2022/2023 Summer Research Project Description

Project title:	**Factors that impact recovery after spinal surgery: an exploratory study**
Project duration, hours of engagement & delivery mode	Duration of the project, 8 weeks during Summer Vacation. Hours of engagement must be between 20-36hrs per week The applicant will be expected to be on site for part of the project, with flexible arrangements after the first 2 weeks.
Description:	**Background:** Adolescent idiopathic scoliosis (AIS) is one of the most common spinal deformities in children that often require a posterior spinal fusion (PSF) for stabilisation. The average length of stay for children undergoing PSF is between 5-10 days. Standardised pathways have been implemented in other institutions and shown to improve patient outcomes. **Aim:** To explore what factors may impact a patient's length of stay after undergoing a spinal fusion for idiopathic scoliosis in children. **Approach:** We will conduct a literature review to explore current practices for children undergoing PSF. We will also do a retrospective review of the charts of children who have undergone PSF to explore what may have impacted their recovery after spinal surgery (type of pain relief post operatively, time to mobilisation, aperients and time to opening of bowels).
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	Students will gain experience in performing a literature review, data collection, data management and some data analysis. Students will have an opportunity to generate publications from their research. Students may also be asked to produce a report or oral presentation at the end of their project.
Suitable for:	This project is suitable for students of nursing, medicine and health-related disciplines entering their final year of study.
Primary Supervisor:	Professor Amanda Ullman and Dr Adrienne Hudson
Further info:	If you would like any further information about this project please contact Dr Adrienne Hudson via email: Adrienne.Hudson@health.qld.gov.au