

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

**Fellowship in Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroinflammatory Disorders**

Type of Fellowship:

**Clinical Research Fellowship in Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroinflammatory Disorders (2 year)**

**Supervisor: Dr. Alexander Saveriano**

**Fellowship Information**

**Number of fellowship positions requested:** 2 per year.

**Name of hospitals involved in training:** Montreal Neurological Hospital and Institute and associated outpatient clinic facilities (Montreal Neuro Clinic at Glen site).

**Description of Fellowship:** The aim of fellowship is to provide training in the diagnosis, treatment, and symptomatic management of patients with multiple sclerosis, and related neuro-inflammatory conditions. This will be coupled with participation in clinical trials of patients with multiple sclerosis.

Fellows will also be expected to foster research collaborations, but also direct their own research projects under the mentorship of their research supervisor. Clinical Research Fellows will have variable amounts of time committed to the clinical aspects of the Fellowship, but with options to spend up to 80% of their time on non-clinical research activities, including enrolling in degree granting graduate programs.

**Research activity and publications related to fellowship:** See supervisor's CV (appended)

**Mission statement for fellowship:** To provide clinical expertise in the treatment of multiple sclerosis and related disorders, for individuals aiming to pursue an academic career in this field.

**Duration of fellowship:** 2 years.

**Source of funding for fellowship:** The applicant can apply for competitive fellowship funds from Canadian funding agencies, including the MS Society and CIHR, however, candidates from outside of Canada may have funds from their home countries. There are also competitive fellowships funded through the Canadian Network of the MS Clinics for 1 to 2 years, supported by unrestricted educational grants from the pharmaceutical industry.

**Candidates must secure funding.** Please see opportunities for funding through the MNI here: <https://apps.mni.mcgill.ca/clinicalawards/awards-unlocked.php>. Additional funding opportunities may be available through <https://www.cnsfederation.org>.

**Names of the Teaching Faculty:**

Dr. Jack Antel

Dr. Paul Giacomini

Dr. Myriam Levesque-Roy

Dr. Alexander Saveriano

**Faculty Roles:** The fellow will interact with all the teaching faculty and be exposed to different areas of expertise, all while participating in the clinical care of MS patients, as well in clinical research and clinical trials.

**Summary of clinical practice:** The MS program based at the Montreal Neurological Hospital and Institute and associated outpatient clinic facilities (Montreal Neuro Clinic at Glen site, etc.) follows over 4000 patients in a multidisciplinary, academic setting. Patients with all subtypes of multiple sclerosis, and in all phases of the illness, are followed at the clinic and thus the fellow will get excellent exposure to all aspects of clinical care, from diagnosis to the most advanced stages of illness.

**Major Strengths:** Excellent clinical training through interaction with numerous clinicians with expertise in the treatment of multiple sclerosis, as well as strong integration between clinical, clinical-research and more basic investigative aspects of MS.

**Academic Facilities:** The Montreal Neurological Hospital MS Clinic, Associated outpatient clinic facilities (Montreal Neuro Clinic at Glen site, etc.), The Neurological Day Hospital, The Clinical Research Unit (CRU), The McConnell Brain Imaging Centre and the basic research labs in the Neuroimmunology Unit.

**Library access, materials relevant to fellowship training:** Available through the Montreal Neurological Institute Library, and electronic resources through McGill University and through the EndMS Network.

**Multimedia learning materials available:** Available online through the EndMS Network

**Fellow Duties and Responsibilities:** The Fellow will be involved in teaching residents, either through informal bedside teaching in the MS Clinic setting, or possibly through more formal lectures as part of the academic half day program, should the resident group so request. The fellow can opt for rotations in the McConnell Brain Imaging Centre, as well as in other related clinics, but most of the clinical component will be through the MS Clinic at the Montreal Neurological Hospital and associated outpatient clinic facilities (Montreal Neuro Clinic at the Glen site, etc.). The program will be tailored to individual requirements, particularly if only a minority of time is available for clinical activities. In the outpatient MS Clinics at the MNH or Montreal Neuro Clinic (Glen site), the Fellows will have responsibility for diagnosis, treatment and symptomatic management of patients under their care, with the supervision of their fellowship mentor if needed, who will be available for review, advice, and case discussion.

There are ongoing organized seminars related to multiple sclerosis that include a Fellow-run monthly seminar, the MS Montreal program, the STIHR supported Neuroinflammation Training Grant and the nationwide program of the EndMS Network. Fellows are also encouraged to attend and take part in more general neurology seminars and rounds offered through the McGill Neurology Department, including Neurology Grand Rounds, and Thursday morning Clinical Case Rounds. Fellows will be

offered the opportunity to attend national and international meetings. Fellows are expected to present their research at these meetings, and publish results of their clinical and basic research projects.

**Curriculum:** The case load of the Fellow will be designed according to their clinical availability. The volume of patients will be managed to still leave ample time for academic endeavours. Fellows will have assigned reading from different mentors, reflecting the expertise of the various mentors, and will also follow a curriculum from the EndMS Network. Formal conference schedules include the previously mentioned Fellows organized conference, the Neuroinflammation Training Program conferences, the MS Montreal Program, as well as the EndMS Research and Training Network seminars.

**Evaluation:** Clinical Research Fellows will be evaluated by their individual supervisors, who are responsible for the research aspects of the program, but with input from the clinical staff who have worked with the Fellow in the MS Clinic or Montreal Neuro Clinic. All Fellows will be expected to give formal presentations of their projects at scheduled conferences of the Multiple Sclerosis group and to the Neuroinflammation Training Program.

There are currently no formal recognition programs for multiple sclerosis fellowship training and the current consensus of the American Academy of Neurology is that no such sub-specialty recognition should be forthcoming. Recognition of the Clinical Research Fellowship will be reflected in academic output related to participation in conferences and publications, as well as by added clinical experience and expertise.