

# FELLOWSHIP IN GASTROINTESTINAL AND LIVER PATHOLOGY

**NAME OF INSTITUTION:** McGill University and McGill University Health Centre.

**LOCATION:** Department of Pathology, McGill University Health Centre.

**TYPE OF FELLOWSHIP:** One-year clinical fellowship in gastrointestinal and liver pathology.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- **Number of fellowship position requested:** One.
- **Academic Affiliation:** McGill University, Department of Pathology.
- **Name of hospitals involved in training:** Montreal General Hospital and Royal Victoria Hospital / Duff Medical Sciences Building.
- **Background:** The Department of Pathology at the McGill University Health Centre is known for its excellence in diagnostic pathology and its commitment to teaching and other academic activities.
  
- **Clinical service:** The clinical service responsibilities focus on diagnostic review of anatomic pathology material of the entire gastrointestinal tract, in addition to the hepatobiliary system and pancreas. Biopsies, surgical resections, and consult material of both non-neoplastic and neoplastic disorders are covered. There is also significant exposure to transplant pathology, particularly liver transplant.
  
- **Research activity and publications:** Many research opportunities are available within the department and conjointly with other departments. The fellow will be expected to participate in at least one on-going or new research project with a view to publication.
  
- **Mission and objectives:** The general mission of the fellowship is to promote the development of the fellow into an independent academic gastrointestinal (GI)/ liver pathologist. At the end of this fellowship year, the trainee will have gained the knowledge base, will have perfected the technical skills, and will have developed the professional attitudes and expertise required to be a consultant in the field of gastrointestinal and liver pathology. This training will promote aptitudes, competence and leadership in the operation of a busy gastrointestinal and liver pathology service, as well as in research, teaching and other academic activities. The objectives are detailed as follows according to the CanMEDS framework of competencies:
  1. **Medical expert:** a) Acquisition of basic and clinical scientific knowledge pertinent to the pathogenesis, clinical manifestations and pathologic features of benign and malignant diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, hepatobiliary system and pancreas. b) Strengthening of diagnostic skills in gastrointestinal and liver pathology through the practice of interpreting histological findings with the consideration of the clinical presentation and with the full awareness of the potential clinical impacts of the different diagnoses. c) Consolidation of

- knowledge of ancillary techniques available for the accurate assessment and diagnoses of diseases in the field of gastrointestinal and liver pathology, such as, special histological stains, immunohistochemistry and molecular techniques. d) Acquisition of basic knowledge of the clinical procedures related to gastrointestinal and liver pathology, such as major resection procedures, endoscopic biopsies and needle core biopsies. e) Obtaining knowledge of the Material Safety Data Sheets and awareness of other management issues related to laboratory safety.
2. **Communicator:** a) Ability to communicate effectively with the treating physicians regarding the interpretation of the pathologic diagnoses, including at Tumour Boards. b) Demonstration of the skills to interact professionally with pathologists, colleagues and the laboratory personnel to ensure the optimal operation of the service.
  3. **Collaborator:** a) Readiness to function effectively as a consultant to provide optimal assistance in difficult or challenging cases encountered in general surgical pathology practice. b) Development of teaching skills for the junior residents and medical students. c) Willingness to introduce new advancements in disease classification to the treating physicians; willingness to cooperate with other pathologist or clinician colleagues to conduct research in the field of gastrointestinal and liver pathology.
  4. **Manager:** a) Ability to function in an organized and orderly fashion. b) Cost effective use of the ancillary techniques in making pathologic diagnoses. c) Ability to supervise the pathologist assistants in processing the gastrointestinal and liver specimens. d) Acquisition of skills in managing a histology lab in fields related to gastrointestinal and liver specimens. e) Developing expertise in quality assurance and quality control in gastrointestinal and liver pathology.
  5. **Health advocate:** a) Willingness to give the treating physicians feedback regarding treatment effects and to provide them with the information related to better treatment of the patients, such as new classification system of a certain disease. b) Willingness to participate in awareness campaigns and public forums to promote health and to reduce the incidence of preventable gastrointestinal and liver diseases.
  6. **Scholar:** a) Motivation to become familiar with the current literature relevant to the field of gastrointestinal and liver pathology. b) Enthusiasm to contribute to the advancement of the science of gastrointestinal and liver pathology through active involvement in research activities. c) Active participation in academic societies and conferences.
  7. **Professional:** a) Awareness of the ethical and medico-legal aspects of the practice of gastrointestinal and liver pathology. b) Demonstration of professionalism by being punctual, reliable and responsible and showing due respect to colleagues.

