

FELLOWSHIP IN CONTACT DERMATITIS

TYPE OF FELLOWSHIP: One-year clinical fellowship

• **Number of fellowship positions requested:** One

• **Name of hospitals involved in training:**

Montreal General Hospital – 80% of time spent by fellow
1650 Cedar Avenue, Montréal, QC H3G 1A4, CANADA

Royal Victoria Hospital – 20% of time spent by fellow
1001 Boul Decarie, Montréal, QC H4A 3J1, CANADA

NAME OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Dr. Simon Nigen

NAMES OF THE TEACHING FACULTY:

Dr. Simon Nigen, M.D., FRCPC Tel: 514-934-1934, ext. 34648,
simon.nigen@mcgill.ca. Assistant Professor and Director of the Contact
Dermatitis Clinic, Division of Dermatology, McGill University

Dr. Kevin Pehr, MD, FRCPC Tel: 514-934-1934, ext. 34648,
kevin.pehr@mcgill.ca. Associate Professor, Division of Dermatology
Coordinator of Research, Dermatology Residency Training Program

Mission:

The year of fellowship in contact dermatitis enables the trainee to gain knowledge and develop expertise in the diagnosis, evaluation and management of cutaneous contact reactions. The training will promote aptitudes of competence and leadership in the operation of a busy contact dermatitis clinic, as well as in research, publications, presentations and teaching activities related to the field of contact dermatitis.

Objectives:

Upon completion of training, the clinical fellow must have acquired a vast body of knowledge, perfected the technical skills and developed the professional attitudes expected of an expert in the field of contact dermatitis, and detailed as follows according to the CanMeds framework of competencies:

1. Medical expert

a) Acquisition of basic and clinical sciences pertinent to the pathophysiology and clinical manifestations of:

- Irritant and allergic contact dermatitis
- Immunological and non-immunological contact urticaria
- Phototoxic and photoallergic contact dermatitis
- Occupational dermatoses
- Drug eruptions

b) Consolidation of notions of immunology, chemistry, physics, botany and occupational processes needed for the accurate assessment and management of contact dermatitis.

- c) Strengthening of clinical skills in diagnosing cutaneous contact reactions through the appropriate use of the history of exposure to contactants, the occupational history, and the physical examination as it pertains to contact dermatitis.
- d) Development of principles of treatment of the various forms of cutaneous reactions to contactants. Management of complex dermatitis cases.
- e) Knowledge of the terminology, chemistry, sources of exposure and cross-reactions for all common and for a large number of the less common contact irritants and allergens.
- f) Knowledge of the technique of patch testing and photopatch testing, including sources of supplies and materials, patient selection, and interpretation of results.
- g) Knowledge of Material Safety Data Sheets, their contents and how to extract useful information from them.
- h) Competence in the preparation of non-standardized allergens.
- i) Knowledge of various ancillary techniques, such as the dimethylglyoxime spot test for nickel, plant visiting, etc.

2. Communicator

- a) Ability to communicate with patients and their families, more specifically to explain in plain language the nature of allergens and irritants, their sources of exposure and methods of avoidance.
- b) Skills to interact effectively with referring physicians, other health professionals and the public.

3. Collaborator

- a) Readiness to function effectively as consultant to provide optimal guidance in suspected or proven cases of contact dermatitis.
- b) Development of teaching skills to junior residents and rotators, as well as to other physicians, including other experts in contact dermatitis.

4. Manager

- a) Ability to function in an organized and orderly fashion.
- b) Cost-effective use of the supplies provided by the clinic.
- c) Ability to supervise the material aspect of a patch test clinic: when and from whom to order supplies and allergens, devise and print handout materials, instruction sheets, etc.

5. Health advocate

- a) Capacity to counsel patients on avoidance of allergens and irritants, preventive measures, etc.
- b) Willingness to participate in awareness campaigns, public forums and legislation to reduce exposure to noxious allergens and irritants.

6. Scholar

- a) Motivation to become familiar with the dermatological literature relevant to the field of contact dermatitis.
- b) Eagerness to contribute to the advancement of the science of contact dermatitis through research and publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- c) Active participation in scientific societies, as a speaker or as member of various committees.

