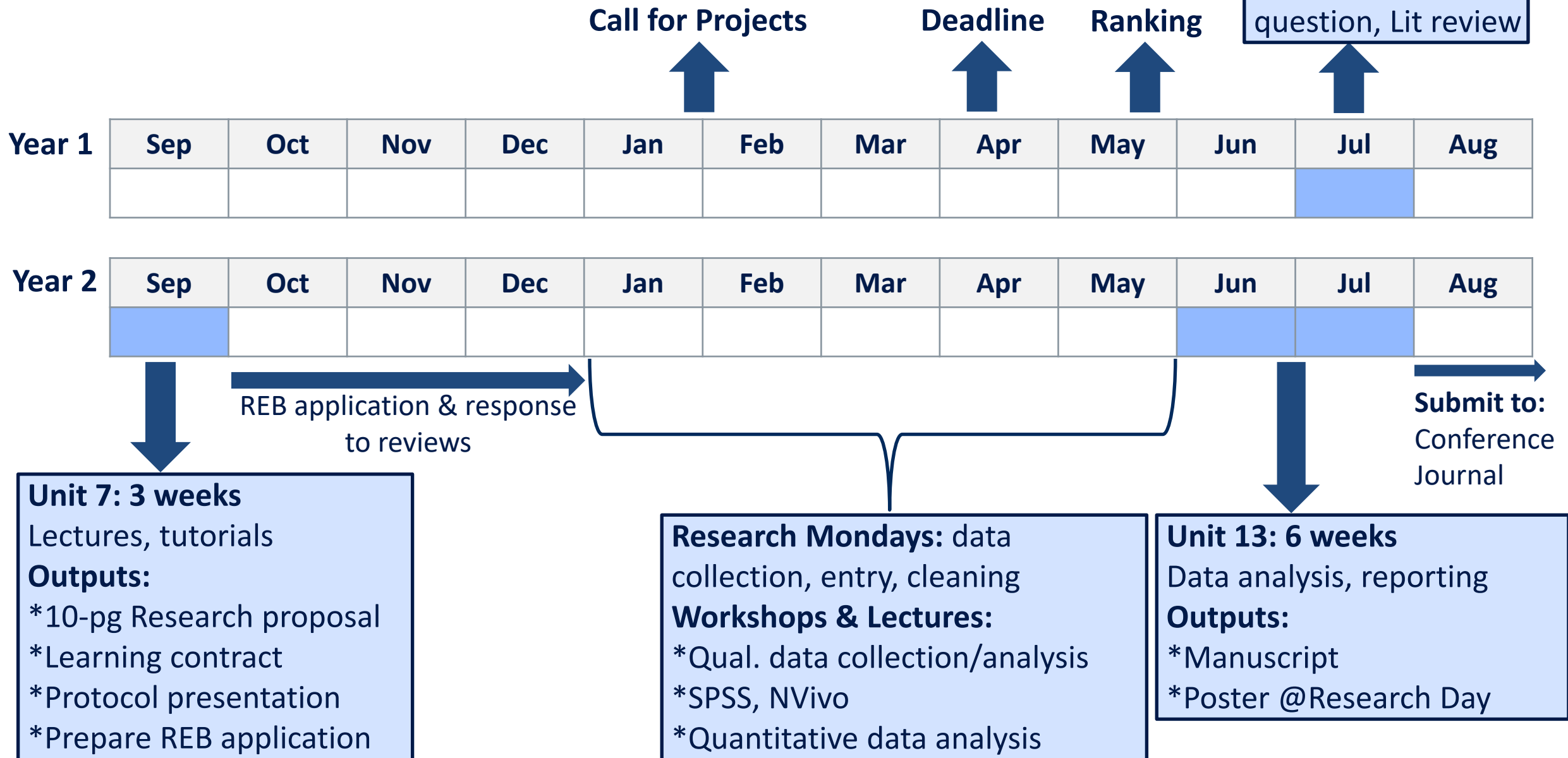
Students will develop competency in multiple domains of physiotherapy practice (ie, communication, collaboration, management, leadership, scholarship, and professionalism) through **outlining and conducting a group research or program evaluation project in collaboration with advisors:**

- Developing a 10-page research proposal based on a project outline
- Developing and submitting an ethics application and obtaining ethics approval
- Developing a work plan (“learning contract”)
- Collecting and analyzing data
- Developing a poster and manuscript to disseminate knowledge
- Presenting project proposal and project findings

**“Learn by doing”**

Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada (2017)

# MScPT Scholarly Practice Curriculum Timeline



# What do the MScPT Program vs Advisors Provide?

## MScPT Program

- ✓ Faculty advisor if project selected
- ✓ Lectures & Workshops on:
  - ✓ Literature searching, reference management
  - ✓ Protocol development
  - ✓ Quantitative & qualitative research methodology
  - ✓ Ethics & program evaluation
  - ✓ Manuscript & poster writing
- ✓ Instructor & TA support
- ✓ Nvivo & SPSS software, Zoom
- ✓ Student group as a resource

## Advisors

- ✓ Project idea (Outline)
- ✓ Critical feedback on student documents
- ✓ Project leadership - Facilitate:
  - ✓ REB application
  - ✓ Data collection
  - ✓ Project progress
  - ✓ Positive collaborative experience
- ✓ Cover project costs
- ✓ Regular meetings during SP units

