**2023 Winter Research Project Description**

Please use this template to create a description of each research project, eligibility requirements and expected deliverables. Project details can then be uploaded to each faculty, school, institute, and centre webpage prior to the launch of the program.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **Social Frailty in Clinical Outcomes** |
| **Project duration is 4 weeks, what are the expected hours of engagement & delivery mode** | This project offers the opportunity for a 4-week summer research scholarship, that can be completed***either* on campus or remotely, depending on the student’s preference**. The successful applicant will be expected to complete up to 36 hours/week, with the option for any correspondence with the supervisor to be completed via zoom/email, or in person at UQ. |
| **Description:** | Frailty refers to a vulnerability state that becomes more common as we grow older and can present in physical, cognitive as well as social domains of functioning. All three types of frailty have been linked to important clinical outcomes that include poor mental health, an increased risk of physical disability, and even mortality.  While traditionally physical and cognitive frailty have been the focus of greatest research, in more recent years there has been recognition of the importance of social frailty. Social frailty is characterised by profound loneliness, reduced social engagement, and a perceived and/or actual lack of social support.  However, important questions remain about which aspects of social frailty are most important from both a clinical and a theoretical perspective. This is because while some studies have considered social frailty *objectively* (e.g., size of social network), others have considered it *subjectively* (e.g., perceived social support, loneliness), or have used measures that *combine* both objective and subjective indicators.  The aim of this project is therefore to use meta-analytic techniques to examine for the first time:   1. How social frailty has been operationalised across studies (objectively vs. subjectively vs. combined); and 2. Which social frailty characterisation is more strongly correlated with important clinical outcomes     Answers to these questions will have important theoretical and practical implications. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | As part of this project, the successful applicant will be working alongside the supervisor to complete the study selection and data extraction components of this meta-analytic review. This is a great opportunity to be introduced to meta-analytic techniques, as well as to gain an understanding of the social frailty literature. |
| **Suitable for:** | Suitable for 3rd or 4th year students with great attention to detail. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Dr. Sarah Coundouris and Dr. Sarah Grainger |
| **Further info:** | If you are interested in this position or would like to know more about this project please contact [s.coundouris@uq.edu.au](mailto:s.coundouris@uq.edu.au). |