UTIHI Quality Improvement Projects

Information for 2021-22

Institute *for* Healthcare Improvement Open School | UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

utihi.com/qi-projects

About UTIHI
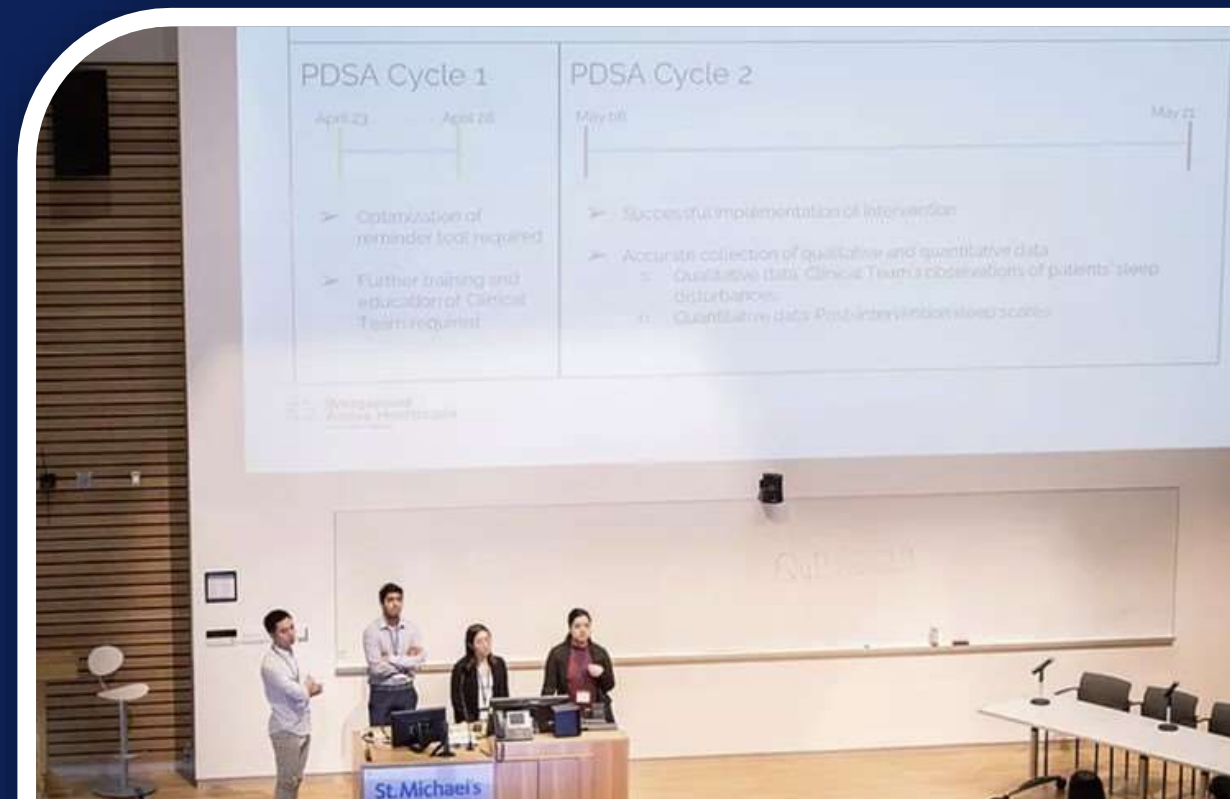
The University of Toronto's Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School Chapter (UTIHI) is a student-led, faculty supported organization that provides Quality Improvement and Patient Safety practical experience opportunities to students in healthcare and related disciplines. We are committed to building student capacity and leadership abilities to help shape healthcare leaders of the future.

Founded in 2009, UTIHI was created to serve as a local chapter for the Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI), the world's foremost organization in healthcare quality improvement, based out of Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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UTIHI's Quality Improvement (QI) Projects

We match University of Toronto students with healthcare professionals in organizations throughout the GTA. These multidisciplinary teams of 3-4 students complete QI/Patient Safety projects and have the opportunity to showcase their work during our annual conference in Late April / Early May

UTIHI QI Projects - Call for Project Applications

Project Champion applications are now open for the 2021/22 year!

