

Adapting clinical research to different cultures: A case study for Aboriginal children

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Introduction

- TKI has strong commitment to the Aboriginal peoples as the original custodians of the land and pursue Aboriginal health as a priority.
- Understanding how cultures and traditions lead to views on health and medicine different from the dominant Western perspective will make health science more inclusive and personalized.

Objective of Internship

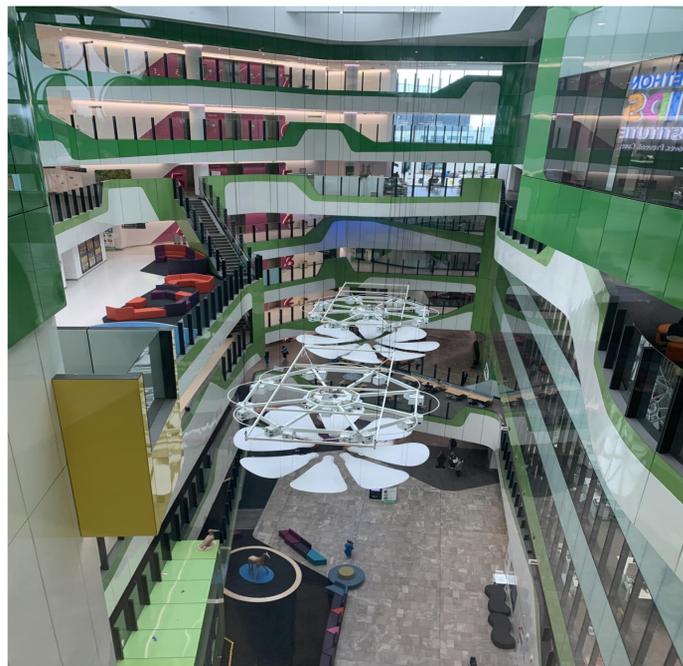
I wanted to experience what research as a career is like in the field of psychology and child development.

Work profile

- TKI works with Aboriginal organizations to improve Aboriginal children's health.
- Request from an Aboriginal corporation to conduct a systematic review on developmental measures adapted / created for Aboriginal children aged 0 to 5 years.
- I started the systematic review with a partner, writing protocol and searching for studies / data.

Reflection

- I was very inspired and impressed by the **commitment to Aboriginal health**. It made me think of bias health science in the U.S. has and how that needs to be improved.
- My work on the systematic review will be the basis of a research paper discussing the process of adapting / creating developmental tools for Aboriginal children. The paper will help medical professionals and Aboriginal communities know what is working and what isn't in the **cultural adaptation of Western knowledge for Aboriginal culture**.
- I helped coworkers on the team with smaller tasks such as revisions for papers to be published and data collection.



Left: View of TKI from the 6th floor
Right: Me in front of TKI entrance



- Learned and gained many important tools experiences including:
 - Writing a protocol for research paper
 - Database searching and data extraction
- Very grateful to the welcoming and relaxed environment in the office. I learned so much from my coworkers and supervisor, from their work ethic and missions.

Looking ahead

- I look forward to learning more about clinical research in psychology and possibly engaging in this area as a future career. I believe the skills I gained will aid me in any future research endeavors.

Questions

- What should the cultural adaptation / creation process of clinical tools look like to best serve diverse and specific communities?

Conclusion

- It is important to learn cultural differences and perspectives to improve healthcare for underserved communities. Doing so will make health science truly "global" and available for all people.

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