7. Professional

- a) Understanding of the patients' psychological, occupational and social needs, taking into account diversities of race, culture and gender. These qualities are especially important in the assessment of the impact of occupational dermatoses on the patients' quality of life and economic situation.
- b) Knowledge of the ethical and medico-legal aspects of the expertise in contact dermatitis, including the ability to accurately complete all insurance forms and workman's compensation reports relevant to patient's impairment. As was seen during Dr. Moreau's, Dr. Al-Sowaidi's, Dr. Stanciu's, both Drs. Alfalah's, and Dr. Al-Ali's and Dr. Besner Morin's fellowships, the presence of a fellow has a great impact on residents' training, as the fellow is usually charged with multiple tasks pertaining to teaching the essentials of contact dermatitis through direct supervision and a series of lectures presented at Dermatology Rounds.

ACADEMIC FACILITIES:

The Contact Dermatitis Clinic occupies a large room on the 19th floor of the Montreal General Hospital (Room E19-149). It contains a refrigerator and a metal filing cabinet to store over 400 allergens and other supplies for patch testing, record-keeping documents, textbooks and patients' instruction sheets.

There is a computer that can be used to log-in on the websites and various databases provided by various contact dermatitis associations and patch test materials suppliers.

The computer also holds the Contact Dermatitis Clinic database. In this database are entered the demographics, patch tests technique, results and final diagnoses of most patients seen in the clinic over the past 15 years. In addition, up to date

textbooks and journals (Contact Dermatitis, Dermatitis) are available. All current and past issues of these two journals are available electronically as well.

The Division of Dermatology research lab (Glen site, Royal Victoria Hospital Room EO22137) becomes on occasion a chemistry laboratory where the necessary supplies and tools to mix and dilute non-standard allergens reagents.

FELLOW DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Mandatory activities

a) Call duty and responsibilities towards residents

There will be no call duty during the year of fellowship. Fellow will be senior supervisor of residents who are assigned to the Contact Dermatitis Clinic: His/her role will be active tutoring and ensuring that residents acquire the basic notions of contact dermatitis.

b) Contact Dermatitis Clinic,

Montreal General Hospital, Room E19-149: **Mondays**, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM,
Thursdays, 1:00 to 4:00 PM, **Fridays**, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Fridays 9:00AM to 4PM Preparation of Allergens and Literature Review for the Upcoming Week of Clinics

Royal Victoria Hospital, D2 Polyclinic: Wednesdays, 9AM to 4:00PM participation in complex Dermatitis clinic managing patients with atopic and contact dermatitis.

Fellow is expected to participate in the interview of patients, perform physical examinations, management of dermatitis or other cutaneous eruptions, learn to prepare and apply patch tests, take records of patients' demographics, patch tests procedures and test results for future entry in the computerized database.

c) Attendance at Rounds

Thursdays, 9:00 to 12:00 AM, MGH, JGH or selected sites for meetings of the Montreal Dermatological Society d) Resident and staff teaching

Fellow will give lectures, of variable lengths, from an existing bank of presentations on contact dermatitis, or from work of his/her own choice.

e) Research and Publications

Fellow will actively participate in any ongoing research, such as gathering of data, recruitment of patients, chart reviews and procedures. Fellow will be required to submit at least one article for publication in Contact Dermatitis or Dermatitis. This publication can be a case report, a research study or a review article.

2. Recommended activities

- a) Annual Meeting of the American Contact Dermatitis Society b) Annual Meeting of the Canadian Dermatology Association
- c) Annual Meeting of the Groupe d'Etudes et de Dermato-Allergologie (GERDA), usually in France.
- d) Biennial meeting of the European Society of Contact Dermatitis
- e) Optional: One month of elective in another renowned Contact Dermatitis Clinic, in Canada, in the U.S.A. or in Europe.

CURRICULUM:

1. Intended case load

The clinic sees an average of 15 patch test patients per week, for a yearly total of \pm 550-600 patients (1650-1800 clinic visits). In addition, approximately 15-20 patients are evaluated each week prior to patch test scheduling.

Roughly 20-25% of patients present with occupational contact dermatitis.

