

## **Description of Program:**

The goal of the Geriatric Psychiatry residency program is to provide and ensure high-quality training in Geriatric Psychiatry for senior psychiatry residents (PGY-5) and qualified psychiatrists (PGY-6). This training will prepare residents for certification and practice as independent consultants in Geriatric Psychiatry. The residents will advance in the level of their fulfillment of all CanMEDS roles, in order that they be able to provide excellent and comprehensive direct psychiatric care for the most complex geriatric patients and their families, as well as support, education, and consultation for their psychiatric, medical, allied health, and community colleagues. They will attain, and be prepared to maintain and perfect, a sophisticated and profound understanding of diagnostic and therapeutic issues pertaining to geriatric psychiatry, grounded in a nuanced approach to issues of gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, culture, ethnicity, and ethics. They will be prepared to advance knowledge and improve service delivery in this field, while upholding a high standard of professionalism.

Residents in the Geriatric Psychiatry program will attain advanced level knowledge of normal and abnormal aspects of aging, systems of care and resources available for the elderly, psychotherapeutic constructs, psychopharmacology and somatic therapies, mental health legislation and regulations, principles of capacity and consent, caregiver issues, elder abuse, end-of life issues, anxiety disorders, behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia, dementia and its common subtypes, delirium, mood disorders, primary and secondary movement disorders, psychiatric disorders secondary to medical conditions, psychiatric complications of medical and neurological illnesses, and schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. They will attain proficiency level knowledge of adjustment disorders, alcohol and other substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, personality disorders, sleep disorders, and somatoform disorders.

A formal academic curriculum provided during the PGY-6 year will support the attainment of the knowledge expected of a geriatric psychiatrist.

The Program is designed to meet the Royal College Specialty Training Requirements (STR), and will work with each individual resident to plan training that is tailored within those requirements to further his or her career goals.

The STR mandates a minimum 24 month\* training period, of which 18-21 months are clinical. This must include:

- At least 12 months of core clinical geriatric psychiatry, 6 months of which must be completed in the PGY-6 year. The core clinical rotations include at least two months each of inpatient, outpatient, and outreach/long-term care geriatric psychiatry.

- At least 3 months of medical electives.
- Up to 3 months of geriatric psychiatry electives.
- 3-6 months of advanced training in education, research, service development/administration, or other, depending on career planning.

\*12 months can be completed in PGY-4 and PGY-5 years; note that the PGY-6 year must include a minimum of 6 months of core clinical geriatric psychiatry rotations.

Note that only RCPSC-certified Psychiatrists are eligible for RCPSC certification in Geriatric Psychiatry. Self-funded training is not permitted for Royal College Subspecialty training programs. The number of available funded positions in the training program is determined by the Minister of Health of Quebec on an annual basis.

### **Application Information:**

Interested psychiatry residents are encouraged to contact the program director during their PGY-3 year in psychiatry, as the optimal timing for application to this program is early in the PGY-4 year. Please see the PGME Admissions website for detailed requirements and application deadlines.

The required documents include:

1. A personal statement (relevant background, motivation and career goals should be highlighted) to be uploaded in Minerva.
2. An updated CV to be uploaded in Minerva
3. Three reference letters, ideally from Geriatric Psychiatrists (need not be certified Geriatric Psychiatrists, to be sent directly by email from the referees to the PGME Office, [pgadm.med@mcgill.ca](mailto:pgadm.med@mcgill.ca))

### **Contacts for the Program:**

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