

APPLICATION FORM FOR A FELLOWSHIP

The McGill Head and Neck Cutaneous Malignancy and Facial Reconstruction Fellowship

Fellowship Director:

Karen M. Kost, MD FRCSC, Director of Otolaryngology at the Montreal General Hospital and Director of the McGill University Voice and Dysphagia Laboratory.

Teaching Faculty

All McGill teaching faculty involved in the treatment of cutaneous malignancies and facial defect reconstruction will be involved in this fellowship. Specifically Dr. Karen Kost is the fellowship director. Dr. Alex Mlynarek, who is an assistant professor for Otolaryngology at McGill University, will also be heavily involved in the fellowship. In addition, a number of dermatologists involved in the treatment of Head & Neck cutaneous malignancies will also be involved. In particular, Dr. Carey at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dr. Beatrice Wang at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Dr. Thomas Kohn, and Drs. Khanna and Bernstein at the Jewish General Hospital.

Preamble

Currently, otolaryngology residents are not eligible to write the certification exams for the American Board of Otolaryngology. As a direct consequence, American fellowships are largely unavailable to Canadian otolaryngology graduates wishing to pursue additional training. This situation has generated a demand, and need, to provide Canadian fellowships. At the present time, to the best of my knowledge, there is no fellowship dedicated to facial cutaneous malignancy with reconstruction of facial defects available in Canada. McGill is uniquely positioned to offer such a fellowship. Only one fellowship position is requested. The volume of cutaneous malignancies seen by both otolaryngologists as well as dermatologists has increased dramatically in the last several years, and this trend is expected to continue. The vast majority of these consist of basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas, and malignant melanomas. Large numbers of these are either referred or seen directly by otolaryngologists for definitive treatment. A large number of early and advanced malignancies are seen by both Drs. Mlynarek and Kost. In addition, a large number of patients who have been treated for such malignancies are referred to the our department for reconstruction of the ensuing defect. The patient volumes are significant and increasing annually. This fellowship is meant to be multifaceted and comprehensive, to include training in dermatological techniques of diagnosis and treatment including Moh's chemo-surgery, as well as otolaryngology aspects of treatment and reconstruction of the ensuing defects.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants must have an MD degree and be either a resident in an accredited otolaryngology training program in Canada or a certified otolaryngologist in practice in Canada wishing to undergo advanced training in this specific area.

Funding

For information about acceptable sources of funding please visit the link at http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/postgrad/admission_fellowships.htm

Terms

The fellowship will last one year and consist of clinical, teaching and research responsibilities. The division of activities will be roughly 80% clinical and 20% research.

Mission

The mission of the fellowship is to provide comprehensive training in the diagnosis and management of cutaneous conditions of the Head & Neck with particular emphasis on pre-malignant and malignant conditions.

Goals and Objectives

1. Clinical and research conferences as well as journal clubs are, and will continue to be conducted regularly in the area of facial cutaneous malignancies and reconstruction of facial defects. The fellow will participate in the planning and conducting of these conferences.
2. The fellow will have supervised opportunities to develop skills in providing consultation and communicating with colleagues and referring physicians. The fellow is expected to teach medical students, residents and other healthcare professionals. Teaching will occur at the bedside, in the clinic as well as in the operating room and out-patient operating room suites. Furthermore, the fellow will provide both interactive and didactic lectures pertaining to cutaneous malignancies and reconstruction of facial defects to the otolaryngology residents and Master's students. Teaching to dermatology residents will also be available as requested.
3. The fellow will interact with related disciplines (dermatology, radiation oncology, medical oncology, speech language pathology, occupational therapy, the pain service and nutritional services) and engage in educational activities to further his/her role as an educator and communicator in the subspecialty of head and neck cutaneous malignancies and reconstruction. There are ample such opportunities at the McGill institutions with the multidisciplinary head and neck oncology clinic as well as the dermatology and melanoma clinics.

Clinical

- a) The fellowship will provide structured clinical opportunities for the fellow to develop advanced diagnostic skills in facial cutaneous malignancies as well as advanced therapeutic and surgical skills in the reconstruction of the post surgical defects. In addition, the fellow will acquire specific skills in particular areas such as Moh's chemo-surgery and will be acquainted with the adjuvant treatment modalities such as radiotherapy and chemotherapy.
- b) A sufficient number and variety of cases will be available for the fellow to assure adequate exposure to the broad range pre-malignant and malignant of facial cutaneous conditions as well as the management of these conditions including the advanced surgical skills necessary for reconstruction. This exposure will not in any way compromise the experience of otolaryngology or dermatology residents.
- c) At the end of the fellowship, the fellow is expected to have had a cumulative experience diagnosing and managing at least 300 – 400 cases of pre-malignant or malignant cutaneous conditions of the head and neck area.
- d) Lines of responsibility will be clearly delineated for trainees and other residents as related to areas of training and clinical duties.

