

## **The DECIDE-CV™ Cardiorenal Fellowship**

- Name of Institution:** McGill University Health Centre
- Fellowship Name:** The DECIDE-CV™ Research Fellowship in Cardiorenal Medicine
- Fellowship Director:** Dr. Thomas Mavrakanas
- Type of Fellowship:** Research (75% research; 25% clinical)
- Number of positions:** 2 trainees
- Length:** 2 years
- Hospital sites:** Montreal General Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital (Glen site). The percentage of time spent by the fellow in each site will depend on the research project and the supervisor.
- Mission:** **To train the next generation of academic leaders in cardiorenal medicine.**  
At the end of this training, the fellow:
- 1) will have acquired the necessary clinical skills to effectively diagnose and treat patients with complex clinical presentations, including advanced chronic kidney disease, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes mellitus
  - 2) will have mastered clinical research methodology skills and the necessary statistical techniques
  - 3) will be able to independently conduct clinical research in cardiorenal medicine
  - 4) will be familiar with grant applications and regulatory authority approval processes.
- Teaching faculty:** Thomas Mavrakanas, Abhinav Sharma, Michael Tsoukas, Nadia Giannetti, Rita Suri, Jean-Francois Yale, Elie Akl

### **Academic responsibilities:**

At least 75% of the trainee's time (7-8 half-days per week averaged over the year) will be dedicated to academic activities.

Fellows will be expected to undertake or collaborate or support research studies under the mentorship of a research supervisor.

Fellow's participation includes planning, coordinating, and implementing one or more projects. In addition, the fellow will participate in trial data analysis and will become familiar with advanced data processing techniques and statistical tools.

The fellow will present results at local or international meetings and prepare final, peer-reviewed manuscripts for publications. The fellow will also participate to International Nephrology and Cardiology meetings, such as the American Society of Nephrology Kidney Week, the ERA-EDTA Congress, or the AHA and ACC Scientific Sessions.

The fellow is expected to prepare at least one manuscript, suitable for publication, for each year of fellowship training. The fellow will also present his/her work at the MUHC Nephrology Conference and Cardiovascular Grand Rounds once per year.

Reading material and reference books will be provided by the teaching faculty. Formal teaching sessions with faculty members will be scheduled monthly. In addition, the fellow will attend selected academic half days of the nephrology division and MUHC Heart Failure education series of the cardiology division. The fellow will also be encouraged to enroll in a M.Sc. or Ph.D. program within the Experimental Medicine Division.

The fellow will also be encouraged to apply to competitive grant programs for project grants and/or for salary support.

### **Clinical Responsibilities:**

The program includes a clinical commitment of two half days per week. This includes the heart failure clinic (Glen site, Dr. Giannetti, once per week), the DECIDE-CV™ clinic (joint cardio-metabolic clinic at the Glen site with Drs. Sharma-cardiologist, Tsoukas-endocrinologist, and Mavrakanas-nephrologist, twice per month), and the advanced CKD clinic (cardio-renal patients without diabetes are triaged to this clinic at the Montreal General Hospital, Dr. Mavrakanas, twice per month).

In addition, the fellow may choose to participate to another specialized outpatient clinic relevant to his/her research interests. Participation to outpatient clinics may not exceed 2.5 half days per week (averaged over the year).

In addition to the outpatient clinics mentioned above, the fellow will be required to participate in the DECIDE program on call service (10 calls per month including one weekend) offering expert advice for complex patients with cardiorenal disorders.

During her/his clinical activities, the fellow may be the supervisor of rotating residents. The fellow is expected to have the competencies of junior staff but will always be supervised by MUHC staff, as required.

### **Curriculum-supervision:**

The fellow's case load may vary from one clinic to the other, but the fellow is expected to assess and evaluate an average of five to six patients per clinic.

The fellow is expected to obtain a balanced exposure to patients with chronic kidney disease, heart failure, and diabetes mellitus.

In the DECIDE-CV™ clinic, the fellow will be supervised by Drs. Sharma, Tsoukas, and Mavrakanas. In this clinic, simultaneous management of cardiac, renal, and metabolic problems is sought. All patients in this clinic also have diabetes mellitus and their treatment is being optimized with a specific focus on novel agents with proven cardiovascular and renal benefit.

In the CKD clinic, the fellow will be supervised by Drs. Mavrakanas and Suri. In this clinic, the fellow will become familiar with the treatment of patients with chronic kidney disease, including volume management, anemia management, phosphate-calcium balance, and electrolyte abnormalities. Strategies to delay CKD progression will also be discussed on a case per case basis.

In the heart failure clinic, the fellow will be supervised by Drs. Sharma and Giannetti. The fellow will take charge of the patients with advanced heart failure and ensure for them an adequate treatment plan.

Fellows will participate in all educational activities, including the weekly nephrology journal club (Wednesday at 12:30), Research Seminars of the DECIDE program (once per month), the DECIDE program journal club (quarterly), weekly Cardiovascular Grand Rounds (Thursday at 12:00) and Nephrology conferences (Friday at 12:00).

**Academic facilities:**

The fellow will be provided office space and will be able to collaborate with the division's research assistants. Access to scientific literature will be provided through the McGill library. The fellow will also have a software license for Stata during the training period. Statistical support will be provided by the faculty members, the supervisor, and/or the RI-MUHC Biostatistics Consulting Unit, as needed.

**Requirements:**

- At least three years of training in Internal Medicine and Board Certification in Internal Medicine in Canada or abroad
- Additional training or certification in Nephrology, Cardiology, or General Internal Medicine in Canada or abroad is recommended but not formally required

**Evaluations:**

The following evaluation structure is proposed:

- Formal meeting with supervisor every month to discuss progress and identify specific needs of the fellow
- Formal review of the research project by the supervisor and the fellowship director every 3 months
- A written final assessment will be submitted to the Program Director at the completion of the fellowship.

The fellow will complete a formal evaluation of the teaching faculty every three months.

Forms in one45 will be used for all evaluations.

**Funding:**

Candidates must secure funding in order to apply for this Fellowship. For internal funding opportunities that are available, please contact the fellowship director ([thomas.mavrakanas@mcgill.ca](mailto:thomas.mavrakanas@mcgill.ca)).