

McGill Radiation Oncology

Fellowship in Pediatric Radiation Oncology and Quality Improvement

Program director: Dr. Joanne Alfieri

Fellowship supervisors: Drs. Sonia Skamene and Carolyn Freeman

General information

- **Duration:** One year (13 periods)
- **Number of fellows:** Maximum of one
- **Hospitals involved:**
 - Cedars Cancer Centre (CCC) of the McGill University Health Centre
 - Montreal Children's Hospital

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 children and adolescents with any malignancy, and young adult patients with sarcoma and hematological malignancies. They will also gain expertise in quality improvement (QI) in oncology through didactic instruction, participation in departmental QI initiatives, participation on departmental QI committees, and leading projects in pediatric QI.

On completion of the program the fellow will possess the knowledge and skills to be able to independently:

- Formulate and defend a management plan for pediatric and adolescent patients with CNS, solid tumour and hematological malignancies using the available clinical, imaging, histological and biological biomarkers.
- Formulate and defend the management plan for long term follow-up of patients treated as children for malignancy.
- Plan all radical and palliative pediatric radiotherapy treatments using different techniques, including special techniques such as Total Body Irradiation.
- Understand treatment radiotherapy planning including different dose regimens and dose constraints, and toxicities for organs at risk.
- Apply the science of QI to contribute to improving systems of patient care through the leading of clinical audits and QI projects.

Content and organization

Approximately 50% of time will be devoted to clinical activities, and 50% for research, educational and administrative activities in QI related to pediatric oncology practice. The fellow will participate in four half-days of clinic per week, and the remaining time will be divided between radiation treatment planning and scholarly activities.

The fellow will attend all relevant clinics at the CCC and MCH including the multidisciplinary pediatric neuro-oncology, long term follow-up clinic, at times the lymphoma and sarcoma clinics, as well as the relevant tumour boards. They will participate in the MUHC Radiation Oncology QI Committee.

Scholarly activities are an integral component of the program. In addition to participation in ongoing clinical research studies, the fellow will be required to develop and take to completion at least one quality improvement 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.

The fellow will act as a resource for residents in radiation oncology and contribute to the postgraduate, graduate and undergraduate teaching programs in radiation oncology as well as those of related programs (pediatric hematology/oncology, quality improvement and patient safety trainee curriculum). They will also contribute to journal clubs and department rounds. The fellow will be expected to participate in the roster for department coverage during regular daytime working hour and the on-call schedule during select evenings and weekends. The amount of on-call duty may vary but typically averages one day of day-call duty per work week and one week (including the weekend) of off-hours call coverage every 12 weeks.

Vacation/conference leave

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 they wish to do so. If they present a paper at a major conference, the time of the conference is not counted in his/her/their conference or vacation time. They can expect to receive funding for expenses incurred to attend meeting where he/she presents for at least one academic work (additional projects may be supported if funds are available), provided that the research was carried out 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](#).

Evaluation and assessment of progress

The clinical experience of the fellow will be enriched by full integration into the clinical workflow of the department including supervised interaction with patients, participation in the generation and evaluation of radiotherapy treatment plans, and active participation at tumour site multidisciplinary tumour boards and quality assurance rounds. To support their academic endeavours, the fellow will have full access to all university library resources as well as departmental databases.

- The fellow will present a progress report quarterly to the Fellowship Director.

- Formal evaluation of the fellow's progress will be performed quarterly according to McGill Promotions Guidelines.
- Before the end of the training period the fellow will be expected to present the results of his/her research project at Monday Morning Rounds.
- Evaluation on completion of the fellowship will require submission of a clinical case log and updated curriculum vitae to the Fellowship Director.
- On successful completion of the fellowship the fellow will receive a certificate signed by the Program Director and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

Impact of fellowship on resources for residency training

The fellow will be based at the Cedars Cancer Centre of 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. We believe that the presence of a fellow in pediatric oncology and QI 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.