

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL OTOTOLOGY & NEUROTOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

1. Objective

The otology/neurotology clinical fellowship at Université de Montréal is a one-year program. The fellows work closely with the faculty from The Otology Team at Université de Montréal in both clinic and operative room settings. Additionally, they develop excellent working relationships with our neurosurgical and other head and neck colleagues.

This one-year program is designed to acquire and establish diagnostic and technical expertise in the field of neurotology through a graduated experience in the diagnosis, treatment planning, medical, surgical, and rehabilitative issues in the field of otology/Neurotology.

2. Justification

Fellows will work closely with various faculty members of The Otology Team. They include:

- Issam Saliba MD, FRCSC (Fellowship Director)
- Jean-Jacques Dufour MD, FRCSC (retired)
- Marc-Elie Nader MD, FRCSC (from July 2014)

Additionally, they will work closely with our neurosurgical colleagues:

- Robert Moumdjian, MD, FRCSC
- Michel Bojanowski, MD, FRCSC
- Alain Bouthillier MD, FRCSC

We also have close relationships with our head and neck surgery colleagues:

- Jean-Claude Tabet MD, FRCSC
- Lous Guertin MD, FRCSC
- Marie-Jo Olivier MD, FRCSC
- Tareck Ayad MD, FRCSC
- Apostolos Christopoulos MD, FRCSC
- Eric Bissada MD, FRCSC

The Otology Team preceptors at Université de Montréal are all fellowship-trained in major otology/neurotology centers in North America and Europe. The affiliation of these experts into a common fellowship-training program offers a unique opportunity for advanced training by virtue of the combined expertise of the supervisors, the diversity of cases evaluated and treated, the structured teaching environment, and the potential integration with a basic science and clinical as well as a basic science research program in otology/neurotology. The fellow will attend to relevant clinical/surgical activities in Hôpital Notre-Dame and Hotel-Dieu de Montréal for adult cases as well as at Sainte-Justine Hospital for pediatric patients.

In addition, a two to three months of cochlear implant training will take place at Quebec City at the only cochlear implant center in the province.

3. Eligibility

Candidates will be individuals having successfully completed an accredited otolaryngology residency who are interested in pursuing a career in academic otology/neurotology surgery.

Candidate selection will be via a process of application, with selection based on letters of recommendation, academic achievements, and personal interview. A solid grounding in otology surgery is a prerequisite for successful application for the fellowship.

Candidates will have to be fluent in French and eligible for a training card from the College des Medecins. Fluency in French will be assessed through the interview.

4. Specific objectives

At the end of training, the individual will have acquired skills and knowledge allowing him/her to develop and sustain an academic position in otology/neurotology. This will be via the following means:

- **Operating Room Experience:**
The fellow will participate in caring for all otologic surgical patients in the clinic, inpatient, outpatient, and operative settings. The fellow's hands-on operative experience will be focused toward all surgical procedures performed by the staff physicians including assisting in chronic ear surgery and stapes procedures. The majority of the skull base cases consist of acoustic neuroma operations, glomus tumor, superior canal plugging and an assortment of complex facial nerve and lateral skull base surgery procedures. Translabyrinthine, retrosigmoid, retrolabyrinthine and middle cranial fossa approaches are used. Newer advances are also utilized, such as stereotactic radiotherapy and endoscopic approaches.
- **Clinical Patient Care:**
The fellow will undertake the following duties related to clinical (cochlea, vestibular, skull base pathology) patient care: Assist faculty in evaluation of outpatients with otologic complaints, approximately two days per week. Become sophisticated in audiologic and vestibular diagnosis, including the interpretation of audiograms, ABR, VEMP, VNG and oculomotor testing, rotational chair testing, skull-base MRI and CT Scan and other testing.
- **Temporal Bone Laboratory:**
The Temporal Bone Dissection Laboratory has 5 stations with otologic drills, binocular operating microscopes and monitors for instruction. Fellows are encouraged to spend extended blocks of time in the Temporal Bone Lab perfecting surgical skills, particularly those related to transtemporal approaches to the internal auditory canal and other advanced techniques required for neurotologic surgery.
- **Teaching:**
The candidate will attend all normal activities of the department, including evaluation/follow up of hospitalised patients as required. There are a bi-weekly journal club, grand round, conferences, as well as didactic sessions and a yearly supervised temporal bone dissection for residents and general ENTs. Fellows participate actively to the organization of the temporal bone dissection of 20 stations.

Fellows will be comfortable in a teaching role and will be supervised to develop these responsibilities in an academic setting. He/she will:

- Supervise residents in the OR
- Organise and supervise grand rounds when the subject is otology/neurotology.
- Teach medical students/residents/community ENT's during organised teaching activities held by the department
- **Research:**
While the primary objective of the experience is not to develop researchers, development of academic skills is important in this fellowship. To this end a research project must be completed by the end of the first year of training. This project may be the continuation of a prior research interest, a clinical research undertaking, or a basic science research project. Protected time is made in order to accomplish this research task. Fellow will present the results at an international / national meeting, and prepare the resulting article for publication
- **Selected readings program**
The fellow will be furnished a list of selected readings. Additional resources and access to the medical literature is available via the Internet from the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Sainte-Justine hospital and Université de Montréal libraries free of charge.

5. Interface with residents

The role of the otology/neurotology fellow shall be clearly defined by The Otology Team. The fellowship program is run parallel to the residency-training program and shall not interfere with resident related experience. On the contrary, it should reinforce the residents experience by allowing interactions with a supervisor closer to their level. Successful integration of the fellow with resident staff will be achieved by having the fellow act as a resource for basic techniques, assisting and eventually guiding resident staff through uncomplicated procedures, while learning advanced techniques by performing more complex procedures under direct supervision. This will allow unhampered teaching of resident staff, while helping foster the fellows academic and surgical.

The fellow will be involved in otology/Neurotology cases if it is felt to be at a level that is above that of the designated resident. The fellow will also be involved in various skull base resections of the temporal bone and the skull base if this is felt to be, once again, outside the normal training realm for a senior resident in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery program. On the ward the fellow will round with the resident staff. The fellow will be responsible for all advanced skull base surgery and will report directly to the staff regarding patient progress and plans for discharge. The fellow will be available to help and guide the residents in the care of the otology/neurotology patients.

6. On-call duty

The fellow will be on-call one week per period as a mean. The fellow will be on call at Hotel-Dieu de Montréal, Hôpital St-Luc and Hôpital Sainte-Justine when Dr Saliba is on duty.

7. Furnished

The candidate should be self-funded for the time being.
Four weeks of vacation are considered.

Please forward applications and inquiries to:

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