



## **Division of Gastroenterology Advanced Fellowship in IBD**

**Duration: 1 year Clinical**

**Number of positions: 1 - 2/year**

The Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Advanced Fellowship at McGill builds upon a long tradition of excellence in the care of patients and clinical research in IBD. Our team excels in extensive investigation of epidemiology, therapeutic drug monitoring and outcomes research. The goal of this clinical IBD fellowship is to prepare trainees to become experts in patient care in IBD and to nurture an independent academic career in clinical investigation.

The Fellowship Program at McGill aims to offer candidates comprehensive and advanced training in the clinical and research aspects of IBD. More than 7000 IBD patients are seen in McGill's outpatient IBD Clinics at its four major teaching hospitals: Montreal General Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital, Jewish General Hospital and Montreal Children's Hospital. As an IBD fellow, the trainee will receive exposure to a wide variety of translational clinical and innovative research programs, summarized below.

### ***Description of the Program***

Applicants must have completed at least two years in an approved Gastroenterology fellowship and should be competent in all areas of general gastroenterology and routine endoscopic procedures.

The overall goal of the McGill Advanced Fellowship in IBD is to train clinical and academic leadership. The program encompasses a comprehensive clinical exposure, with the candidate being supervised by full time Academic Faculty (listed below) of highly experienced experts in IBD. The successful candidate is expected to complete a research project during the tenure. A wide variety of clinical research options are available including projects relating to clinical outcomes, biomarkers, therapeutic drug monitoring, epidemiology and meta-analysis.

### ***The McGill Advanced IBD Fellowship program offers***

- Personalized training for selected individuals who wish to pursue careers as clinician-investigators
- Formal training in clinical research in preparation for conducting independent research
- A high faculty-to-trainee ratio, large patient population and advanced diagnostic, therapeutic and research facilities that combine to create an integrated, comprehensive educational experience

### ***Objectives for the Fellowship***

- To gain experience, understanding and knowledge in the management of complex IBD patient care, including diagnosis, advanced medical and endoscopic therapies and ongoing maintenance and support of chronic illness.
- To recognize the indications and contraindications for complex medical therapeutic regimens and algorithms, including approved and novel biologic therapies still in the clinical trial phase and to have direct experience in managing these therapies.
- To establish professional relationships with patients, their families and referring physicians. The Fellow will be expected to discuss appropriate diagnostic and management information with these parties and develop therapeutic relationships with patients and their families while providing a detailed consultation correspondence to the associated health care providers.
- To optimize the access and use of health resources, the fellow will be expected to balance between the physician's role, being the patient's advocate and manager to optimize the access and use of health resources.
- To recognize psychosocial issues which may impact the disease course and adherence by the patient. The Fellow with the help of the IBD staff and dedicated psychologist will be exposed to strategies to assist patients to manage positively their health issues and balance health-life challenges.
- To recognize the importance of the multidisciplinary team approach in the management of inflammatory bowel diseases and to work with the multi-professional team by effective collaboration between the other consultants (e.g surgeon, hepatologist, rheumatologist, dermatologist, ophthalmologist), specialized nurses, dieticians, pharmacists and IBD-related health care providers.
- To develop a comprehensive understanding of the clinical research/clinical trials and international guidelines associated with IBD on a global basis, and to actively participate and meaningfully contribute in the ongoing IBD clinical research projects in the MUHC IBD center.
- To initiate and complete a scholarly and/or research project in an aspect of IBD. The fellow will be responsible for at least 1 major research project during their fellowship presenting at national and/or international level.
- To participate in regular (weekly) GI rounds (case-based, journal club) and the multidisciplinary IBD meeting (with surgeons and radiologists) with members of the IBD team.
- To teach the GI residents on their IBD elective rotation or present at the GI rounds about the management of IBD patients.
- To benefit from the ongoing mentorship from preceptors that serves as a role model and allows them to develop their IBD career.

