

Clinician Investigator Program

The major goal of the Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) is to assist in the career development of clinician/investigators in Canada by providing a formalized postgraduate educational program that fulfills the existing clinical specialty/subspecialty training requirements of the Royal College and provides, in addition, a minimum of two years of structured rigorous research training, up to one of the research years may also be credited to fulfill the individual's specialty/subspecialty requirements, in keeping with the requirements of the discipline involved, with joint approval of the Faculty, the CIP Committee and the Program Director. It is preferred that the two years of research be sequential. Exceptions must be approved prospectively by the faculty CIP Committee and the RCPSC must be informed.

Retroactive recognition of research credits obtained prior to acceptance into a CIP will not be allowed.

McGill's CIP is completed concurrently with a Graduate School Pathway (Graduate Diploma, M.Sc. or Ph.D.); a non-graduate school pathway is open only to those who have already completed a M.Sc. or Ph.D. degree.

Clinical Investigator Tracks

Some residency programs offer Clinical Investigator Tracks in which residents interested in a career in research can pursue a residency training program that incorporates a minimum of two years of research. This Clinical Investigator Track would include meeting with researchers during the clinical training years to discuss research in order to develop an area of research interest and for mentoring. The research training would be done under the auspices of the Clinical Investigator Program and a McGill graduate program. Upon completion, the trainee would receive a graduate degree from a McGill department and a certificate from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for completion of the Clinical Investigator Program. Please consult your residency program director and/or the CIP director for more details.

Application Process

Eligibility

Residents and fellows must meet the following criteria in order to apply for the McGill CIP:

- Be enrolled in or have just completed a RCPSC accredited clinical program at McGill. If moving to McGill from a different institution to pursue clinician investigator training upon completion of a RCPSC accredited clinical program, be registered in the CIP within 6 months of starting this research.
- Be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program (graduate stream) (Master's degree or Doctoral degree), or in a postdoctoral fellowship program if the trainee already has a graduate degree (postdoctoral stream).
- Meet with the CIP Program Director (see address below)
- Complete the CIP Application Form, and obtain all necessary signatures from: a) your Program Director; b) the CIP Program Director; c) the Director of the Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies located at James Administration Building, Room 400 (this is where you are registered for your Graduate Diploma, MSc. or PhD).

Applying to the McGill CIP

Please submit the following documents to Roberta Tiscione (Clinician Investigator Program Assistant, Jewish General Hospital, room E-156, 3755 Cote St Catherine Road, Montreal, QC H3T 1E2):

- Fully completed CIP Application Form (see above)
- Your C.V.
- A one-page summary of your research project
- Supporting letter from your research supervisor
- Bio sketch C.V. in NIH format from your supervisor

Once your application is complete, it will be sent to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, so that you may be registered into the McGill CIP.

For further information or counseling on a course of research, please contact:

Dr Mark Blostein, Program Director
E-mail: mark.blostein@mcgill.ca
Clinician Investigator Program
SMBD - Jewish General Hospital
Hematology Department, Room E-156
3755 Cote St. Catherine Road
Montreal Qc H3T 1E2
Tel: 514.340.8214
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CLINICIAN INVESTIGATOR PROGRAM

Goals and Objectives

The major goal of this program is to foster the career development of Clinician Investigators by providing a formal postgraduate education program that fulfills the existing clinical specialty requirements of the Royal College and provides, in addition, a minimum of two years of structured research training.

The residents must be enrolled in a RCPSC accredited specialty or subspecialty programs leading to RCPSC certification. They must be selected by their faculty or registered in the CIP by the final year of the specialty or subspecialty program.

To participate in the CIP program at McGill, the resident must be registered in an approved program of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research and meet all its requirements.

Each research resident will have a designated research supervisor and committee.

Educational and research objectives for the residents will be given out to each resident in the CIP program.

The completion of such a program would enable the resident to have acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential to the establishment of a career in research.

Satisfactory completion of the CIP requires the following:

- completion of the clinical components and obtaining RCPSC certification in the individual's specialty/subspecialty by examination
- completion of the research component of training and verification of completion by the Promotions Committee of the Clinical Investigator Program (CIP). An evaluation by the graduate school with awarding of the degree constitutes satisfactory completion of the research component.
- completion of progress tracking with approval of the Clinical Investigator Program (CIP) committee.

EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES FOR MCGILL RESIDENTS ENROLLED IN THE CIP

General Requirement

At the end of the period of research training the individual will be expected to have acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes fundamental to embarking on a career in health research. In most cases, further research training specific to the candidates' field of interest will be required, in order to succeed as an independent investigator. The CIP should also provide an opportunity to integrate research and clinical care. During the first two years of the research component, some time may be spent in clinical activity; the majority of the time (at least 80%), however, will be devoted to research.

Specific Objectives for Individual Research Residents

Demonstrated competence must be achieved in the following areas:

1. Medical Research Expert

Through formal course work, to develop a working knowledge and understanding of research methodology including:

- General principles (basic experimental design, clinical trial design, critical appraisal of the literature, biostatistics, medical and research ethics etc).

- Knowledge relevant to the specific area of research, as well as, general knowledge relating to the clinical and research aspects of the chosen field of study.
- Competence in the techniques specific to the research project; in a laboratory, in clinical health related fields, or in experimental design or data analysis and population studies.
- The ability to design, plan and carry out an experiment, and to analyze and interpret the results.

2. Communicator

- The ability to present information in a formal setting and to defend such a presentation and discussion.
- The ability to write a report suitable for publication in a peer reviewed journal.
- The ability to write a grant proposal for research funding.

3. Collaborator

- An ability to work effectively as part of an interdisciplinary team.

4. Manager

- Displays ability to manage own time effectively
- Provides appropriate and timely follow-up on research-related issues.
- Understands resource allocation issues with respect to own research

5. Health Advocate

- In-depth knowledge of the ethical issues relevant to the conduct of research in human subjects.
- In-depth knowledge of the ethical issues relevant to the conduct of research in animal models.

6. Scholar

- A commitment to the need to re-examine accepted beliefs through a spirit of inquiry.
- A commitment to the importance of absolute objectivity and honesty in the conduct and reporting of research.
- An understanding of the needs for continuing self-education.

7. Professional

- Demonstrate awareness of major research-governing national bodies
- Understand and demonstrate ethical research practices
- Demonstrates professional behavior toward own team and other researchers

Individual educational and research objectives will be developed for each resident in conjunction with the research supervisor.

Residents must meet the individual educational objectives of their respective Graduate Programs as per the requirements outlined in the description in the handbook on Graduate Studies in Medical and Allied Sciences

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