Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery Clinical and Clinical Research Fellowship Application Form

Type of Fellowship: Clinical and Research fellowship in neurology/neurosurgery: The Helene Pelletier Foundation Fellowship

Name of the Fellowship Supervisor: Dr Angela Genge, Dept. of Neurology and Neurosurgery

Fellowship Information:

- Number of fellowship positions requested: 3
- Duration of fellowship: 1 year
- Name of hospitals involved in training
  - Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital
- Description of Fellowship: This fellowship has been created on behalf of a patient with ALS whose professional career was in drug development. The fellowship is for individuals that have completed their residency training in neurology, neurosurgery or other appropriate specialty and focuses on clinical, and clinical research training with the development and execution of a clinical research project within their subspecialty interest.
- Research activity and publications related to fellowship
  - The supervisor’s expertise is in clinical trials in many areas of neuroscience. As director of the Montreal Neurological Institute (MNI), clinical Research Unit (CRU), the supervisor will oversee the training in clinical research including clinical trial design and execution in appropriate clinical populations. The fellow will be involved in both short and long term studies in their subspecialty and will be expected to start and finish a project of their own choosing within the fellowship period.
- Mission statement for fellowship
  - The purpose of this fellowship is to train physicians in the best practice of clinical research and clinical care to promote well designed clinical research projects including clinical trials. The first 12 months of the fellowship will involve training and participation in the conduct of clinical trials. During that time the fellow will be directly involved in ongoing clinical trials being conducted through the CRU in order to learn the proper conduct and execution of clinical trials with novel therapies in all phases of development. Helene Pelletier’s original desire was to train residents in the highly specialized care of patients with rare diseases such as ALS as well as to pursue careers in clinical research.
- Source of funding for fellowship
  - Funds for the fellowship are provided by direct donations from patients, foundations and industry as well as revenue generated through the clinical research unit of the Montreal Neurological Institute. Funds will be disbursed by the Montreal Neurological Institute.
Names of the Teaching Faculty

- The teaching faculty include Dr Angela Genge, director of the clinical research unit of the Montreal Neurological Institute, and other members of the department of neurology and neurosurgery, McGill University, as appropriate.
- The fellow is assigned to a number of projects appropriate to their educational background including their subspecialty training. The fellow is a contributing member of the clinical research unit team with coordination and other responsibilities appropriate to clinical care, clinical trial recruitment, clinical trial execution and with appropriate supervision from the teaching faculty. The fellow will be encouraged to take McGill courses to supplement their training in clinical research such as biomedical ethics, statistics and epidemiology. These courses are taught by McGill faculty.

Academic Facilities

- The fellow will have an examination room assigned to them for each clinic that they participate in. Office space and computer access as is provided in the clinical research unit of the Montreal Neurological Institute.
- Library access and materials relevant to fellowship training are available both online and at the Montreal Neurological Hospital Library.
- Multimedia learning materials are available at the Montreal Neurological Hospital Library.

Fellow Duties and Responsibilities

- The fellows are expected to follow patients seen in the chosen clinics at the Montreal Neurological Hospital.
- There are no direct inpatient service requirements.
- The fellows are expected to coordinate clinical trials in areas of neurology or neurosurgery to which they are assigned based upon their specialty and subspecialty training.
- Fellows are expected to attend teaching rounds and other multidisciplinary rounds at the Montreal Neurological Hospital, as appropriate. Additionally the fellow is expected to present results of the research projects chosen formally at the neurology teaching or Neurology Grand rounds of the MNI and attend clinics pertinent to the disease area where the trials assigned to them are conducted.
- The team of the clinical research unit of the MNI will be available to assist the fellow in the development and execution of the clinical research projects. The team will ensure that the fellow receives appropriate training in best practices for clinical trial execution and all necessary certification required to participate in the clinical trials active at the CRU.
- The fellow is expected to submit abstracts for potential acceptance at national and international annual meetings. At the end of the second year the fellow is expected to submit results of his/her individual project to a respected journal for publication.
The fellow is expected to develop and complete an individual research project in addition to coordinating and recruiting for ongoing CRU run clinical trials.

Curriculum

- As the fellowship is focused upon developing a knowledge of and expertise in clinical research the fellow will be encouraged to pursue courses at McGill University that are appropriate to their area of interest. Clinical workload will be adjusted to allow successful completion of required courses. Ideally this initiative will start in the second half of the fellowship but could be started in the first year of the fellowship. At the end of the fellowship the fellow will be expected to be competent in their clinical area of interest. The fellow will also be able to further pursue a career in clinical research.
- Evaluation will be provided to the fellow periodically at six month intervals. Both written and verbal evaluations will be provided. The expectations of the fellowship will be outlined at the beginning of the fellowship and as objectives are reached these will be clearly stated. Presentations at external conferences and research meetings will be considered part of the formal evaluation. In addition, papers in peer reviewed journals, grants and courses taken through the McGill University will constitute the written part of the evaluation process.