

...with Elaine Hill

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What does your role as Ethics Secretary in the Clinical Trials Department entail on a daily basis?

It involves the typing of research ethics board (REB) submissions and tracking submissions and approvals in EDGE. I also communicate with study coordinators, principle investigators, the REB, monitors, and auditors. I file regulatory documents both in EDGE and in paper regulatory binders. Really, I do anything relating to ethics regulatory work.

How do you utilise EDGE in your everyday practices?

All REB submission information and related documents are entered in EDGE daily. Workflows are used to track the submission process and approvals. Attributes are used to track annual renewals and basic REB information. EDGE is also a great reference tool (e.g., annual information and monitor visits are posted in the global calendar), and a great 'prepping tool' for any audits/monitor visits. It is particularly useful when you need to find something out about the study (i.e., who the PI or study coordinator is, and when the study began, etc.)

Which personal skills do you feel are enhanced by the deployment and familiarity of EDGE?

Management of workload (i.e., being able to track number of current studies and submissions) after exploring what EDGE has to offer, including utilization skills.



How do you effectively utilise the global diary in EDGE?

Whilst I do not personally enter data in this area of EDGE, I do check it in case the information pertains to me (i.e., monitor or audit visits for my studies).

Which aspects of EDGE have provided the most pleasure and satisfaction?

Knowing that there is a safe place to keep track of all work being done and easy access to my work. As EDGE is very versatile, user friendly, and a time-saver, it has a variety of workable features, and more features can be added to capture all sorts of information and data points.

One challenge that you think clinical research faces in Canada:

Financial issues as studies can be expensive. Many organizations often carry out fund raisers to support new research.

One great thing that you think clinical research has achieved:

Working in cancer, clinical trials have helped numbers of patients live longer because of treatments received, as there are medications being discovered every day to help prolong their lives, and possibly rid them of their disease.

One delightful thing about living in Canada:

Good healthcare benefits (OHIP).

Describe one of the greatest achievements of the research team at your hospital:

Being one of the largest and highest recruiting cancer clinical trials departments in Canada with quite a number of studies, and working well as a team.

One clinical research superpower that you wish you possessed, and why:

The ability to cure people suffering from cancer and rid the disease by making phenomenal discoveries!

One thing that inspires you, and why:

Learning from older people. They are extremely wise and have helped me to make important decisions in the past.

One of the first things that you do when you arrive in the office every morning:

Try to greet staff with a "good morning!" and sign in.

One way in which EDGE resembles your personality:

Versatility!

JCC Hamilton Health Sciences were awarded **International Organisation of the Year** at the ASPIRE EDGE Conference on February 28th 2018. Congratulations!