

# **Fellowship in Palliative Radiotherapy - Radiotherapy**

Program Director: Dr. Joanne Alfieri

Fellowship Supervisors: Drs. Marc David, Sonia Skamene

## **General Information**

Duration: one year

Number of fellows: maximum of one

Hospital involved: McGill University Health Centre

## **Goals and Objectives:**

During a one-year period of additional training, the fellow will acquire and integrate advanced knowledge and skills specific to the management of palliative patients within radiation oncology. On completion of the program, the fellow will possess the knowledge and skills to be able to independently:

- Formulate and defend the radiation management plan with appropriate selection of treatment dose regimen and modality from simple to highly technical for patients with advanced malignancies using clinical, imaging, histological and biological available biomarkers.
- Demonstrate expertise in core competencies in palliative oncology care including symptom management, end-of-life communication, prognostication in advanced cancer, and psychosocial issues in advanced cancer
- Demonstrate effective coordination of care with other care providers in palliative treatment (orthopedic/neuro-surgery, medical oncology, palliative care)
- Describe available modalities for management of cancer-related pain and demonstrate expertise in medical management of pain.
- Plan radiotherapy treatments with different techniques including 3D-CRT, IMRT, volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT), and stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT).
- Analyze radiotherapy treatment plans for the aforementioned modalities for efficacy and safety.
- Participate in the assessment and planning for treatment of limited brain metastases with stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) (elective option).
- Demonstrate understanding of indications, benefits, outcomes, and treatment-related toxicities of spine and non-spine bone SBRT.
- Employ effective triage of palliative radiotherapy referrals.

## **Content and Organization:**

The fellow will attend palliative radiotherapy clinics, multi-disciplinary cancer pain clinics, participate on the in-patient palliative radiotherapy service, as well as attend relevant tumour boards, radiotherapy rounds and patient's management conference. Scholarly activities are an integral component of the program. In addition to participation in ongoing clinical research studies it is expected that the fellow will develop and take to completion at least one

clinical/quality improvement/translational/basic research project. Presentation at a national or international scientific meeting with a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal is required and will be supported financially. At least one publication is generally expected. He/she will act as a resource for residents in radiation oncology and contribute to the postgraduate and undergraduate teaching programs in radiation oncology as well as those of related programs (surgical oncology, and medical oncology). He/she will also contribute to journal club and department rounds. The fellow will be expected to participate in the department coverage schedule during regular daytime working hours, and the on-call schedule during select evenings and week-ends.

---

### **Vacation/Conferences:**

The fellow is granted 4 weeks of vacation plus an additional week during either the Christmas or New Year's holidays. The fellow is also granted one week to attend a conference if he/she wishes to do so. If he/she presents a paper at a major conference, the time of the conference is not counted against his/her conference or vacation time. In addition, he/she may request funding for expenses incurred to attend the meeting where he/she presents, provided that the research was done in the department of Radiation Oncology at McGill University.

### **General guidelines, prerequisites, and general and specific competencies**

General guidelines, prerequisites, and general and specific competencies are given in the McGill Faculty of Medicine website:

[http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/postgrad/programs\\_htm](http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/postgrad/programs_htm)

### **Evaluation and assessment of progress:**

The fellow will present a progress report quarterly to the Fellowship Director. Formal evaluation of the fellow's progress will be performed quarterly. Before the end of the training period the fellow will be expected to present the results of his/her research project at Radiation Oncology Rounds. Evaluation on completion of the fellowship will require submission of a clinical case log and updated curriculum vitae to the Fellowship Director.

### **Impact of fellowship on resources for residency training:**

The fellow will be based at the McGill University Health Centre. He/she will be provided with working space and a computer and will have access to treatment planning computers and all other equipment and support required in order to meet the training objectives. Patient numbers and other resources at the McGill University Health Centre are more than adequate to support the fellowship program without jeopardizing residency training. To the contrary, we believe that the presence of a fellow in our radiotherapy program will strengthen training for our residents as well as for residents in other related programs by acting as a resource for them and providing additional teaching through participation in rounds, journal clubs, and the formal teaching programs.