The primary focus of Dr. Sanchez-Ramirez’s research program is to enhance quality of life and participation among patients with chronic respiratory diseases and people with post-COVID syndrome. Evidence indicates that a large percentage of people may experience signs and symptoms lasting more than 12 weeks beyond the period of COVID active infection. Dyspnea and fatigue have been consistently identified as the main persistent post-COVID symptoms. In a recent systematic review and metanalysis, we found that the literature reports a large percentage of post-COVID-19 patients have persistent dyspnea (32%), fatigue (38%), cough (13%), chest pain/tightness (16%), decreased functional capacity (36%), and decreased health-related quality of life (52%) at 3 to 6 months after infection\(^1\). Persistent neurological, gastrointestinal, dermatological and multisystemic symptoms were also reported.

We are currently leading studies aiming to enhance the understanding persistent symptoms in post-COVID syndrome, and potential rehabilitation interventions for a virtual management using wearable biometric and portable devices. During this summer research experience, the student will perform various tasks supporting the implementation of these studies.

People living with brain injury, including those living with stroke, are a vulnerable population. Many brain injury survivors experience chronic symptoms, challenges to everyday living, and decreased community participation. Research has the potential to improve outcomes for people living with brain injury. Knowing what research is being done in Manitoba is essential but yet to be done. The project a University of Manitoba undergraduate awards program (URAP) student in the Engel lab will complete over the summer of 2022 will aim to (1) map the recent and current research being done in Manitoba and by Manitoba researchers related to brain injury and stroke and (2) identify preliminary priority areas for future brain injury and stroke research in the province. This project will be done under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Engel and in partnership with the Manitoba Brain Injury Association (MBIA), primarily through consultations with the MBIA executive director who is keenly interested in this project being completed, and other Manitoban researchers. The student will learn and use various systematic search and consultation approaches to complete this project. Researchers and the MBIA will be able to use the information from this project to build partnerships and collaborations that can advance brain injury and stroke research, care, and community services in Manitoba. Dr. Engel’s research has primarily been with brain injury survivors and with the overall goal to improve the quality of life for brain injury survivors.
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Dr. Choukou’s research examines the role of technology in increasing social connection between older adults with dementia and their caregivers. We are currently studying the effects of telepresence robots in combatting social isolation and promoting healthy living of both non-indigenous and indigenous older adults. This project is an opportunity for a student from any applied health or humanities discipline to contribute to different components of this research. BIPOC students and students living with disabilities are encouraged to apply.