- **How intended fellowship will enhance residency training:** The fellow will participate in the teaching of residents, particularly those doing a rotation in gastrointestinal and liver pathology. The fellow's role will be active tutoring of the residents and ensuring that residents acquire the basic notions of normal histology and features of gastrointestinal and liver-related disorders. The fellow will also supervise residents performing grossing of gastrointestinal and liver specimens and serve as a resource person for the residents, providing help as needed.

**NAME OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** Dr. Victoria Marcus

**NAMES OF THE TEACHING FACULTY:**

Dr Victoria Marcus, Montreal General Hospital

Dr R.P. Michel, Royal Victoria Hospital

- **Roles:** The above staff pathologists will participate in the clinical training and will provide opportunities for academic development. Other pathologists in the department may be involved in the training as well.
- **Major Strengths:** The pathologists involved in the gastrointestinal and liver fellowship training are all very experienced diagnosticians and teachers. They have either had fellowships or have extensive experience in the diagnosis and handling of these specimens. The material available for review is varied and covers the entire spectrum of non-neoplastic and neoplastic gastrointestinal and liver disorders. There are opportunities for teaching and research in gastrointestinal pathology.

**ACADEMIC FACILITIES:**

The Department of Pathology at the Montreal General Hospital and Royal Victoria Hospital are well equipped to facilitate the teaching of residents/fellows. The histology laboratory is located at the Montreal General hospital and the immunohistochemistry and molecular pathology laboratories at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Appropriate facilities for grossing of surgical specimens are available at both hospitals. Each site has a residents' room located within the Department with a capacity to accommodate residents/fellows simultaneously rotating at the same site. Each desk is equipped with a microscope. One microscope equipped with a digital camera is available in each residents' room and an adequate number of computers are to be shared by the trainees. The computers have access to the McGill University Health Centre intranet as well as to the internet. They have access to the online McGill library catalogue. Essential textbooks and reference books are also available in each residents' room. A multihead microscope and a conference room are available for teaching and inter-departmental conferences with the clinicians. In addition, there is access to teaching slide collections. Secretarial assistance and a digital slide scanner are also available to the trainees.

## **FELLOW DUTIES AND RESPONSABILITIES:**

### **1. Mandatory activities**

The fellow will be responsible for interpreting the gross and microscopic features of gastrointestinal and liver pathology cases and for writing provisional diagnostic reports. For challenging cases, the fellow is expected to conduct literature searches and organize further investigation. The cases will be reviewed by the supervising staff before they are finalized. The fellow is expected to discuss the interesting cases and the relevant literature with the staff at the time of sign-out.

The fellow will be responsible for preparing and presenting cases at gastrointestinal tumor board conferences and liver rounds, after discussion with the appropriate staff. The fellow is expected to present the pathologic findings and discuss the case with the treating physicians at such rounds.

Regarding teaching duties, the fellow will be responsible for supervising residents performing the grossing of GI / liver surgical specimens as well as teaching residents during their GI / liver pathology rotations. The fellow is expected to give presentations periodically at the MUHC Surgical Pathology Rounds / Journal Club. The fellow is also expected to teach medical students rotating in the department.

The fellow is expected to participate in departmental research as previously stated above.

### **2. Recommended activities**

Attendance or participation at the Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology and Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pathologists is recommended. Attendance by the fellow at the following rounds is also encouraged.

- Autopsy rounds, weekly
- Surgical pathology rounds, weekly
- Resident half-day teaching sessions, weekly
- Gastrointestinal tumor board conferences and liver rounds (as per the schedule distributed by the appropriate staff)

## **CURRICULUM:**

- **Intended case load:** In general, the fellow will spend the equivalent of four of five days per week on the clinical diagnostic service. The equivalent of a fifth day will be reserved for working on research projects and teaching.
- **Regular reading materials provided:** The fellow will have access to books, as well as be required to carry out regular literature searches.
- **Conference weekly schedules:** See above objectives.

## **EVALUATIONS:**

- The fellow will be evaluated as per McGill guidelines. Acquisition and development of CanMEDS competencies will be assessed and reported on evaluation forms similar to those used for the residents in the training program. Evaluations will also be presented at the Residency Program Committee.
- The fellowship program will be evaluated by the trainee using a form similar to the one used by the residents to evaluate the residency program.