

## Cancer pain Clinical Fellowship

**Name of Institution:** McGill University

**Location:**

- 1) MUHC Cedar Cancer Centre (CCC)
- 2) MUHC Montreal General Hospital (MGH)
- 3) MUHC Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH)

**Type of Fellowship:** This is primarily a clinical fellowship ( $\geq 80\%$ ) but the candidate is expected to complete at least one clinical research project during the year.

**Number of positions:** 1 each year

**Length:** 1 year

### Program Information

**Number of fellowship positions requested:** One

**Academic affiliation:** Division of Supportive and Palliative Care, Department of Oncology, McGill University

**Name of hospitals involved in training:**

1. Cedars Cancer Centre (Glen Site)
2. Montreal General Hospital
3. Royal Victoria Hospital (Glen Site)

**% time spent by the fellow in each institution**

1. CCC: 65%
2. MGH: 25%
3. RVH: 10%

**Background**

The fellowship aims to train a physician in the field of cancer pain medicine including a thorough knowledge of the literature regarding the classification, epidemiology, pathophysiology, and treatment of cancer pain. Through practical experience, it will help develop his or her ability to apply this knowledge to patients who are having pain because of cancer or its treatments. The fellow will gain an appreciation of the specific challenges in the treatment of cancer pain including the importance of identifying anatomical as well as psychological causes of pain and to identify the appropriate treatment options including (but not limited to) pharmacotherapy, oncological interventions such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy, the role of psychological support and interventions. The fellow will obtain experience in designing and organizing a clinical research project in the field of cancer pain.

**Research activity**

The MUHC's Cancer Pain Clinic has a consistent line of clinical research. The fellow is expected to complete a clinical research project during the year.

**Mission:** To provide clinical and research training towards comprehensive academic knowledge of the field of cancer pain management.

Outline how intended fellowship will enhance residency training

Fellows will enhance the teaching of residents from a didactic and practical point of view. This fellowship will increase the academic activities oriented to study and improve cancer pain assessment.

**Funding:** For information about acceptable sources of funding please visit the following link: [http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/postgrad/admission\\_fellowships.htm](http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/postgrad/admission_fellowships.htm)

**Name of the Fellowship Program Director**

Dr. Jordi Perez (Anaesthesiologist in Supportive & Palliative Care)

**Names of the Teaching Faculty**

Palliative Care staff

Dr. Antonio Vigano  
Dr. Genevieve Chaput  
Dr. Krista Lawlor  
Dr. Stephanie Gingras  
Dr. Hitesh Bhanabhai  
Dr. Donald Ginsberg  
Dr. Manuel Borod

Anesthesiology staff

Dr. Jordi Perez (fellowship director)  
Dr. Yoram Shir

Radio-oncology staff

Dr. Marc David

Interventional Radiology

Dr. Louis M. Boucher

**Summary of clinical practice**

The MUHC's Cancer Pain Clinic was launched in March 2011 as a result of a joint effort from the departments of Supportive and Palliative Care and Anesthesiology. It was created to meet the needs of those patients with a diagnosis of cancer whose pain has become a main symptom. The clinic offers a unique interdisciplinary therapy by combining different clinical approaches given at the same time. Every year, more than 200 new patients are seen and more than 700 follow up consultation are completed.

The outpatient Cancer Pain Clinic is presently at the Supportive Care Clinics at the Cedars Cancer Centre (Glen site). The Cancer Pain Clinic includes several clinicians trained in cancer pain management including anaesthesiologists, palliativists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists and a clinical nurse. The outpatient cancer pain clinic offers new assessment and follow up consultations three mornings a week with a full-time nurse and full time secretary overseeing and coordinating the patients' progress.

### Major Strengths:

The MUHC's unique interdisciplinary cancer pain approach has revealed major benefits in terms of symptom management, patients' and clinicians' satisfaction as well as a decreased utilization of health resources and increased cost-effectiveness. The departments of Supportive and Palliative Care and Anesthesiology have a long and prestigious teaching tradition both for undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Palliative Medicine residency program and the Clinical Chronic Pain Fellowship are well established post-graduate teaching programs on which this fellowship is based.

