



Box 5389 Westlock AB T7P 2P5 780-305-9547 or 780-974-7112

October 25th, 2017

Ada W. S. Leung, Ph.D., OT(C), O.T. Reg. (AB)

Associate Professor

Department of Occupational Therapy & Neuroscience and Mental Health Institute

2-12 Corbett Hall, University of Alberta,

Edmonton AB Canada T6G 2G4

RE: CIHR Catalyst Grant: Sex differences in the neural mechanism of executive function in adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder

Dear Dr. Leung,

On behalf of the Northwest Central Alberta FASD Network (NWC FASD Network), I am expressing my support of your CHIR Catalyst Grant (sex as a variable in biomedical research) application entitled “Sex differences in the neural mechanism of executive function in adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder”. We believe your project is essential to more sensitive understanding of our clients’ needs and how best to frame our collaborative decision making. The NWC FASD Network as part of the greater Alberta and national FASD system of research and service provider can make a substantial contribution as a knowledge user and a provider of in-kind support.

I am very excited about the prospect of having your continued collaboration with the NWC FASD Network on promoting the well-being of people with FASD. Your contributions are advancing the scientific knowledge of FASD over the past few years. Notably, you have been actively helping out with our program evaluation and participating in programs relating to our ceremonies, seminars, and education sessions. Also, your research session at the FASD conference demonstrated the significant passion you have in understanding people with FASD through basic neuroscience investigation. The well received presentation you made at the FASD conference this year titled “Evaluating the neural plastic effects of working memory training on adults with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder” gave much insight, hope, and courage to FASD clients and their families. I hope your research can continue to grow for the benefit of our clients.



Box 5389 Westlock AB T7P 2P5 780-305-9547 or 780-974-7112

The overarching goal of NWC FASD network is to facilitate collaboration to prevent, support, diagnose and advocate for people affected by FASD across the lifespan. We achieve this through inclusive research and service collaboration, responsive innovation, promoting knowledge and by building individual and community capacity. We support research activities focused on people with FASD by encouraging collaborative and translational research within and beyond the NWC FASD network (academic institutions, community, government, industry, national/international institutions). We believe that a unified team approach, inclusive of communities, funders, and institutions, helps facilitate broader communication of research outcomes and ultimately, the application of research knowledge into practice.

Part of NWC FASD Network's mandate is to provide support for FASD clients and families to ensure their ongoing success. As a member of NWC FASD services network, you have access to multidisciplinary researchers, service providers and in-kind support through the use of our service platforms (e.g., venues for conducting educational seminars, support workers for carrying out research projects, and data coordination with other researchers and clinicians within the network). Further, the NWC FASD Network offers a venue for interaction, mentoring, education and communication among healthcare providers and researchers from widespread disciplines and settings including clinical, academia, and community. Currently, our adult team has a physician, clinical psychologist and occupational therapist. We would encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities for research dissemination. Below I provide a brief outline of support for knowledge translation and in-kind support specific to your project.

Knowledge dissemination support

- Assist in organizing, promoting and conducting educational sessions within and beyond the NWC FASD network
- Educate our staff and members about the potential biological differences between male and female FASD clients, if any, which would impact the way our staff provide guidance and instructions to the individuals
- Assist in bringing awareness about the neural characteristics of adults with FASD, especially the differentiation of men and women, if any
- Connect with Alberta Health Services for dissemination of findings
- Connect with First Nation communities in our Network Region, so that your findings can be shared with the community leaders, clients and their families
- Connect with the justice system so that judges, decision makers and correctional officers can be more informed with the scientific and medical knowledge when handling men and women with FASD



Box 5389 Westlock AB T7P 2P5 780-305-9547 or 780-974-7112

In-kind support

- Recruitment of participants
 - o Promote the study to local service providers within the jurisdiction of the NWC FASD network
- Salaries of support workers
 - o Cover the hourly wages of our support workers for accompanying the FASD clients to the University of Alberta for neuroimaging testing and reminding the clients to perform the training activities as required in your testing protocol
- Venues and workforce for dissemination your findings in the NWC FASD Network
 - o Provide venues for conducting the educational sessions and help with the promotion of events

The NWC FASD Network looks forward to gaining knowledge and expertise that we can share with our service providers, physicians, community leaders, and FASD clients and their families in achieving positive outcomes for people with FASD. We are committed to this project and look forward to continuing the fruitful collaboration with you and engaging fully with your research team as the research progresses.

Sincerely,

Angela Kemble, NWC FASD, Executive Director