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.

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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