### Suggested rotation schedule:

- Medical Oncology: 1 period
- Radiation Oncology: 1 period
- Chronic Pain Management: 1 period
- Supportive and Palliative Care: 1 period
- Cancer Pain Clinic + Chronic Pain Clinic + Research: 8 periods
- Vacation: 1 period

### **Academic Facilities**

Library access, materials relevant to fellowship training and multimedia learning materials are available at MGH's library and the Glen's library. Medical and teaching rounds are currently held at Supportive and Palliative Care library (MGH) and in the Glen's Cancer Centre Conference Room facilities.

### **Fellow Duties and Responsibilities**

No calls are required to cover any service

The fellow will interact with residents during their rotation at the Cancer Pain Clinic but will not supervise them.

The two main institutions are 1) MUHC's Glen site (include Cedars Cancer Centre and RVH) and 2) Montreal General Hospital. An elective at the Montreal Neurological Institute's Neuromodulation unit will be considered at the fellow's request.

Clinic responsibilities will include diagnosis, treatment and management of cancer pain syndromes along with health advocacy, clinical mentorship and participation as a member of the interdisciplinary team.

The fellow will take an active part and full responsibility in the thrice per week Cancer Pain outpatient Clinic (0.6/week) including diagnosis, management and health advocacy. The rest of the time allocated to clinical activities (0.2/week) will correspond to hospital consultations and/or interventional pain procedures done in the operating room.

The fellow will become an expert in the field of cancer pain assessment and management and as such will be responsible of teaching rounds to undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as chairing journal clubs and medical rounds.

The fellow will also participate in academic activities involving the residents, including: seminars, outcome assessment, morbidity and mortality rounds, etc.

The fellow) is expected to be involved in all teaching activities within the departments of Supportive and Palliative Care and Pain Medicine. Those include 1) MUHC's grand

rounds, 2) hemato-oncology rounds (when appropriate), 3) palliative medicine core teaching rounds and 4) weekly pain rounds

The fellowship benefits from the support of two departments, Supportive and Palliative Care and the Alan Edwards Pain Management Unit. Dr. Perez, the program director, will coordinate and schedule the fellow's clinical and teaching activities including discussion on the progress of the trainee with the different clinicians involved in the program during all rotations. The Cancer Pain Clinic and Palliative Care hospital consultation services have full time clinical nurses who will be in close contact with the trainee to provide feedback and ensure continuity of care to our patients. For secretarial support, the staff of the two parent departments will be made available for the needs that may arise during the fellowship.

### **Proposed meetings to be attended by the fellow**

The fellow will be encouraged to attend all educational meetings organized by the parent departments (Palliative Care and Pain Medicine). Special effort will be made to provide financial support for Research activities (including publications) expected of the Fellow. The fellow will have 20% of his/her time secured, in order to design and conduct a clinical trial in the field of cancer pain. A presentation at a national or international conference as well as a publication in a peer-review journal will be sought.

### **Curriculum**

Intended case load:

The fellow will attend the Cancer Pain outpatient Clinic that has an average of 2 new assessments and 5 follow up consultations per day. This clinic is held three times a week. The fellow is encouraged to observe and participate (if applicable) in the interventional pain procedures indicated for those patients. The fellow will attend, under appropriate supervision, an estimate of 200 new patients and 700 follow up consultations.

Intended Percentage of varieties of cases:

The Cancer Pain Clinic receives consultation mainly from the departments of Haemato-Oncology and Radio-Oncology. Of all cancer pain patients seen, an estimate 80% suffer from direct consequences of the tumour involved and the rest are cancer treatment-related pain. The clinic receives consultations from a large variety of oncology subspecialties including lung, breast, haematology and colorectal oncology.

Regular reading materials provided (if any):

The applicant will participate in regular journal clubs as presenter or attendee. Reading material to prepare those and other academic activities will be provided by the program directors.

Conference weekly schedules:

The fellow will have at least one academic activity scheduled that corresponds to the weekly Alan Edwards Pain Management Rounds. Other activities organized by the Palliative Care department will be integrated in the fellow's weekly schedule.