



Suzanne Archie, FRCPR



HEALTH SCIENCES
Psychiatry & Behavioural
Neurosciences

Research Work

Dr. Suzanne Archie, MD, FRCPC is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University. She is the Chair of Research for EPION (Early Psychosis Intervention in Ontario Network) and is a psychiatrist treating first episode psychosis patients at the Cleghorn Program, West 5th Campus. She has published on different aspects of early intervention including substance abuse, program evaluation, and ethnic diversity in pathways to care for a first episode of psychosis. Currently, Dr. Archie is engaged in a knowledge translation project involving use of video game technology for early identification of psychosis and problematic cannabis use among teens.

Current Research Projects Include:

Dr. Archie's current research involves evaluating the effectiveness of the Back to Reality Series versus a control game at raising awareness of the increased risk of psychosis associated with regular marijuana use among vulnerable youth and to explore the perception of marijuana use harms, benefits and perspectives among youth, using qualitative and quantitative interviews.

The Back to Reality Series is a set of three psychoeducational video games: Harry's Journey, Harry's Journal, and Harry's PathwaystoCare map. Harry's Journey imparts the story of Harry - as he considers whether to seek help for his psychosis and marijuana use. Harry's Journey simulates the multitude of emotional and perceptual experiences associated with psychosis and marijuana use. Harry's Journal delivers experiential knowledge about major psychiatric symptoms, including psychosis. The PathwaysToCare Map displays 3-D replicas of over ten actual youth mental health and addictions services in Hamilton. The games are original KT (knowledge translation) products, funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research and inspired by research on first-episode psychosis, substance use, and pathways to care. The games were created by an innovative KT community involving students, young people with lived experiences, designers, clinicians, and researchers A fellow has recently published the views of family doctors¹

The student(s) would conduct interviews, pre-and post-game play, with youth between the ages of 14 and 19 years. The participants would be recruited from 3G McMaster Hospital or AMH SJH. The purpose is to explore whether the Series raises awareness of the association between marijuana use among youth and psychosis using quantitative and qualitative methods.

Engagement Opportunities

Introductory Level (50 Hours)

- Learn about research ethics and privacy legislation
- Expand knowledge of the literature on cannabis, psychosis and use of 'serious' games for psychoeducation.
- Conduct qualitative interviews and collect quantitative data from youth admitted to hospital with mental health and addictions issues.
- Learn to code data obtained from qualitative interviews and conduct thematic analysis
- Present poster at research day or conference such the CPA or the APA²

If you are interested in learning more, please leave your contact information with the Research Office and/or contact Dr. Suzanne Archie at archies@mcmaster.ca