

Pediatric Complex Pain Management Fellowship

DURATION: 1 year

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 2 (two)

PROFILE OF THE CANDIDATE: the candidate should be a fully licensed anesthesiologist, general pediatrician, family doctor, adult or pediatric pain specialist or neurologist. The trainee should be able to work independently and as a member of a pediatric interdisciplinary team. The fellow will be required to be involved in clinical research and education projects during their time with us. Even if bilingualism is not required, it is recommended that the candidates master both English and French. A letter of recommendation from the hospital that will be hiring the fellow after the end of his/her training would be an asset. Candidates who are aiming at creating a pediatric complex/chronic pain service in the welcoming hospital could be prioritized in order to broaden the available resources for children living with chronic/complex pain conditions.

FELLOWSHIP SUPERVISORS:

- Dr. Maria-Alexandra Petre (Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship Coordinator);
- Dr. Albert Moore (Fellowship Program Director, McGill Anesthesia Department);
- Dr. Pablo Ingelmo (Director, the Edwards Family Interdisciplinary Centre for Complex Pain)

HOSPITAL: The Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH)

FUNDING: One position will be funded by the Edwards Family Interdisciplinary Centre for Complex Pain. The candidate for the other position will need to provide proof of funding. For a description of the sources of funding which are accepted in this context, please visit: <https://www.mcgill.ca/pgme/fellowships/admissions>.

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide the trainee with consultant expertise in the principles and treatments of chronic pain in the pediatric population, both on inpatient and outpatient bases.

BACKGROUND:

This pain fellowship was created in honor of Dr. Joëlle Desparmet. The original Chronic Pain Service of the Montreal Children Hospital (CPS-MCH) was created in 1987 by Dr. Joëlle Desparmet, pioneer in pediatric chronic pain management in Canada. In the past year, thanks in particular to the generous donation of the Louise and Alan Edwards Foundation, the CPS-MCH was able to expand their services, and has been renamed the **Edwards Family Interdisciplinary Centre for Complex Pain (CCP)**.

The CCP is a specialized service for the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents with complex pain conditions. The interdisciplinary team includes advanced practice nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists, social workers, anesthesiologists and chronic pain specialists. Medical and surgical specialists are also consulted when needed.

The CCP receives referrals from various subspecialties including rheumatology, surgery, neurology, emergency, orthopedics, pediatrics, and psychiatry. Approximately 240 new patients are seen per year with approximately 500 patients being followed continuously. The members of the CCP team simultaneously evaluate children and families three to four days per week.

Patients are mostly from Montreal and its suburbs, but also come from the rest of the province of Québec, other parts of Canada and the eastern United States for tertiary care (neurosurgery, cardiac, plastic, orthopedic surgery).

After a comprehensive interdisciplinary evaluation, individualized treatments are prescribed. Treatments within the CCP include pharmacological, physical, and psychological therapies. The CCP also occasionally provides interventional therapies (central and peripheral nerve blocks, radiofrequency ablation, and neurolytic blocks), with the collaboration of the Alan Edwards Pain Management Unit (AEPMU) of the MGH.

The Montreal Children's Hospital Acute Pain Service (APS) is part of the MCH Department of Anesthesia and was created in 2001. This clinical service is offered to pediatric patients treated at the MCH, mostly inpatients from the surgical and medical services. This service operates 24 hours daily, 7 days per week by a multidisciplinary anesthesia team. The CCP team collaborates on a daily basis with the APS on the prevention of chronic post-surgical pain syndrome and on the early treatment of children with chronic pain recovering from surgical or medical conditions at the MCH.

DESCRIPTION:

Interdisciplinary meetings: on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the fellow will attend and participate in the CCP interdisciplinary clinical meetings during the morning of the clinical day. The aim of this meeting is to review and discuss the active patients and the new referrals for the CCP. The morning meetings are also a forum for discussion of difficult patients from the clinic and wards, and consultants from other services and other centers frequently participate. It is the fellow's responsibility to review the chart of the patients to be discussed at the meeting and present the cases during the meeting. It's also expected that the fellow attend the monthly meeting dedicated to administration and interdisciplinary function.

Clinics: on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday the fellow will attend the complex pain clinic. The clinic consists of an interdisciplinary evaluation of new patients, and in the follow up of active patients both in person and using telehealth tools. It is expected that the fellow will have his/her own clinic to follow-up her/his/their own patients under the supervision of one of the staff of the CCP. It is the responsibility of the fellow to complete the electronic

chart of the patient in the different electronic platforms (i.e. Atlas/Telehealth, OACIS, CCP-database, etc.).

APS rounds and admitted patients: the fellow will round with the APS team, including the APS MD or the APS nurse. It is the fellow's responsibility to follow up on patients with complex pain conditions (chronic or acute), followed by the APS patients and those admitted or followed by the CCP. The fellow will also support the APS team regarding the care of patients with chronic conditions (e.g. acute on chronic pain, sickle cell, neuropathic pain, etc.) and with the prevention and treatment of chronic postsurgical pain. The fellow will review the consults and requests of assistance from pediatric and surgical services.

Interventional procedures: the fellow with a background in pain medicine and/or anesthesia will perform blocks and/or other analgesic interventions in the presence of the pain specialist of the CCP or from the AEPMU. A portion of teaching time will be dedicated to learning about the approach to interventional treatment in pediatrics, the indication and contraindications to specific blocks, as well as the risks of these procedures. Most importantly, the fellow will learn when to refer for interventional treatments based on clinical findings.

Research activities and other academic endeavors: Research is a mandatory part of this fellowship, and the fellow is expected to participate in at least one research project. The fellow will receive support from the research team of the CCP. It's expected that the fellow will participate in the educational activities of the CCP and of the Department of Anesthesia, including lectures, morbidity and mortality (M&M), case presentations, grand rounds, etc.

The fellow will participate in the education and support of medical and nursing staff as needed in the field of acute and chronic pain.

We encourage our fellow to participate in rotations and clinical training in other institutions. These can be done elsewhere in Canada, but also internationally. Support will be provided when available.

Support will be provided to allow the fellow to attend a scientific meeting to present a paper or scientific exhibit subject to the following:

- The research data to be presented was carried out by the fellow;
- The meeting attendance shall be approved by the CCP and by the Department of Anesthesia.

The fellow will have access to the McGill University, Montreal Children's Hospital and Departmental libraries; the fellow will also have access to a computer.

Individualized training: Recognizing that different trainees coming from different background with likely different needs in terms of their training, measures will be taken, as much as possible, in order to tailor the program to the specific needs of the trainees.

Feedback and Evaluations

Daily feedback will be provided by the staff that supervise the fellow, either the staff in the CCP, the staff covering APS, or the staff doing the procedures. Formal feedback and evaluation will be provided by the fellowship supervisor every 3 months, which will be recorded using the one45 evaluation system used by McGill.

Notes

Training undertaken during a clinical fellowship cannot be recognized for credentialing purposes as training leading to certification by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or the College of Family Physicians of Canada.