

Medical Oncology Clinical Research Fellowship

McGill University - Jewish General Hospital and Rossy Cancer Network

Clinical Research Fellowships Available: 1-2 per academic year

Length of Fellowship: 1 or 2 years

Clinical Research Fellowship Description:

This clinical fellowship of one or two years will be made available to applicants who have completed a medical oncology and/or medical hematology residency training program and desire training in oncology clinical research, with a focus on novel therapeutics, particularly molecularly targeted agents and immunotherapy. Training is available for applicants interested primarily in medical oncology or hematologic malignancy. Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Faculty of Medicine's Postgraduate Medical Education website <https://mcgill.ca/pgme/admissions> and are deemed eligible to receive a training card by the Collège des Médecins du Québec.

The aim of the Fellowship is to provide the trainee with an opportunity to acquire expertise in clinical oncology research, which will expose them to the latest advances in two new modalities that are transforming the field of oncology, specifically agents targeting mutated proteins that drive and individual malignancy, as well as novel agents designed to activate the immune system against established malignancies. It is our belief that understanding the growing indications for these agents, as well as management of their unique toxicities, is becoming essential for the future of clinical oncology in the 21st century. During the research training period, students may also be offered the opportunity to work with a preceptor or mentor who specializes in one or more selected disease sites, in order to provide further subspecialized training.

The fellow's overall research training program will include oversight of trial design and conduct, data analysis and conclusions, presentation of research, and manuscript preparation. He/she will also participate in molecular and immune-oncology tumor boards. We also offer collaboration with a biostatistician to develop the proper clinical trial methodology and with basic scientists who take patient samples and perform molecular analyses, which are increasingly part of modern clinical trials. Collaboration with these team members enhances the fellow's education and increases the breadth of research techniques. Such an approach is necessary for trainees interested in translational research projects that coordinate laboratory and clinical efforts. In addition, as appropriate for their research goals, we may support advanced training for the fellow at courses given by ASCO/AACR or other international oncology organizations.

Together with the preceptor, the fellow writes and develops new studies and ushers them through review committees, including the Institutional Review Board. The fellow will meet regularly with the preceptor, collaborating basic researchers, and research study assistants, in order to oversee and analyze clinical trial data. Once sufficient data have been accrued, the fellow learns to draw conclusions, assess statistical validity, and present findings for review and critique. Presentations at national and international conferences are an expected result of this work.

The ultimate goal of the fellowship is to allow the fellow to gain enough knowledge/experience to independently develop and conduct innovative clinical trials in an era of rapid advances in cancer therapy.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources:

The primary McGill facility for Phase I clinical trials in oncology is at the Jewish General Hospital, which is part of the Rossy Cancer Network and McGill University's Academic Health Network. Additional potential educational experiences will be available at the Center of Innovative Medicine at the MUHC, as well as other collaborating institutions in McGill and across Montreal. The majority of our faculty across McGill are deeply involved in conducting clinical research. A complete outline of each faculty's research interest can be found their personal page at:

http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/oncology/programs/programs_medicaloncology.asp.

Educational Objectives:

The fellow will gain the knowledge, skills and abilities to practice in research-focused patient care settings.

Under the direction of Fellowship Program Director and the program coordinators, the fellow will be able to complete learning experiences in the follows areas:

Modern immunotherapy of cancer, with attention to both indications and management of the unique toxicities associated with these agents.

The molecular analysis of individual tumors for driving oncogenes, with a focus on understanding our growing armamentarium to target these malignant pathways with specific drugs.

Pre-clinical and clinical research study design

Pharmacokinetic/ pharmacodynamic modeling

Oncology clinical pharmacy practice

Phase I-IV Clinical research

Presentation and publication of scientific data

There are additional educational opportunities provided by McGill University based graduate courses in:

Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention

Experimental Design

Expectations:

The fellow will attend the usual daily activities in the clinical unit they are assigned to and adhere to the regular department schedule. The fellow will spend at least 50% of their time in clinical activities. This includes attending clinics, rounding on the patients in the clinical research unit(s), tumour boards meetings and supervising residents rotating through their assigned clinics. There will be very limited

call, mostly for research patients. The remaining 50% of their time will be spent in education and carrying out research activities related to their research goal. The fellow will actively participate in the teaching of the medical residents in the Medical Oncology

Training (MOT) lecture series; medical oncology journal club; and in the Multidisciplinary Oncology

Residents Education (MORE) Sessions

Funding:

Applicants must supply proof of sponsorship as outline by Postgraduate Medical Education application eligibility criteria.

Fellowship Program Director:

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