### ➤ **Clinical Training**

The advanced fellow will see patients in the IBD Clinics at McGill's 4 primary teaching hospitals, with comprehensive exposure to diverse clinical presentations. The candidate will work under the close supervision of McGill's academic gastroenterologists who have a special interest in IBD. Advanced IBD Fellows will be expected to participate directly in the care of outpatients with IBD seen in conjunction with IBD faculty for at least 4 half-day sessions weekly. An additional whole day will be devoted to endoscopic procedures needed for the care of these patients. The Advanced IBD Fellow will also assist in follow up of inpatient consultations and admissions to the IBD/GI service. The fellow is expected to comprehensively create or update the IBD electronic medical records including highlighting the problem areas, including planned investigations and changes in the current therapy. Endoscopy notes should also be created in the Hospital's Endoscopy reporting system software. In addition, consultations are available with members of the Division of Colon and Rectal Surgery/Radiology and other specialists involved in the care of the IBD patients.

### ➤ **Clinical Trial Patients**

Clinical trials play an important role in the care of complex IBD patients. The Advanced IBD fellow will assist with the daily care of these patients (this includes documentation, physical examination (as clinically indicated or as prescribed by the research protocol), and follow-up of investigations ordered).

### ➤ **Electives**

During the course of the year, the trainee will have the opportunity to spend time in focused areas related to IBD, tailored to their particular interests and needs. Potential areas for training include: state of the art diagnostic as well as therapeutic endoscopy, radiology, pathology, clinical nutrition, colorectal surgery, and pediatric GI (app 10%). The trainee will participate and present at the biweekly McGill IBD research group meetings. In addition, the trainee is expected to attend the McGill Gastroenterology Divisional weekly academic sessions and GI subspecialty conferences.

### ➤ **Research**

Trainees must choose at least one aspect of research to participate in. This program covers the full spectrum of clinical science aspects of IBD. Trainees will have the opportunity to participate in IBD studies under the mentorship of a McGill IBD Research Group member. Appropriate kinds of research will include clinical trials, observational studies, outcomes research, meta-analyses, decision analyses and translational projects. Trainees may participate in clinical studies already underway or may design their own research protocol. All research will take place at the MUHC and is overseen by the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre following their Standard Operating Procedures. The equivalent of one day per week will be devoted to research.

➤ **Feedback**

Trainees will be provided with feedback on a quarterly basis based on evaluations by the IBD specialists.

➤ **On call Frequency**

There are no after-hours call responsibilities during this fellowship.

Fellowships can be adapted to fit the needs of the fellow:

Clinical services are our top priority for the IBD Fellowship at McGill University

Suggested, but can be modified on how you spend your time

Clinical Service 60%

Research 20%

Education 20%

***McGill University, Faculty of Medicine – IBD:***

Peter Lakatos, Program Director, McGill IBD Advanced Fellowship

**McGill University Health Centre comprising the Montreal General Hospital (MGH Campus) and the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH, Glen Campus):**

Dr Waqqas Afif (MGH Site Director)

Dr Talat Bessissow

Dr Alain Bitton (Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division Director)

Dr Peter Lakatos (Director, MUHC IBD Clinic)

Dr Gary Wild

**Montreal Children's Hospital (Glen Campus):**

Dr Najma Ahmed (Director of GI training)

Dr Sylviane Forget

Dr Dominique Levesque

Dr Veronique Morinville

Dr Ana Sant'anna

Dr Terry Sigman (Pediatric GI Division Director)

**Jewish General Hospital:**

Dr Albert Cohen (GI Division Director)

Dr Andrew Szilagyi (GI Research Director)

***Application process***

Interested applicants must apply for the Advanced IBD Fellowship online through the McGill University office of Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME), and applicants are also invited to send their CV and 3 letters of recommendation to:

Peter LAKATOS, MD, DsC, FEBG, AGAF  
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Professor of Medicine  
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