
APH Methodology Travel Grant

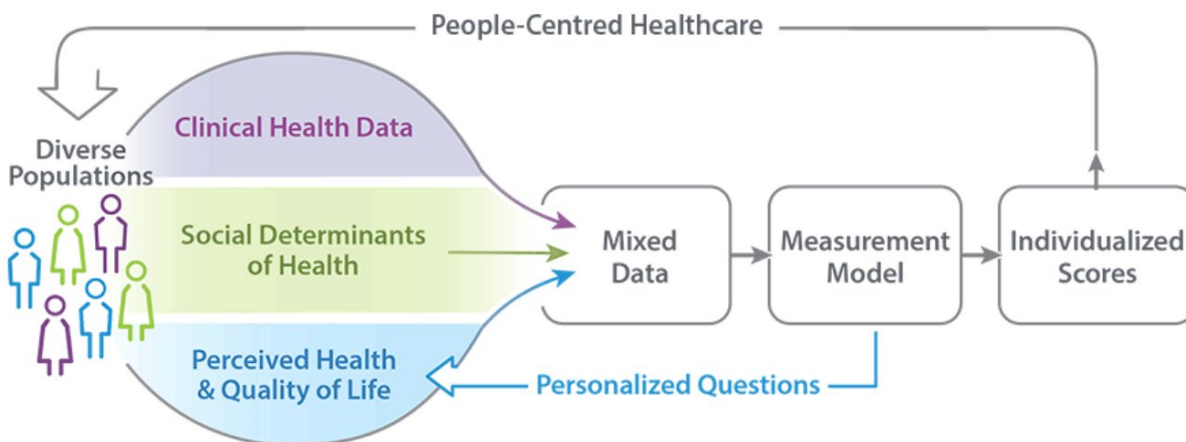
Research visit to Prof. Rick Sawatzky at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada). November 8th – November 17th, 2023.

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The APH Methodology travel grant provided me with the opportunity to visit Prof. Rick Sawatzky and his research group at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada). I recently started to collaborate with Prof. Rick Sawatzky on a project to develop and evaluate a novel methodology for equitable people-centered health measurement (EPHM). PRO measures are designed to fit the most common views held by the majority



of the population, which means that perspectives of people from diverse cultures, traditions, or life experiences may be missed or misrepresented. In view of this systemic injustice, we will use latent variable mixture methodology to develop a cutting-edge online mixture computerized adaptive test (mixture-CAT), tailoring PRO measurements to each person, based on their socio-demographic context. Tailored people-centered health measurement will improve EPHM and enables “personalized” health care.



During my research visit I had the opportunity to share my knowledge on measurement validity with the research group, exchange ideas on how to best operationalize this in the context of population heterogeneity, and work in close collaboration with Prof. Rick Sawatzky on the mixture(-CAT) model. Even though we have had successful online collaboration up until now, this research visit really showed me the benefits of face-to-face collaboration. My visit to Vancouver inspired the gathering of the methodological experts involved in the EPHM-project, and our discussions were of a length and depth that we could have never reached in an online format. Moreover, I also had the opportunity to work one-on-one with Prof. Rick Sawatzky for the length of several days, which greatly improved the efficiency and quality of our efforts. The scientific discussions and resulting decisions for our analytical plan were of great benefit to the workflow of the project. Finally, I also perceive the personal connections that I was able to make with Prof. Rick Sawatzky in particular, and with the other members of the research team, as of great value. All in all, this research visit has been a very valuable experience. The travel grant has provided me with the opportunity to solidify my involvement in this research project, strengthening our aims for more innovative and impactful research. It has also enriched my international and interdisciplinary network, and potential for (future) collaborations.

I feel very fortunate to have been able to conduct this research visit and am very grateful to APH for providing this wonderful opportunity!