



What's in it for us?
An Investigation into the Perceived
Burden and Benefit of being a MSW Field Instructor

Social Work Clinical Research Group:

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Background of Reserach

- Increasing number of social work students admitted to MSW programs = more asks for field education placements
- Number of SW FTE's largely static, in some organizations decreasing
- Introduction of U of T's Bertha Rosenstadt Trust Fund in Health Research
- Opportunity for social workers to contribute to research in the field of education and within our organization



Purpose of Research

The **goal** of this study is to examine the attitudes towards field instruction to improve the recruitment and retention of field instructors.

Our study **hypothesis** is that there are rationales-both personally and professionally-that prevent social workers from engaging in field instruction that may be mitigated. Similarly, there are motivators that could be served by standardization.

This study will attempt to understand these 'benefits and burdens' and propose ways of increasing participation in the **signature pedagogy** of SW students.



Study Design

- **Survey:** All St. Michael's social workers will be invited to fill out an online survey soliciting their views on potential motivations/hindrances to providing field instruction
- **Focus Groups:** Social workers will then be provided with an opportunity to participate in a focus groups led by a research assistant building on emergent themes from the survey



Study Timeline

Year One- REB application and approval ✓

Year Two- Implementation of study design

Year Three- Analysis, dissemination of results and knowledge translation



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Questions?
Feedback?

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