

## McGill PALLIATIVE MEDICINE RESIDENCY SCHOLARLY PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Residents must learn about the research process in palliative care. The program offers two levels of intensity of research training. The Resident must choose one within the first 6 weeks of the Residency.

- ***Level 1 allows the Resident ½ day of protected time for the project per week.***
- ***Level 2 allows the Resident 1 full day of protected time for research per week.*** Some residents may opt to use one of their elective/selective months to be used as a research month.

The Resident will meet with Robin Cohen, Ph.D., Research Director, within the first two weeks of the Residency (may be delayed if Dr. Cohen is on vacation). They will discuss ongoing research at Palliative Care McGill and explore where the Resident's research interests best fit within the program.

Within the first 6 weeks of the program, the Resident will choose Level 1 or 2 as well as the topic of their scholarly project. The Research Director will supervise the literature reviews of all Residents, although other investigators may join in supervision if they have expertise in the content area. If Level 2 is chosen, a topic for research and arrangements for a supervisor for that project must be made within this 6 week period. The Research Director will be available for guidance during this period.

**The Scholarly Project component of the program must be judged to be satisfactory for the Resident to be considered to have successfully completed the program.**

### LEVEL 1

*Level 1 is designed for Residents who wish to be palliative care clinicians but do not wish to be responsible for carrying out research projects.*

#### **Objectives of Level 1**

1. Residents learn to critically assess the literature.
2. Residents develop a basic knowledge of the research process for palliative care studies and associated difficulties.
3. Residents develop an appreciation of the contribution of research to the goals of palliative care.

#### **Requirements for Level 1**

1. Conduct a critical literature review of research addressing a problem in palliative care. Based on the literature review, determine the gaps in the literature and develop one or more research questions that need to be answered.

OR

A case report written for publication.

2. Present the literature review and conclusions drawn both orally to Palliative Care McGill (time and date to be arranged with the Education Coordinator) and in a paper, ideally written for submission for publication.
3. Participation in the Palliative Care Journal Club at the hospital at which they are training at any given time.
4. Attend the McGill Research course (Family Medicine Resident Research Seminars: Introduction to Research) or the online Research Course.

## **LEVEL 2**

### **Level 1 + Participation in a research project**

Level 2 is designed for Residents who wish to participate as co-investigators in research projects during their career and/or develop a better understanding of the research process than will be obtained from Level 1.

#### **Objectives for Level 2**

1. Residents learn to critically assess the literature.
2. Residents develop knowledge of the research process for palliative care studies and associated difficulties by participating in an ongoing research project or designing and implementing their own project.
3. Residents develop an appreciation of the contribution of research to the goals of palliative care.

#### **Requirements for Level 2**

1. Conduct a critical literature review of research addressing a problem in palliative care. Based on the literature review, determine the gaps in the literature and develop one or more research questions that need to be answered.
2. Present the literature review and conclusions drawn both orally to Palliative Care McGill (time and date to be arranged with the Education Coordinator) and in a paper written for submission for publication.
3. Join a study in progress, helping with recruitment, data collection, analysis, and interpretation **OR** develop a study proposal (based on the literature review to be done), submit it for ethics approval if required, and carry out the study, or if time does not permit and the supervisor is committed to continue the study, begin the study but write up after a small amount of data is collected. In this case the supervisor is responsible for providing Resident with a hypothetical outcome. The Resident writes a paper based on the study and hypothetical outcome.
4. Present the research project to Palliative Care McGill.

5. Participation in the Palliative Care Journal Club at the hospital at which they are training at any given time.
6. Attend the McGill Research Course (Family Medicine Resident Research Seminars: Introduction to Research) or the online Research Course.