

# McGill University Cornea Fellowship

**Fellowship Director:**

Dr. Mahshad Darvish

**Preceptors:**

Dr. Devinder Cheema

Dr. Johanna Choremis

**Number of Fellowship Positions:**

1

**Duration of Fellowship:**

1 year

**Program Information:**

The McGill Cornea Service is a tertiary and quaternary care service providing in-depth cornea care to patients. The fellowship will be of one year duration and is divided between three faculty members across the Jewish General Hospital, the McGill University Health Centre (Montreal General Hospital and McGill Academic Eye Center) and two private centers. Our program provides the fellow with the opportunity to be involved in a wide variety of surgical procedures, and to be exposed to the diverse manner and thought processes which exist to diagnose, follow, and treat corneal pathology. The mission of our cornea fellowship is to train individuals through a high level of patient exposure to become experienced in diagnosing and treating the spectrum of corneal pathologies. The fellowship is currently limited to international medical graduates with their own funding.

At the end of 13 periods, the fellow is expected to have the following competencies:

**Medical expert:**

The fellow will be able to perform the following surgeries:

- Penetrating Keratoplasty (PK)
- Deep Anterior Lamellar Keratoplasty (DALK)
- Descemet Stripping Automated Endothelial Keratoplasty (DSAEK)
- Descemet Membrane Endothelial Keratoplasty (DMEK)
- Corneal Patch Grafts
- Pterygium Excision and Autograft
- Superficial Keratectomy
- Corneal Collagen Crosslinking
- All cornea procedures can be performed with or without phacoemulsification
- The focus of this fellowship is on cornea, although there is exposure to the evaluation and treatment of complex anterior segment pathology, including anterior vitrectomy, secondary IOL implantation, IOL exchange, IOL repositioning, iris repair, and complex cataracts.

**Collaborator:**

- The fellow will be a resource-person for residents needing assistance with corneal procedures in the clinic.
- Master the principals of teamwork, acquired through self-learning and first-hand experience working with nurses, administrative staff, residents and supervisors.

Communicator:

- Become an expert in communicating complex corneal concepts to patients and their families in lay terms.
- Refine skills in communicating effectively across a diverse patient population, including socially vulnerable populations and diverse population in terms of life experience, culture, national origin, marginalization, and socio-economic status.

Health Advocate:

- In conversations with patients and residents, promote the prevention of preventable corneal diseases.

Scholar:

- The fellow will be expected to participate in at least one research project with one of the Cornea Faculty which will be presented at our Ophthalmology Department's Annual Research Day, with the expectation to submit the results for publication.

**Percentage Time Spent by The Fellow in Each Institution:**

40% - Jewish General Hospital

30% - McGill Academic Eye Centre, Montreal General Hospital

30% - Private offices – Montreal Eye Care Associates, Eye Health MD, Clinique d'ophtalmologie Bellevue

**Supervision**

The fellow will be supervised by a cornea specialist in clinic and in the operating room. With increasing experience and comfort, the fellow will be expected to both teach residents and independently see and treat patients post-operatively.

**Protected time**

The fellow will have protected time there is any cornea related early morning teaching sessions or academic half days.

**Fellow Duties and Responsibilities:**

The cornea fellow will be the primary contact for any cornea related consults from the ophthalmology service. The fellows will review their consults with the cornea staff covering the service at each site. This exposure provides ample opportunity to triage, diagnose and initiate treatment in an independent yet supervised manner.

**Teaching Responsibilities Towards Residents:**

The cornea fellow will provide teaching to the on-call ophthalmology residents with respect to patient examination, diagnosis, and management decisions. Assistance in cornea related procedures is also expected including gluing, graft-rebubbling, corneal cultures, etc.

The fellow will participate in informal teaching in resident clinics and can be involved in more formal teaching to residents and/or medical students depending on the fellow's level of interest. The fellow will be expected to read materials concerning Cornea and specific reading may be suggested by the supervisor.

The cornea fellow will be encouraged to attend CME events pertaining to cornea as well as attending conferences related to cornea. This includes journal club events throughout the year, where the fellow will have the opportunity to review relevant papers in cornea with the faculty members and select papers, with the approval of the cornea faculty, for the residents to present.

The fellow is expected to take part in resident teaching and present at Grand Rounds.

**Feedback**

The fellow will receive direct feedback each month from their supervisor. In addition, they will meet with the fellowship director every 3 months to review the progress and plan for the next 3 months.

**Vacation**

4-weeks vacation per year

**Call**

There is no formal call, as the residents take first call. However, if the cornea fellow is available, they are encouraged to take part in any emergency procedures or surgeries.

**Conference**

1 week per year, upon approval of fellowship director

**Salary**

Applicants are encouraged to seek all forms of funding from an acceptable source of funding. For information about acceptable sources of funding please check the following link: <https://mcgill.ca/pgme/admissions/prospective-fellows>. Alternative funding opportunities can be discussed with selected candidates at the interview stage.