

Hepatology and Liver Transplantation Fellowship Program

McGill University Health Centre

Length: 1 year

Number of positions: 2

Type of fellowship: Clinical Research

Fellowship Director: Dr. Marc Deschenes

Candidates must secure funding in order to apply for this Fellowship.

Candidates must be fluent in English and be board certified in GI.

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1. Training Objectives

The 12 month fellowship program in hepatology and liver transplantation is designed to offer specialized training in all aspects of transplant and non-transplant hepatology with a view to preparing candidates for a career in Academic Hepatology.

The focus is clinical, but all candidates are expected to complete at least one research project during the course of their fellowship year. Furthermore, candidates will be expected to take on an increasing role in the education of peers with regards to the field of hepatology and liver transplantation, in preparation for a career in Academic medicine.

The following clinical components are included (all durations approximate and subject to change)

- a) Hepatology / Liver Transplant Consultation Service (4 periods)
- b) Hepatology Outpatient clinics (4 periods)
- c) Hepatobiliary neoplasia clinic (1 period)
- d) Elective (1 period)
- e) Liver Pathology (1 period)
- f) Liver Radiology (1 period)
- g) Research (1 periods)
- h) Vacation (4 weeks – flexible)
- i) Longitudinal clinic – transplant and general hepatology (2 half-days per week). During the course of the 12 month fellowship, candidates will attend at least one international liver meeting (generally AASLD).

2. Training Objectives

The advanced fellowship in Hepatology and Liver Transplantation is intended to provide training over and above that received in a core Gastroenterology fellowship, with the specific goal of preparing the candidate for the care of liver disease and liver transplant patients in a Tertiary (or above) care setting. The expectation is that the candidate will meet the requirements of the United Network for Organ Sharing, and those of the American Board of Internal Medicine. The candidate's training will allow them to be eligible for the Certificate of Added Qualification examinations in Transplant Hepatology. (Journal of Hepatology , Volume 44 , Issue 4 , Pages 655 – 657)

1. MEDICAL EXPERT/CLINICAL DECISION MAKER

The Hepatology trainee should demonstrate:

1.1 Diagnostic and therapeutic skills for effective care of patients with hepatobiliary disorders

1.2 Knowledge of:

- Physiology of the liver and biliary system.
- Detailed pathophysiology of the liver and biliary systems.
- Liver pathology, including histological interpretation and specific pathological techniques.
- Epidemiology and natural history of common and uncommon liver diseases and complications.

1.3 The following clinical skills:

- Participation in the peri-operative and post-operative care of at least **30** transplant recipients. The trainee should be involved in all aspects of the recipients' care **from the time of liver transplantation and should continue to follow them longitudinally** during his/her training.
- Performance of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, in particular, a minimum of **30** percutaneous liver biopsies and **20** abdominal paracenteses. The candidates should observe a minimum of three liver transplantations and three organ procurements.
- Diagnosis and management skills for effective care of patients with the following conditions of the liver and biliarytract:
 - i) Acute hepatitis: Viral, drug, toxic.
 - ii) Fulminant hepatic failure.
 - iii) Chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis.
 - iv) Complications of liver disease: ascites, hepatic encephalopathy. spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, hepatorenal syndrome.
 - v) Prevention and treatment of bleeding varices and gastropathy.
 - vi) Diagnosis and treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma.
 - vii) Diagnosis and management of tumours of the biliary system including cholangiocarcinoma
 - viii) Chronic liver diseases such as; alcohol, Wilson's disease, primary biliary cirrhosis, autoimmune hepatitis, hemochromatosis, • 1-antitrypsin deficiency.
 - ix) Gallstone disease, including the appropriate use of medical and surgical therapies.
 - x) Hepatobiliary disorders associated with pregnancy.
 - xi) Preoperative evaluation and postoperative management of patients with known disease of the liver or with evidence of hepatobiliary dysfunction.
 - xii) Pediatric and congenital hepatobiliary disorders.
 - xiii) Pre-, peri-, and post-operative care of the liver transplant recipient, including management of ensuing complications
 - xiv) Assessment and selection of individuals for liver transplantation
 - xv) Appropriate selection of individuals for partial liver resection
- Use and side effects of antiviral and immunosuppressive agents in the treatment of liver disease.
- Management of the nutritional problems associated with chronic liver disease.
- The ability to select the following diagnostic and therapeutic techniques based on indications, contraindications, limitations, interpretations and complications.
 - i) Percutaneous liver biopsies and cytological aspiration of the liver.
 - ii) Vascular radiologic procedures including hepatic angiography, and hepatic hemodynamic measurements.
 - iii) Nuclear medicine procedures including biliary scanning.
 - iv) Imaging procedures of the liver and biliary tract including ultrasound, MRI/MRA/MRCP and CT and PET scan.
 - v) Diagnostic and therapeutic upper gastrointestinal endoscopic procedures, including sclerotherapy and variceal banding.

