

UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL HEAD AND NECK FELLOWSHIP

1. Objective

To develop specialised knowledge of medical/surgical management of head and neck cancer patients in individuals wishing to pursue a career in academic head and neck oncology.

2. Justification

The preceptors at Université de Montréal (Dr Tabet, Dr Guertin, Dre Olivier, Dr Ayad, Dr Christopoulos and Dr Bissada) are all fellowship-trained in major head and neck cancer 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 research program in head and neck cancer. The fellow will attend to relevant clinical/surgical activities in Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM).

3. Eligibility

Candidates will be individuals having successfully completed an accredited otolaryngology residency who are interested in pursuing a career in academic Head and Neck cancer 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 Head and Neck 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 an exam three months prior to the fellowship for non French-speaking candidates.

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 Head and Neck cancer surgery. This will be via the following means:

- Medical Head and Neck oncologic expertise.
The educational objectives of the fellowship are:
 - to provide expertise in the multidisciplinary management of Head and Neck cancer patients through exposure to outpatient clinics and weekly Head and Neck tumor boards and Thyroid boards;
 - to practice effectively in a multidisciplinary tertiary care environment;
 - to obtain broad base knowledge and comprehensive principles in the management of Head and Neck cancer which will include exposure to radiation oncology, medical oncology, maxillofacial prosthetics, oncologic nutrition, speech rehabilitation and diagnostic radiology.

- Surgical Head and Neck oncologic expertise:
 - to develop expertise in Head and Neck ablative surgery, including salivary gland disease and thyroid surgery;
 - to develop competence in Head and Neck reconstructive surgery;
 - to develop skills in minimally invasive surgery (i.e. Transoral Laser Microsurgery, robotic surgery...)

- 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 and Université de Montréal libraries free of charge.

- Teaching

The candidate will attend all normal activities of the department, including evaluation/follow up of hospitalised patients as required.

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 Head and Neck;
- 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 the fellow will undertake and complete at least one clinical research project, which he/she will present at a national meeting, and prepare the resulting article for publication

5. Interface with residents

The role of the Head and Neck oncology fellow shall be clearly defined by the Head and Neck oncologic staff. 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 development.

The head and neck ablative/reconstructive surgery will be done in combination with one of the senior or/and junior residents on the service and the attending Head and Neck oncologic staff. The fellow will be involved in oncologic ablations 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 Head and Neck given if this is felt to be, once again, outside the normal training realm for a senior resident in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. On the ward the fellow will round with the resident staff. The fellow will be responsible for all advanced Head and Neck oncology reconstructive cases 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 head and neck patients.

6. On-call duty

The fellow will be on-call for a maximum of one week per period.

The fellow will be on-call at Hôpital Notre-Dame with all the attendings. He/She will also cover Hotel-Dieu de Montréal and Hôpital St-Luc when on-call with Dr Christopoulos and Dr Ayad. The situation might change when the hospitals will be unified at the new CHUM.

7. Furnished

The candidate should be self funded for the time being. Possible partial funding through grants from the CHUM.

Four week vacation

To register, please forward applications and inquiries to:

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