2. Reading materials: Books

- a) Fowler JF Jr., Zirwas MJ. Fisher's Contact Dermatitis, 7th Edition. Contact Dermatitis Institute, Phoenix, AZ, USA, 2019.
- b) Marks JG, DeLeo VA, Elsner P. Contact and Occupational Dermatology, 3rd edition. Mosby, St. Louis, 2003.
- c) Johansen JD, Frosch PJ, Lepoittevin JP. Contact Dermatitis, 5th edition. Springer, Berlin, 2011.
- d) Guin JD. Practical Contact Dermatitis. A Handbook for the Practitioner. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1995.
- e) De Groot AC. Patch Testing. Test Concentrations and Vehicles for 4350 Chemicals, 3rd edition. acdegroot publishing 2008. Wapserveen, The Netherlands, 2008.
- f) Kanerva L, Elsner P, Wahlberg JE, Maibach HI. Handbook of Occupational Dermatology, Springer, Berlin, 2000.
- g) Adams RM. Occupational Skin Disease, 3rd edition. W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1999.
- h) Benezra C, Ducombs G, Sell Y, Fousseureau J. Plant Contact Dermatitis. B.C. Decker, Toronto, 1985.

3. Journals

a) Contact Dermatitis. Jon Wiley & Sons, Oxford, England . Official Journal of the ESCD

b) Dermatitis. Wolters Kluwer Health, Hagerstown, MD, USA, Official Journal of the ACDS and the ICDRG

4. Websites

a) www.contactderm.org: web site of the American Contact Dermatitis Society. b)

<http://bodd.cf.ac.uk>: Electronic version of Mitchell & Rook Botanical Dermatology

c) <http://www.escd.org>: website of the European Society of Contact Dermatitis

EVALUATION:

1. Fellows will be evaluated every 3 months by consensus of teaching faculties. Acquisition and development of CanMeds competencies will be assessed and reported on evaluation sheets similar to those used for other residents in the training program. Evaluations will be verbally discussed with the Fellowship Director and presented at the Residency Program Committee.

2. The fellowship program will be evaluated once a year, using a form similar to that used by residents to evaluate the residency program. Once completed, this evaluation will be submitted directly by the fellow to the Residency Program Director who will subsequently present it to the Residency Program Committee.

• Background:

For over 40 years, the Division of dermatology at the Royal Victoria Hospital has been operating a specialty clinic dedicated to the assessment and investigation of contact dermatitis. During the past 30 years, under the leadership of Dr. Denis Sasseville, this clinic has expanded its activities, acquired a large bank of allergens for patch testing and attracted an increasing number of referred patients. With the cessation of similar activities in the hospitals affiliated to Université de Montréal, the Contact Dermatitis Clinic of the MUHC has become the main center in the province that offers comprehensive evaluation of complex cases of contact dermatitis, including preparation and testing of non-standardized allergens and materials from workplaces. In March of 2015, with the closing of the Royal Victoria Hospital, the contact dermatitis clinic has moved to the Montreal General Hospital. Subsequently, during 2019-2023 the clinic was led by Dr. Linda Moreau and now it is being run by Dr. Simon Nigen, an expert in the area of contact dermatitis with >15 years of experience and Dr. Kevin Pehr, leading academician at McGill.

Already three McGill-trained dermatologists, one dermatologist graduating from Université Laval, One dermatologist graduating from Université de Montreal and two Saudi dermatologists had the privilege of doing a one- year fellowship in

contact dermatitis in this clinic:

- Dr. Linda Moreau completed her clinical fellowship between January 2004 and January 2005. During that year, she rounded up her education with a one-month rotation in Pr. An Goossens' contact dermatitis clinic in Leuven, Belgium. Dr. Moreau was a member of the MUHC Division of Dermatology and an active participant and teacher in the Contact Dermatitis Clinic.

- Dr. Mowza Al-Sowaidi was a clinical fellow between September 2005 and September 2006. She spent one month in Dr. Magnus Bruze's laboratory and contact dermatitis clinic in Malmö, Sweden, before returning to her home in Abou-Dhabi.

- Dr. Monica Stanciu completed her fellowship between September 2012 and August 2013. She spent one month in Nancy, France, under the supervision of Pr. Annick Barbaud, where she perfected the techniques of investigation for drug eruptions. Dr. Stanciu was part of the MUHC Division of Dermatology with expertise in contact dermatitis.

- Dr. Khuzama Al-Falah from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, completed the fellowship between July 2013 and June 2014. She spent one month at the St. John's Institute of Dermatology in London, under the supervision of Dr. Ian White.

- Dr. Maisa Al-Falah from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, completed the fellowship between January 12, 2015 and January 11, 2016.

- Dr. Aisha Al Ali, a recent McGill graduate, has enrolled in the fellowship program in July 2016 and completed training in June 2017.

- Dr. Catherine Besner Morin completed her fellowship in 2019 and is now a lead contact dermatitis expert at the University of Montreal/CHUM and serves as the president of the AMSDQ.