UC | Chile

Santiago, December 2022

Internship:

Predictors of hearing aid use among older adults with hearing loss fitted in the Chilean public health sector (FONDECYT number: 11201327)

I. CONTEXT
The Global Research Program is a virtual international experience that supports research and creative projects in UC Chile and international partner universities within the Global Internships for Research and Practice-Based Learning.

II. INTERNSHIP DETAILS	
Name	Predictors of hearing aid use among older adults with hearing loss fitted in the Chilean public health sector (FONDECYT number: 11201327)
Description	The project (FONDECYT number: 11201327) is currently in the data collection phase (440 patients have been recruited) and aims to determine if insertion gain is a predictor for the discontinuation of hearing aid use in older adults fitted by the GES program in the Chilean public health sector. Regarding the study design, a retrospective cohort of older adults of both sexes implemented with hearing aids in the public health sector will be performed. Due to the cohort design, time metrics are relevant, and in this case, the time in which a patient stopped using their hearing aids will be calculated. To do so, the time in which the hearing aid was fitted will be recorded (registered in medical records as well as by the external company), together with the moment in which the patient indicated whether they had stopped using the hearing aid. The independent variable will be evaluated by hearing aid analysis equipment, obtaining the level of amplification that the hearing aid provides to the patient's ear (Insertion Gain). This assessment will provide information about if the hearing aid's gain meets the acoustic needs of the patients when inserted in the ear. The project hypothesis is that insertion gain is a predictor significantly associated with the discontinuation of hearing aid use in older adults fitted by the GES program in the Chilean public health sector. Regarding the statistical analysis (Survival models), the change in the risk of discontinuation of hearing aid use will be estimated according to variables of interest (univariate models) and adjusted for confounding variables (multivariate models).
PAPERS	Fuentes-López E, Fuente A, Luna-Monsalve M, Cañete O. Social determinants of health associated with attitudes towards hearing loss and hearing aids in older adults fitted in a Latin American country: validation of the ALHQ questionnaire into Spanish. International Journal of Audiology, 1–11. Advance online publication. **Link:** https://doi.org/10.1080/14992027.2022.2097133

	Fuentes-López E, Fuente A, Valdivia G, Luna-Monsalve M. Does educational level predict hearing aid self-efficacy in experienced older adult hearing aid users from Latin America? Validation process of the Spanish version of the MARS-HA questionnaire. PLoS One. 2019;14(12):e0226085. **Link:** https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.022608 Fuentes-López E, Fuente A, Valdivia G, Luna-Monsalve M. Effects of auditory and socio-demographic variables on discontinuation of hearing aid use among older adults with hearing loss fitted in the Chilean public health sector. BMC Geriatr. 2019;19(1):245. **Link:** https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-019-1260-6
Internship Language	English and Spanish
Places Available	One
Application Period	November 30, 2022 - January 15, 2023.
The desired academic level of the students	Senior-year undergraduate students, master's students.
Desired program/discipline of the students	Health Sciences, Other Medical Sciences, and Public Health.
Specific skills that a student should have for the project	Students must have taken a general research methodology course to be admitted to this internship. In addition, they have taken an introductory course that provides an overview of all major forms of statistical methods, research methodology, and study design.
Duration for the research internship	8 weeks
Desired dates for the research internship	From: 4/1/2023 (April 1st , 2023) To: 6/30/2023 (June 1st , 2023)
Benefits	• An acceptance letter to participate in a virtual internship at UC Chile. • A participation certificate issued by the professor as long as all tasks assigned have been completed. • Access to our virtual library catalog. • All students will have access to a virtual workshop - preparation package before their research internship.

Please send all the documents via email to cristian.diaz@uc.cl Director for Global Mobility UC | Chile.