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

Stroke and Cerebrovascular Disease Fellowship

Fellowship Supervisors: Dr. Aimen Moussaddy and Dr. Jeffrey Minuk

Fellowship Information:

- Number of fellowship positions requested: 2
- Name of hospitals involved in training
  - Montreal Neurological Hospital
  - Montreal General Hospital
  - SMBD-Jewish General Hospital
- Description of Fellowship: This is a one or two-year clinical fellowship focusing both on acute stroke management and interventions as well as on secondary stroke prevention. Fellows will also attend the acute stroke units at both the Montreal Neurological Hospital and Jewish General Hospital. Fellows will attend stroke prevention clinics at the Montreal general Hospital and provide consultations on complex cerebrovascular patients. There will be ample exposure to neuro-radiology and an option for non-invasive vascular imaging. Fellows will have the opportunity to enroll in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics courses. Elective rotations in neurocritical care or neuro rehabilitation medicine are also available.
- Type of Fellowships:
  - Stroke Expert: This is a 12 month curriculum that will focus on clinical exposure for acute stroke and stroke prevention. It includes clinical research opportunities.
  - Stroke Scholar: This is a 24 month curriculum that will be divided between clinical work and research activities. The fellow will be expected to engage in scholarly tasks, including writing articles, reviewing articles and completing a clinical research project.
- Research activity and publications related to fellowship: Fellows in both curriculums will be able to conduct or participate in clinical or fundamental stroke research.
- Mission statement for fellowship: The goal of this fellowship is to train a Royal College certified neurologist (or equivalent) in the specialized field of stroke and cerebrovascular diseases in order to help reduce the burden of stroke. Fellows will obtain a thorough knowledge of the pathophysiology, classification, epidemiology, risk factors and management of stroke and allied cerebrovascular disorders. Fellows will become familiar with relevant past and current literature and develop an appreciation for accepted treatment guidelines and an awareness of areas of controversy. Fellows will apply their knowledge and skills to a wide range of patients and play a significant role in patient education related to risk factor modification thereby helping to reduce the occurrence of stroke and other cerebrovascular disease.
- Source of funding for fellowship: The supervisors will assist candidates by directing them to sources of outside funding. The Fellow will also benefit from the support staff and resources provided through the individual institutions.
Names of the Teaching Faculty:

1. Dr. Robert Cote
2. Dr. Jeffrey Minuk
3. Dr. Lucy Vieira
4. Dr. Theodore Wein
5. Dr. Eric Ehrensperger
6. Dr. Liam Durcan
7. Dr. Catherine Legault
8. Dr. Aimen Moussaddy (Member of Canadian National Stroke Fellowship committee and contributed to creation and development of certification program)
9. Dr. Olena Bereznyagova.
10. Dr. Maria Cortes (Neuro-Radiologist and Interventionalist)
11. Dr. Grant Linell (Neuro-Radiologist and Interventionalist)

Academic Facilities

Facilities for clinical pursuits: The Fellow will see new patients referred with stroke, transient ischemic attack or allied disorders and his/her own follow up patients within the clinical areas of the Montreal Neurological Hospital, Montreal General Hospital and SMBD-Jewish General Hospital. The fellow will review and discuss each case with a faculty member. There are excellent facilities in all three institutions. The Fellow will have access to be able to review imaging and other test results and to discuss cases with other specialists including neurologists, neurosurgeons, radiologists and internists.

Facilities for academic pursuits: The Fellow will be offered a number of potential projects to conduct a clinical research project under supervision. The vast resources of McGill will be at the fellow’s disposal for literature searches, and other forms of guidance, including electronic access to all major stroke specialty journals. Fellows will be encouraged to present their findings at major international stroke meetings. Fellows will have access to course in clinical epidemiology and biostatistics.

Curriculum *

- Stroke expert program:
  - 6 months of acute stroke unit service
  - 5 months of Stroke Prevention clinic
  - 1 month elective of Neuro-ICU (MNH) or Neuro-Rehabilitation
  - Research time is included in the stroke clinic month

- Stroke scholar program:
  - 8 months of acute stroke unit service
  - 6 months of Stroke Prevention clinic
  - 1 month elective of Neuro-ICU (MNH) or Neuro-Rehabilitation
  - 9 months of dedicated research and academic time

* Meets clinical exposure guidelines for Canadian National Stroke fellowship certification program
Fellow Duties and Responsibilities

- The fellow may take call with faculty/staff backup and will be expected to assist in the acute stroke units at both hospital sites.
- The fellow will not be asked to supervise residents but will be encouraged to participate whenever possible in discussions of cases seen by residents in the stroke units or stroke prevention clinic.
- The outpatient clinic responsibilities include 4-5 half day clinics.
- The teaching responsibilities towards residents consist of actively participating in the discussions of patients being reviewed by the staff. In addition, the fellow would be expected to present at the monthly stroke rounds widely attended by residents as well as McGill Departmental Rounds.
- The fellow might also participate in specific seminars directed towards particular groups such as emergency residents, or to discuss certain areas with groups of residents (e.g., journal club).
- The fellow will be expected to present in various rounds at a minimum of 4 times (expert curriculum) or 8 times (scholar curriculum).
- Support staff available to the fellow: secretarial support is available at both institutions. A clinical nurse specialist attends the McGill University Cerebrovascular Clinic regularly.
- Proposed meetings to be attended by the fellow: the fellow should attend the annual American Stroke Association’s International Stroke Conference.
- The fellow will be expected to conduct a clinical research project and write up at least an abstract, possibly a manuscript by the end of the training period.

Evaluation

- Fellows will be under the direct supervision of stroke faculty and be provided with regular feedback.
- Fellows will meet formally on a trimestral basis with supervisors to discuss progress.
- Formal written evaluations will be provided every 6 months.
- Fellows will have to complete EPA evaluations* (Entrustable professional activities) (observed and evaluated clinical situations) that will ensure the proper progression in fundamental tasks conducted by stroke neurologists:
  - Management of an acute ischemic stroke
  - Management of an acute hemorrhagic stroke
  - Management of a TIA in Stroke prevention clinic
  - Investigation of a stroke etiology on stroke unit
  - Leading a multi-disciplinary meeting on stroke unit
  - Reviewing a scholarly stroke-related article

* Above EPA’s have been developed by the Canadian National Stroke Fellowship Certification program committee