**UQ Winter Research Project Description**

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| **Project title:** | **Migraine triggers and their relationship to clinical assessment findings** |
| **Hours of engagement & delivery mode** | For the Winter program, students will be engaged **for 4 weeks only**.  Hours of engagement must be between 20 – 36 hrs per week and must fall within the official program dates (30 June – 25 July 2025).  This project is offered through a hybrid arrangement (on-site AND remotely) to be negotiated. |
| **Description:** | **Background:** Migraine, a multifaceted neurological disorder, presents with diverse triggers that pose significant management challenges. A critical distinction exists between triggers and prodromal symptoms, particularly regarding neck pain, which is a common prodromal symptom and a potential trigger in some individuals with underlying cervical musculoskeletal dysfunction. The precise delineation between neck pain as a trigger versus a prodromal symptom carries significant clinical implications for the optimization of therapeutic interventions and the development of targeted treatment strategies in migraine management.  **Aim:** This study aims to elucidate the complex relationship between neck pain and migraine by investigating the associations between self-reported migraine triggers and objectively measured cervical musculoskeletal impairments. The research will systematically examine migraine triggers and neck pain aggravating factors, correlating these with comprehensive clinical assessment findings of cervical function. This investigation seeks to establish evidence-based criteria for differentiating between neck pain as a trigger factor versus a prodromal symptom, thereby informing clinical decision-making in migraine management.  **Methodology:** This investigation will employ a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative survey data from individuals with concurrent migraine and neck pain with comprehensive clinical assessment findings of cervical musculoskeletal function.  **Expected Outcomes:** This research is anticipated to: i) establish any correlations between cervical musculoskeletal dysfunction and self-reported trigger patterns; and ii) develop clinical indicators to distinguish between neck pain as a trigger versus a prodromal symptom. |
| **Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:** | **Learning outcomes:** The scholarship recipient participating in this project will develop competencies in:   1. Research methodology and data handling through hands-on experience with survey data management, clinical assessment documentation, and systematic data organisation. 2. Advanced analytical thinking through exposure to complex clinical data interpretation and the evaluation of relationships between multiple variables in migraine and musculoskeletal assessment 3. Professional research skills including adherence to ethical guidelines and maintaining research integrity. 4. Interprofessional collaboration through engagement with research team members 5. Scientific communication through the synthesis and presentation of research findings to diverse audiences   **Project Deliverables:** The scholarship recipient will be responsible for:   * Organising participant survey responses and clinical assessment findings * Regular progress reports during weekly research team meetings * An oral presentation of the research findings at the monthly laboratory research meeting * Contribution to manuscript preparation if the findings merit scientific publication |
| **Suitable for:** | This project is open to students who have an interest in migraine or neck pain. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Zhiqi Liang |
| **Further info:** | Students can contact Zhiqi via email at [l.zhiqi@uq.edu.au](mailto:l.zhiqi@uq.edu.au), at any point in their application process. |