

Medical Oncology Clinical Research Fellowship for Non-Oncologists

McGill University - Academic Health Network

Clinical Research Fellowships Available: 1 per academic year

Length of Fellowship: 1-year

Clinical Research Fellowship Description:

This one-year clinical fellowship will be made available to applicants who have completed a related sub-specialty residency training program (e.g., gastroenterology, respiratory, geriatrics...) and wish to further subspecialize with a focus on Phase I drug development *or* in a particular cancer site(s) chosen by the trainee and mentor (i.e., GI, Lung, etc.). Applicants must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the Faculty of Medicine's Postgraduate Medical Education website <http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/postgrad/admission.htm> and are deemed eligible to receive a training card by the *Collège des Médecins du Québec*.

The purpose of this fellowship is to provide the trainee with additional knowledge, skills and experience needed to care for cancer patient, in their respective field, in all phases of diagnosis and treatment whether for cure or palliation. Additionally, they have the opportunity to acquire and consolidate expertise in the discipline of clinical research. A preceptor or mentor working in the selected disease site, will be responsible for being certain that the fellow develops a focused hypothesis and works with a biostatistician to develop the proper clinical trial methodology. The preceptor is responsible for the fellow's overall research training program, which includes oversight of trial design and conduct, data analysis and conclusions, presentation of research, and manuscript preparation. Together with the preceptor, the fellow writes and develops new studies, and ushers them through the review committees including the Institutional Review Board. The fellow will meet regularly with the preceptor, biostatisticians, 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. Collaboration with relevant basic scientists of the team and other clinician-scientists 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.

Emphasis is placed on the development of clinical protocols in a timely fashion. The fellow will be responsible for coordinating existing protocols and developing new protocols under the supervision of the specific disease site committee chairman. The ultimate goal of the fellowship is to allow the fellow to gain enough knowledge/experience to independently develop and conduct innovative clinical trials.

Faculty, Facilities and Resources:

The McGill University's Academic Health Network encompasses many institutions which each provide clinical care of oncology patients. Over 25 full-time medical oncologists staff the hospital. The majority of our faculty 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/fac/facandstaff>.

Each year, there are over 180 industry and cooperative group clinical trials with active patients receiving treatment at McGill. Research nurses administer chemotherapy and monitor toxicity of patients on clinical trials. A pharmacy within each McGill University teaching hospital controls all conventional and research drugs, and the process for review and safety of chemotherapy administration at McGill is well organized. All clinical research data are maintained on the institution's clinical research database (CRDB) maintained by the Department of Oncology clinical trials office at the McGill University, Department of Oncology's Gerald Bronfman Center for Clinical Research in Cancer and/or in the Phase I Clinical Research Unit at the Jewish General Hospital.

Research Study Assistants (RSA) are available to help the fellow. Biostatistical support is provided by the mentor for data management and analysis for all protocols in the Department of Oncology. The Clinical Chemistry and Hematology laboratories are computerized. Dedicated space and computer access to all clinical information and databases are provided for trainees. The McGill University teaching hospital's inpatient oncology wards, Adult Day Hospital, and

Outpatient Chemotherapy Units contain pharmacy satellite units, full-time nursing, administrative and pharmacy staff, and provide an ideal setting for conducting investigational protocols. Detailed information on the numbers and types of trials under study can be found at: <http://www.crp.mcgill.ca>.

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:

- Development of analytical techniques
- Pre-clinical and clinical research study design
- Pharmacokinetic/ pharmacodynamic modeling
- Oncology clinical pharmacy practice
- Clinical research
- Presentation and publication of scientific data

Educational Opportunities:

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 50% of their time in clinical activities related to the disease site(s) they have chosen. This includes attending clinics, tumour board meetings and supervising residents rotating through their assigned clinics.
- The remaining 50% of their time will be spent in 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:

Dr. Lawrence Panasci

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