

Applicant

Dr. Dawn Bowdish, McMaster University

E-mail Address

bowdish@mcmaster.ca

Project Title

Biomarkers of early life adversity and their relationship with healthy aging

Project Summary

Early life adversity (ELA), including direct or indirect exposure to physical and emotional abuse or loss of a loved-one, plays an important role in determining one's health later in life. However, the reasons for this are not well known. We hypothesize that adults that have experienced ELA will be less healthy, and will have elevated levels of biological measures that are commonly associated with unhealthy aging, especially those related to chronic inflammation. To test this, we propose the following objectives: first, to determine the association between ELA and health-related outcomes, including frailty, cardiometabolic disease, and multimorbidity. Second, to determine the association between ELA and biological measures of unhealthy aging. Third, to evaluate chronic inflammation as a mediator in the relationship between ELA and health-related outcomes.

Keywords

Childhood maltreatment, Biological measures, Biological age, Frailty, Multimorbidity, Cardiometabolic