

# McGill University Thrombosis Clinical and Research Fellowship (based at the Jewish General Hospital, a McGill University Teaching Hospital)

February 2017

## General Description of Program

The Jewish General Hospital's (JGH) Centre of Excellence in Thrombosis and Anticoagulation Care (CETAC) is an active, academic, tertiary care subspecialty program. The JGH's thrombosis physicians comprise a multidisciplinary, collaborative group that includes hematologists, internists and a pulmonologist, with close links to related specialties such as vascular surgery, cardiology, neurology and obstetrics. A number of us also have training in clinical epidemiology.

We are engaged in a broad range of clinical and research activities that relate to diagnosis, risk factors and treatment of venous and arterial thromboembolic disease, management of thrombophilia and issues pertaining to long-term anticoagulation. Specific areas of clinical activity include the Thrombosis Clinic, Anticoagulation Clinic, Perioperative Bridging Clinic and the Inpatient Thrombosis Consultation Service. Research activities include basic science, clinical, health services and outcomes research and knowledge translation pertaining to thrombotic diseases and anticoagulation care. We therefore provide an ideal training environment for trainees who wish to become expert in thrombosis medicine.

We offer a **one year clinical fellowship** to acquire and consolidate expertise in Thrombosis. During the fellowship, the trainee will acquire knowledge of the physiology, pathology, diagnosis and treatment of thrombotic diseases through a variety of activities, including direct inpatient and outpatient care and exposure to pertinent diagnostic laboratory and imaging facilities. The trainee will be assigned to the in-patient Thrombosis Consult Service as well as the outpatient Anticoagulation and Thrombosis Clinic, Anticoagulation Clinic, Perioperative Bridging Clinic and the Inpatient Thrombosis Consultation Service, where he/she will be directly supervised and taught by Thrombosis attending physicians during all rotations. By the end of the first six months, it is expected that the trainee will be able to perform independently as a thrombosis consultant with minimal supervision. During the second six months, the candidate will consolidate knowledge and take on increased teaching responsibilities (e.g. medical student and core resident education). The candidate is also expected to regularly participate in formal educational initiatives such as presentation at rounds, journal club and thrombosis case conferences in order to complete the training that is necessary to become an expert consultant in thrombosis. We also encourage the candidate to do rotations in diagnostic imaging (e.g. vascular lab, nuclear medicine, CT, MRI) and the special coagulation laboratory to consolidate learning around diagnostic testing of patient with suspected and confirmed thromboembolic disease. Fellows will be encouraged to undertake a research project alongside their clinical training, and will be assigned to a research mentor who will meet with the trainee during the first month of fellowship to plan the project and supervise the trainee throughout the year.

A second funded year to complete an MSc in McGill's Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics with a research focus in Thrombosis may also be possible for suitable trainees.

During the Thrombosis Fellowship, the fellows will be expected to regularly present at weekly Thrombosis Rounds. Presentations at Thrombosis Rounds should highlight key articles and identify gaps in knowledge, and may be case-based. See Table 1 for a suggested curriculum of topics to be covered.

### **Qualifications**

Applicants should have completed Royal College of Physician and Surgeons certified (or equivalent) training in Hematology, Respiriology or General Internal Medicine.

### **Facilities**

The McGill Thrombosis Fellowship is physically located within the 637-bed Jewish General Hospital (JGH) ([www.jgh.ca](http://www.jgh.ca)), a busy, tertiary care McGill University ([www.mcgill.ca](http://www.mcgill.ca)) teaching hospital. The JGH building complex also houses the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research and the Center for Clinical Epidemiology. Approximately 2000 patients with suspected venous thrombosis, 600 patients with confirmed DVT and 200 patients with PE are evaluated per year. In addition, there are numerous referrals to the Thrombosis Clinic for issues pertaining to thrombophilia screening, pregnancy-related complications, recurrent or unusual arterial thrombosis, post-thrombotic syndrome and other thrombosis-related issues. The Anticoagulation Clinic is a busy service that receives 15,000 patient visits per year. The Thrombosis In-Patient Consultation Service receives an average of 4-8 requests for consultation per day. In 2012, the Jewish General Hospital inaugurated the Centre of Excellence in Thrombosis and Anticoagulation Care (CETAC): <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1091239/jewish-general-hospital-becomes-home-of-newcentre-of-excellence-in-thrombosis-and-anticoagulation-care>. Planning of space for CETAC at the JGH is currently underway. The Centre's mandate is to provide leadership and guidance to other institutions and agencies in Quebec to support initiatives in thrombosis prevention and treatment.