- vi) ERCP, including papillotomy, biliary stent placement, and other interventional biliary modalities (e.g. specialized biliary dilation procedures).
- vii) Transvenous liver biopsy.
- viii) Laparoscopy and laproscopic cholecystectomy.

2. COMMUNICATOR

The Hepatology trainee should be able to:

- Recognize the need for patients and their families to understand the nature of their disease, goals and possible hepatobiliary investigations and treatment.
- Educate the patient in the relevant area of disease prevention, transmission, detection, progression, and therapy to promote liverhealth.
- Communicate and cooperate with allied health care personnel involved in the care of individual patients afflicted with hepatobiliary diseases.

3. COLLABORATOR

The Hepatology trainee should be able to:

- Identify the role and expertise of all members of interdisciplinary teams involved in the management of hepatobiliary disease and liver transplantation.
- Actively contribute to the plan of management proposed by the interdisciplinary team.

4.- MANAGER

The Hepatology trainee should be able to:

- Work effectively and efficiently in the daily care of hospitalized and ambulatory patients with liver disease.
- Utilize time and resources effectively to provide optimum care to patients.

5. HEALTH ADVOCATE

The Hepatology trainee should be able to:

- Identify important determinants of health in liver diseases that affect patients. These include socio-economic status, education, social support systems, lifestyle, psychosocial and biologic factors.
- Understand and identify the current public policies of liver disease that effect health.
- Identify in hepatology practice the population at risk and provide the available knowledge about prevention. This involves knowing practice guidelines put forth by various provincial, national and international societies.
- Understand and identify subjects for prevention of hepatitis, screening for liver cancer, and genetic testing for hemochromatosis.

6. SCHOLAR

The Hepatology trainee should be able to:

- Recognize the importance of self-assessment in medical education in hepatology.
- Appraise and evaluate the medical literature in the field of Hepatology as it applies to clinical practice.
- Recognize his/her gaps in clinical knowledge around a particular clinical question and be able to fill this gap.
- Participate in the education of peers with regards to liver disease and developments in liver transplantation.

7. PROFESSIONAL

The Hepatology trainee should be able to:

- Offer the highest quality of care with integrity, honesty and compassion.
- Practice medicine ethically consistent with obligations of a physician.
- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours.

a) Teaching

Tues: 12:00 – 13:00 Medical Grand Rounds

Wed: 12:00 to 13:00 – GI Wed Noon Rounds

Thurs: 12:00-13:00 GI weekly rounds

Friday: 8:00-10:00 Liver pathology /Tumour Board

Friday: 12:00-13:30 Hepatology Rounds

*The Hepatology Trainee is expected to attend all liver related Rounds.

b) Clinical (confirm clinic times with individual staff members)

Dr M. Deschenes

Dr T. Chen

Dr Amine Benmassaoud

Dr N. Hilzenrat

Dr G. Sebnastiani

Dr. P. Wong

Useful Contacts / Information:

Hospital address:

1001 blvd Decarie

Montreal, QC H4A 3J1

Canada

Main Hospital # (RVH and MGH): 514-934-1934

Main Hospital # (JGH): 514-340-8222

Locating RVH 53333

JGH 8232

GI Secretaries

RVH 31616

MGH 43906

In-patient Transplant ward (RVH):

R3 35003

ICU 35886/35887 (spectralink phone)

Reading Lists:

Main Reference books: Zakim and Boyer – Hepatology or Schiff – Diseases of the Liver or Oxford Textbook of Hepatology Sherlock and Dooley: Diseases of the Liver and biliary System

Primer on Transplantation

CASL, AASLD and EASL practice Guidelines