

Department of Pediatrics Fellowship Application Form

Type of fellowship: *Gender Variance (approx. 80% clinical, 20% research)*

Fellowship Director: *Shuvo Ghosh, MD; Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics*

Program Director(s): *Robert Sternszus, MDCM and Olivia Tse, MDCM, Pediatric Residency Training Program Directors, Department of Pediatrics, McGill University*

Duration of fellowship: *2 years*

Fellowship Information:

- Number of fellowship positions requested: 1 annually
- Name of institutions involved in training: Montreal Children's Hospital – McGill University Health Centre & Meraki Health Centre (hospital-based and community-based clinical exposures for the Gender Variance Program, respectively); McGill University Sexual Identity Clinic- MUSIC (Montreal General Hospital); McGill Student Health Clinic (Department of Family Medicine); Head and Hands Clinic NDG (community-based population health exposure)
 - % time spent by the fellow in each institution – to be determined, but with >80% time dedicated to the Gender Variance Program proper
- Description of Fellowship: This fellowship will focus on topics related to gender variance. The topic of gender identity and gender expression in childhood is an increasingly important one in pediatrics and in several pediatric subspecialties (Developmental-Behavioural Pediatrics, Child Psychiatry, Adolescent Medicine, Endocrinology, Plastic Surgery, General Pediatrics). Understanding typical and atypical (variant) patterns of development of gender identity is essential to adequate health management of cisgender and transgender children and their families, as well as intersex children and their families. During this clinical fellowship, the fellow will spend time predominantly in clinical activities (80% or more) with research involvement in either an ongoing or self-developed project highly encouraged to allow for academic and inter-professional information exchange throughout the 2 year training period.
- Mission statement for fellowship: This fellowship aims to enable physicians, primarily those with training in General Pediatrics or an applicable subspecialty (e.g., Developmental-Behavioural Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, Endocrinology), to achieve an enhanced level of expertise in managing gender variance, providing counseling and care to gender variant youth and their families, and improving access for trans and intersex health in the pediatric population. Any research activities will be paired with clinical exposures in order to enhance the skills necessary to pursue research as an independent investigator, co-investigator or collaborator in this field.
- Sources of funding for fellowship: Funding can be granted by external support (institutional funding from outside sources must meet the criteria for a McGill Fellowship) or bursary obtained in accordance with McGill training programs. For acceptable sources of funding, please find further information using this link: <http://www.mcgill.ca/pgme/programs/fellowship-programs>

Names of Teaching Faculty:

1. Dr. Shuvo Ghosh (Child Development Program) will assume the role as Director and primary supervisor of the fellows in this particular program. Dr. Ghosh has subspecialty board certification in Developmental-Behavioural Pediatrics. As head of the Pediatric Gender Variance Program (via the Meraki Health Centre) and the clinician involved in Pediatric Gender Variance (at the Montreal Children's Hospital), as well as co-investigator and collaborator on numerous ongoing research projects in the field of gender identity, gender expression, gender variance, intersex conditions, and related development, he will direct the trainee in terms of goals and preparation for independent functioning post-fellowship.
2. Dr. Annie Sbrocchi (Complex Care, Pediatric Endocrinology) will serve as a clinical supervisor for pharmacologic interventions in trans youth.
3. Dr. David Martens (Adolescent Medicine) will serve as a clinical supervisor for management of teens with gender dysphoria and/or gender variant behaviour.
4. Dr. Suzanne MacDonald (Adolescent Medicine) will serve as a clinical supervisor for management of eating disorders/feeding issues in teens experiencing gender dysphoria or difficulties in comfortably expressing their gender during adolescent years.
5. Dr. Richard Montoro & Dr. Karine Igartua (Psychiatry) will serve to expose the fellow to psychosocial interventions for co-existing mental health conditions in youth with gender dysphoria.
6. Dr. Pierre-Paul Tellier (Family Medicine) will serve as a clinical supervisor for general health maintenance in youth with various types of gender presentation (non-binary identities, transgender youth, gender variance across the LGBTQI spectrum) via the Head and Hands Clinic in NDG where he is the Medical Director and longstanding consultant for trans care.
7. Dr. Daphné Cloutier (Pediatric Endocrinology) will serve as a mentor for innovative approaches to hormone therapy and hormonal blockade in the peri-pubertal age range, for best outcomes in youth experiencing either gender dysphoria or questioning their gender identity prior to full onset of puberty.
8. Dr. Hashana Perera (Family Medicine) will supervise the fellow in the context of McGill Student Health so that there is adequate exposure to older adolescents including those in a university setting, who may be pursuing gender transition or a non-traditional role in society based on their gender variance.
9. Dr. Françoise Susset (Psychology) will didactically supervise the fellow in psychosocial aspects of trans health, including management of family/parent questions and stressors at the time of assessment for pre-pubertal children.
10. Dr. Elana August (Psychology) will provide exposures to the fellow in therapeutic principles to manage anxiety, depression, and mood difficulties for gender variant youth.
11. Dr. Andreea Gorgos (Pediatrics) will supervise the fellow in management of health maintenance of younger children presenting with gender variance.

