

Heart Function and Heart Transplant

Program Information

- **Fellowship Director:** Dr. Nadia Giannetti
- **Number of fellowship positions requested:** 1
- **Academic affiliation:** McGill University
- **Name of hospitals involved in training and % of time spent in each institution:**
Royal Victoria Hospital 90%.
Montreal General Hospital 10%

Background:

The Heart Function and Transplant Center was created in the year 2000. It is based at the Royal Victoria Hospital site of the McGill University Health Center. It is home to the MUHC Heart Failure Program which offers a complete multi-disciplinary integration of all medical and surgical therapies available to the patient afflicted with heart failure.

Within this highly developed platform, patients have access to conventional and protocolbased medical therapies, conventional and alternative surgical therapies, Ventricular Assist Device therapy, and heart, heart-lung, heart-kidney, and heart-liver transplantation.

The Center takes referrals of patients from other academic and community heart failure clinics.

The physicians working in the Heart Function Center follow patients on an outpatient and inpatient basis. We offer our patients a multi-disciplinary team approach: physicians and specialized nurses offer state-of-the-art comprehensive care to patients with heart failure, as well as patients requiring heart or multi-organ transplantation or mechanical circulatory support. Along with the help of dieticians, social workers, psychiatrists, and other specialists, patients and their families receive optimum care, education and support to help cope with their illness. Our Heart Function Center acts as a day-hospital during working hours for drop-in visits and administration of intravenous diuretic therapy.

Moreover, heart failure physicians and nurses take 24-hour call and are available at all times to assist our patients in order to minimize emergency visits and hospitalizations. We follow over 1000 patients with Heart Failure, Heart Transplant or Ventricular Assist Device and this number continues to grow. We transplant approximately 10 patients per year, whether it be single heart transplants or combined organ transplants, such as heart liver, heart-kidney or heart-lung transplants.

Research activity:

The MUHC Heart Failure Program maintains an active research program. We participate in many large international, multi-institute clinical trials investigating the role of novel medical and surgical heart failure therapies. We are proud to offer our patients the possibility of enrolling in clinical trials

investigating the role of new, cutting-edge therapies for heart failure. Furthermore, we conduct original protocols within our own institution, in collaboration with the Departments of Epidemiology and Cardiac Surgery.

Many medical students, internal medicine residents and cardiology fellows have completed clinical projects under our supervision, which have been presented at national and international meetings and published in peer-reviewed journal.

This is a list of the most recent publications from our MUHC Heart Failure Program going back to 2005:

Balashov K, Feldman DE, Savard S, Houde S, Frenette M, Ducharme A, Giannetti N, Michel C, Pilote L. Percent predicted value for the 6-minute walk test: using normreferenced equations to characterize severity in persons with CHF. *J Card Fail.* 2008 Feb;14(1):75-81.

Arnold M, Howlett JG, Ducharme A, Ezekowitz JA, Gardner MJ, Giannetti N, Haddad H, Heckman GA, Isaac D, Jong P, Liu P, Mann E, McKelvie RS, Moe GW, Svendsen AM, Tsuyuki RT, O'Halloran K, Ross HJ, Sequeira EJ, White M. Canadian Cardiovascular Society Consensus Conference guidelines on heart failure - 2008 update: Best practices for the transition of care of heart failure patients, and the recognition, investigation and treatment of cardiomyopathies. *Can J Cardiol.* 2008 Jan;24(1):21-40.

Krassilnikova M, Deschenes M, Tchevenkov J, Giannetti N, Cecere R, Cantarovich M. Effectiveness of posttransplant prophylaxis with anti-hepatitis B virus immunoglobulin in recipients of heart transplant from hepatitis B virus core antibody positive donors. *Transplantation.* 2007 Jun 15;83(11):1523-4.

V Nguyen, A Ducharme, M White, N Racine, E O'Meara, B Zhang, JL Rouleau and J Brophy, Lack of Long-Term Benefits of a 6-Month Heart Failure Disease Management Program, *J Cardiac Fail* 2007;13:287e293