



Canadian Critical Care Society

THE VOICE OF CRITICAL CARE

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March 2, 2023

Chair, Grants Review Committee
Project Scheme Canadian Institutes of Health Research
160 Elgin Street, Room 97
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0W9

Dear CIHR Grant Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Dr Fiest's grant application titled "Understanding the effects of visitation policies on critically ill patient," in my capacity as Scientific Director of the Canadian Critical Care Society (CCCS).

Dr. Fiest is an esteemed member of the Canadian Critical Care Society. Her team's proposed update to a natural language processing algorithm to include virtual visitation is an innovative approach to understanding the effects of restricted ICU visitation policies on patient and health system outcomes. Through the use of electronic medical record data, their work aims to provide crucial insights into this important issue.

Dr. Fiest and her team have already made significant contributions to our understanding of the impacts of family presence through the development and validation of a natural language processing algorithm to measure the frequency and mode of family presence in Alberta ICUs and a research program to describe the impacts of restricted family presence on patients, families, and ICU clinicians. Their commitment to compassionate and thoughtful engagement with the patient partners, families, and healthcare experts will ensure the perspective of all impacted groups is reflected in all grant deliverables.

The CCCS fully supports this important work and is committed to providing in-kind contributions over the period of the proposal. This includes:

- 1) Providing access to CCCS resources and clerical support to identify and liaise with relevant experts and knowledge users in the Canadian critical care community.
- 2) Advising and supporting the team to develop dissemination materials through our Knowledge Translation Committee and Clinical Committee.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the impact of restricted ICU visitation policies on patient and health system outcomes, making this proposed research especially timely and important. The insights gained from this proposed work will not only inform current family presence policies but will also be invaluable in future public health crises.



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The CCCS is dedicated to promoting research, education, and patient care in Critical Care Medicine. We believe that advocacy is an important role for the Society, and we speak *vigorously* for Critical Care in Canada. The CCCS actively promotes adoption of evidence into practice. We are affiliated with the largest national meeting (Critical Care Canada Forum), and we have an active web and social media presence. From a knowledge mobilization perspective, the CCCS will give access to its network of members.

We believe that this program of research is of the highest possible impact for patients, their families and Canadian Critical Care community, and that Dr. Fiest, supported by her team, has a proven research record of success. This is an outstanding grant application from an outstanding research team.

I trust this information is helpful in your deliberation and review for this award. Please feel free to contact me if you require further information.

With Kind Regards,

Claudia Dos Santos
Chair, CCCS Scientific Committee