# Time Commitment Estimates for Lead Advisors

Timing	Activity	# Hours
July '24 Unit 6	1 orientation meeting with students (Zoom or in person)	1 hour
Sep '24 Unit 7	4 meetings with students (Zoom or in person)	4 hours
	2 reviews of the 10-page research proposal	5 hours
	2 reviews of the slide deck for 15-minute presentation	2 hours
	1 review of learning contract	1 hour
Jan – Jun '25 Unit 10, 11	~13 Research Mondays, standing 1-hour meeting each Monday, not all will be needed	~13 hours
Jun – Jul '25 Unit 13	2 reviews of manuscript	5 hours
	2 reviews of poster	2 hours
	Completion of student evaluation form and debrief	2 hours
Throughout	Emails	3 hours
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>38 hours*</b>

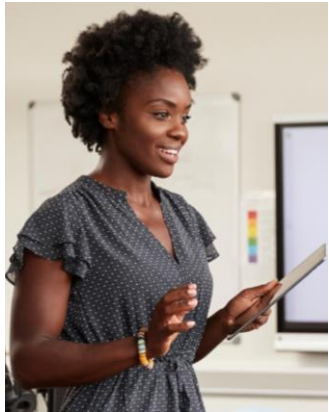
\*does not include drafting project outline, REB application & response, pursuit of journal publication post-program

# Advisory Model



**Lead & Co-advisors**

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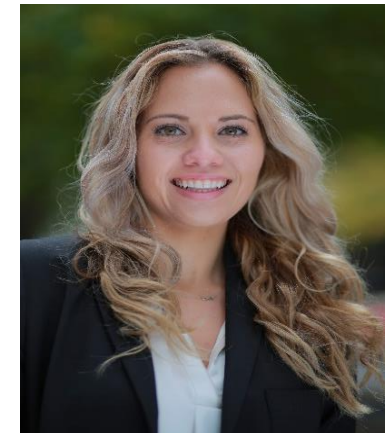
**Faculty  
Advisor**



**Student Group**



**Unit 7 Academic Leads**



**Teaching Assistant**



# Project Submission

- Project Templates in Word and Example Projects are Available Online in the Project Submission Website
- A Project Checklist is Available Online in the Project Submission Website

# Overview of MScPT projects in 2023

➤ **19 projects in total**

- 10 qualitative projects
- 2 e-surveys
- 2 chart reviews
- 2 measurement
- 1 experimental (pre-post)
- 2 secondary data analysis

# Project Scope: Qualitative Projects

- **Sample size:** 10 to 12 participants
- **Recruitment:**
  - One population only
  - Ideally, you have access to a list of potential individuals for recruitment
- **Data collection:** Interviews and focus groups conducted using Zoom to avoid student travel
- **Analysis:**
  - Students transcribe the interviews
  - Descriptive qualitative study with thematic or content analysis is feasible, but not more advanced approaches
  - At UofT, students have access to Zoom and NVivo software for free

# Project Scope: E-Surveys

- **Sample size:** will depend on the population and response rate
- **Recruitment:** If you want to recruit through the CPA or the OPA, you need a confirmation email from them stating they will assist
  - 2023, CPA required the questionnaire to be translated into French
  - One population only, must pay for monetary incentives
- **Data collection:** Ideally use or adapt validated questionnaires, adapted questionnaires should undergo a validity review
  - must pay license for Qualtrics or SurveyMonkey; REDCap is free for UofT faculty
- **Analysis:**
  - Statistics: Descriptive, chi-squared, correlations, t-test (no regression)
  - At UofT, students have access to SPSS software for free

# Project Scope: Prospective pilot or Measurement studies with scheduled in-person evaluations

- **Sample size:** 10-20 participants
- **Recruitment:** Healthy participants for proof of concept is common; recruitment of patient populations is challenging
  - Can recruit from PT class and UofT community
- **Data collection:** Need to train PT students and oversee data collection
  - Keep evaluation duration to a reasonable time period
- **Analysis:**
  - Statistics: Descriptive, chi-squared, correlations, t-test (no regression), ICC, Bland-Altman plots
  - At UofT, students have access to SPSS software for free

# Project Scope: Retrospective Chart Reviews

- **Sample size:** 100-200 charts is feasible, depending on the amount of data to abstract
- **Data collection:** Sometimes hospital business center can abstract the data for the students to analyze
  - Online data abstraction more feasible than asking students to travel to the hospital
  - Hospitals may require students to complete training and charge per student abstractor
  - Data transfer agreements (required if data will come to UofT) can cause delays
- **Ethics:** Need hospital ethics approval then UofT ethics approval, this takes more time (strategy: get REB approval before Unit 7)
- **Analysis:**
  - Statistics: Descriptive, chi-squared, correlations, t-test (no regression)
  - At UofT, students have access to SPSS software for free

# **Advisors:**

## **Keys to Success in Unit 7 & Unit 13**

- Unit 7: Finalize research questions by end of week 1
- Effective communication
- If lead advisor not available at a critical time, another advisor should cover
- Quick turnaround time to respond to questions & provide feedback on presentation slides and protocol
- With multiple clinical advisors, one should take a leadership role – clarify role of each advisor at start of unit
- Group meetings to resolve challenges
- Weekly meetings during data collection to keep on track
- Projects should be feasible for novice researchers