Our QI Project Program seeks to connect students having demonstrated interests in healthcare improvement with healthcare leaders in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

Prospective Project Champions are invited to submit an application to UTIHI with details on their proposed project, including the identified problem and an overview of how a QI project may positively impact the organization or patient population. For more information see the 'Project Champion Application Form' at www.utihi.com/qi-projects

- *Project Champions <u>do not</u> need to be affiliated with the University of Toronto*

- *The proposed student QI project should have a duration of around <u>6 months</u>. You are welcome to continue your QI initiative beyond this timeline, either individually – or through participation in next year's QI program.*

Information contained within the application will help the UTIHI team with the student matching process.

Champion Application Deadline: September 24th, 2021

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What is Quality Improvement?

Quality Improvement is a formal and evidence-based approach used to improve the quality and/or safety of healthcare. Individuals work together to identify needs, brainstorm solutions, test ideas, and gradually refine approaches with the goal of positively impacting patients, populations, and providers[1].

Brainstorming Guide:

Potential QI projects could focus on one or more key themes for healthcare improvement:
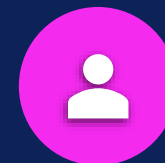
Safe   Timely   Equitable

Effective   Efficient   Patient-Centered

Key Themes for Healthcare Quality Improvement[2]

1. *Sikka et. al., The Quadruple Aim: Care, Health, Cost, and Meaning in Work. BMJ Quality & Safety 2015;24:608-610*
2. Institute of Medicine Committee on Quality of Health Care in America. Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 2001

Previous UTIHI QI Projects (2020 & 2021)

- o Improving supply chain management for backordered or defective medical/surgical disposable supplies
- o Improving clinical outcomes through the use of electronic patient-oriented discharge summaries
- Improving population health management through community health needs assessments
- o Understanding factors that contribute to patient no-shows
- Improving post-operative glycemic control in gynecological oncology populations for the prevention of surgical site infections
- o Evaluating the implementation of electronic patient experience surveys
- Evaluating the impacts of novel electronic patient transfer (TOA) tools

2021-22 QI Projects Timeline – At a Glance

September

Project Champion Applications – Deadline: September 24th

October

Student Applications – Deadline: Week of October 25
Students in Professional, Undergraduate and Graduate Programs are Invited to apply to UTIHI's QI Projects
Students indicate the top 3 projects they are interested in. This information will be cross-matched to the preferences of project champions

November

Students Assigned to Teams; Introductory Event on the Week of November 1st - **QI Projects Begin**

Students develop their understanding of the project, conduct background research, and begin planning the PDSA cycles

Students are invited to participate in **UTIHI workshops**, and are asked to complete several **IHI Open School courses** on QI to help prepare for PSDA cycles

December

January

Suggested Date for Mid-Term Team Reflections & Project Charter Submission: Mid-January
Students and Project Champions are provided the opportunity to participate in a team-development exercise focusing on communication, accountability and conflict resolution. Teams are encouraged to submit their project charter in January, describing the main elements of the project.

February

Students work with Project Champions to plan, test, study, and refine quality improvement ideas.
• This processes known as a PDSA cycle
• Student teams are asked to complete at least two PDSA cycles

March

Students draft final deliverables (e.g., report, presentation)

April

Deadline for presentations/deliverables submissions: Late April / Early May

Benefits of Being a Project Champion

Gain practical experience mentoring learners in quality improvement, which is valued by educational systems and employers

Work closely with students interested in quality improvement

Improve care in an area of interest

Develop a deeper understanding of QI tools (e.g., PDSA cycles, Empathy Maps, Run Charts, Cause-Effect Diagrams) as well as common QI frameworks (e.g., STEEEP, quadruple aim, VBC)

How to Apply

All documents are available at: https://www._utihi.com/qi-projects_

- Review this General Information Guide
  - It is recommended you also review UTIHI's detailed _Project Champion Handbook(pdf)_ for more information on project deliverables, benefits, and expectations
- Submit a completed _Project Champion Application Form (docx)_ to uoftihichapter@gmail.com (or konrad.samsel@mail.utoronto.ca) by September 24th, 2021 at 11:59pm

Contact

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to us regarding the suitability of potential project ideas, please reach out to Mr. **Konrad Samsel**, UTIHI Director of Practical Experience:

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