Research

- a) An active research component will enhance and compliment the educational experience. Although emphasis will be placed on the clinical experience, a supervised research experience is expected. The volume of cases available provides ample opportunities for both clinical and basic research.

Fundamental Components of the Fellowship

- a. The fellow must participate in the evaluation, management, and care of a minimum of 300 – 400 cases of pre-malignant/malignant facial cutaneous conditions as well as the surgical reconstruction of post surgical defects.
- b. Participation in 80 – 100 surgical procedures, ranging from curettage, Moh's chemosurgery, local excision and closure, reconstruction of small defects with local skin flaps, reconstruction of larger defects with local regional flaps, and finally reconstruction of very large defects with free flaps. All of these will be learned in the context of preserving function and esthetics. These procedures will be performed either in the out-patient surgical suites or in the operating room as necessary.
- c. Intensive exposure to the interdisciplinary management of patients with pre-malignant/malignant facial cutaneous conditions. This interdisciplinary management involves clinical work with the dermatologists, pathologists, radiation-oncologists, oncologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, nutritionists, and the pain service.
- d. Participation in the development and implementation of a clinical and /or basic science research project relating to the diagnosis and/or management of facial cutaneous malignancies.
- e. The above objectives will be attained in the context of the seven CanMeds roles: medical expert, communicator, collaborator, manager, health advocate, scholar, professional.

Fellowship Clinical Curriculum

The fellowship will provide clinical and/or didactic exposure to:

- a. The full range of examination techniques available for the assessment of pre-malignance/malignant facial for the assessment of facial cutaneous malignancies. This includes the use of magnifying lenses and special light.
- b. Full exposure to pre-malignant facial cutaneous lesions, malignant facial cutaneous lesions, and metastatic facial cutaneous.
- c. Extensive exposure to actinic keratosis, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and malignant melanoma.
- d. Exposure to the full range of therapeutic options.
- e. Exposure to therapeutic creams and ointment for pre-malignant lesions.
- f. Exposure to curettage techniques.
- g. Exposure to Moh's chemosurgery as well as the interpretation of the pathology.
- h. Exposure to the pathology of pre-malignant and malignant facial cutaneous lesions to provide expertise in the recognition of these lesions?
- i. Exposure to the full range of biopsy techniques.
- j. Exposure to the full range of local excision and closure techniques.
- k. Exposure to the full gamut of reconstructive options with local skin flaps, such as node flaps, bilobed flaps, rhomboid flaps, closure with Z-plasty or geographic broken line, as well as local advancement flaps.
- l. Exposure to reconstruction with local regional flaps, such as nasolabial flaps, forehead flaps and a variety of advancement flaps.
- m. Reconstruction of a special lip defects with a variety of flaps such as Abbe-Estlander and Karpajian flaps.
- n. Exposure to reconstruction of extensive facial defects with free flaps as well as structural bone and cartilaginous implants.
- o. Exposure to adjuvant chemotherapy and radiotherapy techniques.
- p. Exposure to relevant generic testing.

Evaluation of the fellow and of the staff

The fellow will be evaluated formally (i.e. written) after each 8 week period (2 blocks). Evaluations will be based on the current CanMeds roles and modified as appropriate to the diagnosis and management of facial cutaneous malignancies and post surgical defects. The fellow will be evaluated primarily on clinical, teaching and research activities as set out in the fellowship curriculum. Evaluations will be performed online and reviewed with the fellow.

The fellow will evaluate the staff and fellowship experience twice yearly anonymously online. Due to the large volume of skin malignancies cases seen in our department the fellow clinical volume will not affect the resident's exposure to these kind of surgery. This will be monitored by the fellowship committee and will be reported yearly to the resident program committee for approval

Summary

The McGill University Health Center as well as the Jewish General Hospital and affiliated local outside clinics will provide a large and varied clinical volume for the fellow. The rapidly increasing numbers of facial cutaneous malignancies is such that a comprehensive fellowship in this area is both needed and in demand in Canada. This fellowship will not in any way compromise resident training and experience. On the contrary, it is expected to enhance resident training through additional clinical and didactic teaching.