

## NEUROSURGICAL PAIN FELLOWSHIP

**Name of Institution:** Montreal Neurological Hospital – Institute

**Location:** 3801 University Street, Montreal, Qc H3A 2B4

**Type of Fellowship:** Neurosurgical Pain Fellowship

**Program Director:** Dr Jeffrey D. Atkinson

**Supervisor:** Dr Marie-Noëlle Hébert-Blouin

**Co-supervisor:** Dr Jeffery A. Hall & Dr Bobbi Popovec

**Fellowship information:** 1 year

**Number of fellowship position per year:** 1

**Amount of fellowship:** For information regarding salary amount and acceptable source of funding, please visit the link at

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

## GOALS and OBJECTIVES

The Neurosurgical Pain Fellowship Program is designed to develop an expertise in the management of patients with chronic pain. It is focussed on acquiring the knowledge and skills to treat chronic neuropathic and mixed neuropathic and nociceptive pain syndromes from central and peripheral nervous system sources.

At the completion of the program, the fellows is expected to be able to:

1. Diagnose patients with chronic neuropathic and mixed neuropathic and nociceptive pain syndromes
2. Select patients for medical and/or surgical treatment of their chronic pain syndromes
3. Understand and select appropriate blocks.
4. Surgically treat patients with chronic pain including with techniques that include neurolysis, ablative procedures (neurectomy, neuroma resection), and neuromodulation procedures (motor cortex stimulation, deep brain stimulation, spinal cord stimulation, peripheral nerve stimulation, and intrathecal pump therapies)
5. Manage effectively patients with chronic pain pre-operatively, intra-operatively and post-operatively including using the neuromodulation technology (stimulators and intrathecal pump) and managing complications
6. Interact in a multidisciplinary for patient care including discussions with other neurosurgeons, neurologists, anaesthesiologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, nurses, and psychologists.
7. Participate in the design and completion of clinical, translational and/or basic pain research projects, depending on the fellow's specific interests.

## EXPECTATIONS

Attend and participate in the outpatient clinics of the pain service. This includes clinical evaluation of patients, documentation, participation in the follow-ups of patients with neuromodulation, and participation in the pain clinic multidisciplinary board discussion. Participation in the operative treatment of patients with chronic pain.

Active participation in the care of in-patients affected with chronic pain conditions and under the pain service.

Coverage of general neurosurgical call as per the rules of the FMRQ (maximum 9 home calls/month).

## REQUIREMENTS

Satisfactory completion of training in neurosurgery with Royal College or Board certification (Canada and US). Candidates must be eligible to receive a training card by the Collège des Médecins du Québec.

## TEACHING

The fellow is expected to play an active role in resident teaching in both the clinic and operative settings. Participation in weekly formal academic half-days is required.

## RESEARCH

Participation in regional, national and international meetings is encouraged, as well as the generation of publications in peer-reviewed journal and textbooks. For fellows interested in advanced research, the Montreal Neurological Institute is home to more than 70 neuroscience-dedicated researchers engaged in the full spectrum of contemporary neuroscience research and patient care. Numerous opportunities are available in clinical, translation and basic research.

## DURATION

The duration of the fellowship program is one year.

## EVALUATIONS

The neurosurgery training program has, in place, a comprehensive evaluation system. All attending neurosurgeons are required to evaluate the residents and fellows they are in contact with. These evaluations are developed as medical evaluation directives for specialists put forth by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. All evaluations are reviewed with each fellow by the evaluator and members of the training program committee. Mechanisms are in place for the assessment of grievances.

## IMPACT

The Montreal Neurological Institute has a long and proud history of fellows that have trained at the NEURO and subsequently spread across the world to develop neurosurgical programs. This continues to be true today. Our feeling is that the NEURO experience enriches the lives and careers of our fellows and that our fellows enrich the life of the NEURO.

We have stressed that resident training cannot be diminished by the presence of a fellow. We have, however, found the opposite to be true. Our experience is that they have had an immensely positive influence on our residents and have played an important role in both didactic and surgical teaching. Our policy is that in the operating room, residents are the primary operators commensurate with their experience, skill and comfort level. Residents' surgical exposure is monitored closely by the training program director who discusses these issues with each resident.