### **Our Team**

The McGill Thrombosis Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to work with a diverse and talented team of professionals for whom provision of multidisciplinary, evidence-based patient care is the number one priority. In addition to excellence in clinical care and teaching, our group has achieved notable success in thrombosis-related research. Three of us (Drs. Blostein, Kahn and Tagalakis) have been awarded prestigious peer reviewed Clinical Investigator salary awards for our research programs in thrombosis. Dr. Kahn holds a Canada Research Chair in venous thromboembolism and is co-Director of the CIHR-funded CanVECTOR Network. Dr. Blostein is a basic science researcher interested in mechanisms of thrombosis. He has also been instrumental in developing the Anticoagulation Clinic as a rich source of patients for our clinical research studies on optimal anticoagulant therapy, including perioperative and peri-procedural bridging therapy. Drs. Kahn and Tagalakis have research training in Epidemiology and have been awarded numerous peer review operating grants to lead clinical research projects in various areas of thrombosis. Dr. Hirsch, a respirologist, has expertise in pulmonary embolism and chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension. Dr. Koolian completed thrombosis training in Ottawa and a Masters in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at University of Toronto. She is interested in Quality Improvement (QI) as it relates to venous thrombosis prevention and treatment. Dr. Knecht is Director of the McGill Hematology Division who trained in Switzerland and has many years' experience caring for thrombosis patients. We have also established successful research collaborations with the Departments of Oncology and Emergency Medicine. Our team includes 8 full time research coordinators, a clinical nurse specialist who is expert in thrombosis and a program administrator, all of whom are important assets to our program.

### **The City of Montreal**

Life in Montreal, a large and exciting Canadian city with a European flair, is truly an experience: it has old world charm, French "joie de vivre" (joy of life) and a modern style all its own. Montreal is known for its superb cuisine, vibrant nightlife, fun festivals, sunny terraces and cultural diversity. See these websites for more information on what makes Montreal such a unique place to live: <http://www.tourisme-montreal.org/>

### **Application information**

The McGill Thrombosis Fellowship runs from July 1 of a given year to end of June of the subsequent year. Applications to the Fellowship (with submission of the required documents) must be done online and are due on **Sept. 1** of the year preceding the July 1 start date. Please note this site will only accept applications as of **May 15** of each year.

Please refer to the sites below:

**Fellowships Admissions:** <http://www.mcgill.ca/pgme/admissions/prospective-fellows>

**Fellowships Programs:** <http://www.mcgill.ca/pgme/programs/fellowship-programs>

**How to Apply:** <http://www.mcgill.ca/pgme/admissions/apply>

If you wish to discuss the fellowship further, please forward your CV and a cover letter to:

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Director, McGill Thrombosis Fellowship  
3755 Cote St Catherine Rm H-420  
Montreal, Quebec CANADA H3T 1E2  
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**Table 1. Suggested topics for Thrombosis Rounds or individual study**

1. Epidemiology of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.
2. Natural history of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism.
3. Approach to the diagnosis of PE, with discussion of different diagnostic test modalities (CT scan, VQ scan, Spect VQ)
4. Approach to the diagnosis of DVT, with discussion of different diagnostic test modalities
5. (ultrasound, D-dimer, MRV, venography)
  - Diagnosis and management of thrombophilias:
  - Protein S deficiency, laboratory and clinical diagnosis, management implications.
  - Protein C deficiency, laboratory and clinical diagnosis, management implications.
  - Antithrombin deficiency, laboratory and clinical diagnosis, management implications.
  - Factor V Leiden, laboratory and clinical diagnosis and management implications.
  - Prothrombin mutation, laboratory and clinical diagnosis, management implications.
6. Antiphospholipid antibody, laboratory and clinical diagnosis, management implications.
  - Management of thrombosis:
  - Anticoagulation therapy
  - Warfarin dosing induction, maintenance and monitoring.
  - Role of ASA.
  - Thrombolysis for pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis: indications, dosing, monitoring, complications.
  - Duration of anticoagulation for different thrombotic conditions.
  - Thrombosis at unusual sites: mesenteric vein, cerebral sinus thrombosis, central
    - retinal artery and central retinal vein occlusion
    - Malignancy and venous thromboembolism.
    - Management of venous thromboembolism in pregnancy.
7. Prevention (thromboprophylaxis) of thrombosis: orthopedic patients, medical patients, general surgery, pregnancy, trauma
8. Management of asymptomatic thrombophilia.
9. Heparin induced thrombocytopenia: diagnosis and clinical management
10. IVC filters – permanent and retrievable: benefits and risks.
11. Management of anticoagulation for atrial fibrillation, mechanical heart valves, peripheral arterial disease, stroke.
12. Hormonal therapy and thrombosis.
13. Reversal of anticoagulation, indications and strategies.
14. Anticoagulation bridging therapy
15. Post-thrombotic syndrome: prevention, diagnosis and management.
16. Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension: diagnosis and management.
17. Heparin and coumadin allergy.
18. Pharmacology of antithrombotics:

- Heparin.
- Low Molecular Weight Heparin.
- Warfarin.
- Direct thrombin inhibitors.
- Anti Xa drugs.
- Heparinoids.
- Lepirudin