12. Dr. Andrew Bui-Nguyen (Family Medicine, Vulnerable LGBTQI populations) will supervise the fellow in terms of appropriate clinical knowledge and care in marginalised populations having gender variance (management of STIs, screening/cultures, interpretation of laboratory results, treatment, guidance for minority sexual health care).

The clinical activities of this fellowship will be pursued in the out-patient clinics of the Division of Pediatrics at the Montreal Children's Hospital and the Brain Development Behaviour clinically-integrated network. In addition, there will be significant participation in the outpatient clinics of the Gender Variance Program at the Meraki Health Centre, as well as the sites listed above for ongoing exposures. Research efforts will be undertaken within the research dedicated space allotted to trainee investigators within or associated with the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University. The fellow will have full access to computer facilities with internet capabilities at all sites of training. The fellow will also have full access to the library resources of the Montreal Children's Hospital and McGill University.

Fellow Duties and Responsibilities

1. There will be no service coverage.
2. The fellow will not be directly responsible for supervising residents but will have the opportunity to work with residents in (but not limited to): General Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Medical Genetics, Family Medicine, Neurology, and Pediatric subspecialties.
3. There will be considerable flexibility in the fellowship in terms of research opportunities (project(s) to be determined in year one of the training).
4. As above, the fellow will be assigned to relevant clinical experiences will be responsible for assessing patients and their families and providing a treatment plan and ensuring continuity of care.
5. There will be no specific teaching responsibilities towards residents; however the fellow will be invited to participate in the academic activities of the Division which may involve some rounds and seminar presentations.
6. There will be access to the research resources of the investigators through which the research component of the fellowship is assigned.
7. The fellow will be expected to attend relevant national/international academic meetings of organisations such as: the Canadian Professionals Association for Trans Health (CPATH), the World Professionals Association for Trans Health (WPATH), the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS), the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS), etc
8. Research productivity/publications: As the fellow will be involved in research efforts, there will be an expected productivity with respect to any research undertaken. This will include abstract publication and presentation at relevant national/international meetings, as well as publication of a manuscript if feasible.

Curriculum

1. The fellow will be expected to attend 6 half-day ambulatory care clinics per week throughout the course of the 2 year fellowship (the fellow's schedule will be divided per block in order to facilitate synchronisation with rotations of other trainees and clinic scheduling), with attendant follow-up case conferences, clinical discussions, and psychosocial meetings with interdisciplinary team members. The fellow will have ongoing continuity of care responsibility for these patients under the supervision of the attending physician. Longitudinal participation in the Gender Variance Program will be the primary responsibility of the fellow, with additional attendance and participation in other out-patient settings as agreed upon for the curriculum guidelines.
2. The fellow will be expected to be familiar with the relevant chapters on gender variance, gender dysphoria, gender identity, and transgender care as well as intersex conditions in the standard texts of child health. In addition, the fellow will be expected to keep up with the relevant literature in the field.
3. The fellow will be expected to be available to attend ongoing teaching within the Department of Pediatrics, the Division of General Pediatrics, and Child Development teaching whenever appropriate/applicable and relevant. The fellow will also have the opportunity to attend relevant Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds as well as academic half-days.
4. Aside from potentially attending the above sessions, it is expected that the fellow will organize at least one or two round presentations per year for the Gender Variance Program.

Evaluation

1. The fellow will be evaluated by clinical performance, participation in rounds and success in the research project undertaken.
2. Formal face-to-face evaluations will be carried out every 6 months. In addition, summative evaluation will be completed via the One45 system every 12 weeks as required by McGill University Fellowship guidelines. Monthly interim evaluations to determine achievement of the parameters of adequate knowledge and skills acquisition will also be completed using mid-term performance discussions.
3. There will be objective formal written evaluations of performance using a variation of the One45 ITER used for Child Development (a modified version for the purposes of Gender Variance expertise will be utilised). Fellowship-specific criteria and competencies will be assessed using this tool.