

## **OARSI Travel Scholarship 2023**

**Recipient:** Kristine Godziuk, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
University of Alberta, Canada

**Host Supervisor and Institution:**

Tuhina Neogi, MD, PhD  
Chief of Rheumatology  
Boston University School of Medicine/Boston Medical Center  
Boston University School of Public Health  
Boston University, USA

**Final Report:**

I am immensely grateful to have received an OARSI scholarship in 2023 to work with Dr. Tuhina Neogi at Boston University. Dr. Neogi is a respected research expert with deep knowledge in the field of osteoarthritis (OA). This training opportunity provided an in-depth exposure to OA research and clinical epidemiology, which differed from my doctoral and postdoctoral research training in rehabilitation science, obesity, and human nutrition.

With this scholarship support, I was able to conduct a research project focused on obesity and OA using data from the Multicenter Osteoarthritis Study (MOST). This experience working with a large OA population dataset was a substantial change and advancement in training. My prior work was primarily in clinical intervention studies, so this extended my skills in using longitudinal datasets and statistical methods in epidemiology. My project examined obesity subtypes in individuals with or at risk for knee OA, and implications on longitudinal trajectories of function over 7-years. I had two poster presentations accepted at the 2023 OARSI Congress in Vienna sharing the results of this investigation, and we are currently writing the manuscripts from this work for publication.

During my training with Dr. Neogi, I was also able to attend weekly meetings with the Boston Musculoskeletal Clinical Research Collaboratory. This is a unique and effective collaborative research group, and I was able to engage and learn from an integrated team working on diverse projects in the field of arthritis and musculoskeletal health. This team science environment was enlightening and encouraging, and will inform my own strategies in setting up future research collaborative teams.

This scholarship training experience supported by OARSI has increased my capacity to conduct research in the field of OA. The mentorship from Dr. Neogi has been invaluable for my career development, and I will continue to use the skills and relationships gained through this scholarship training experience as I start a faculty position in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science at the University of California, San Francisco. I look forward to passing on these skills and passion for OA research as I mentor new trainees and postdoctoral researchers in this role.

Thank you to the OARSI Board and Research and Training Committee for supporting this important scholarship program.