Canadian Scleroderma Research Group (CSRG)
Clinical Research Fellowship at McGill University

Application Form For FELLOWSHIPS

Name of Institution: McGill University

Location: Jewish General Hospital, 3755 Cote St Catherine Rd, Montreal, Qc, Canada, H3T 1E2.

Type of Fellowship: Clinical Research

Program Information:

The global objective of this fellowship is to provide training in clinical research regarding scleroderma to a medical (adult or paediatric) subspecialist who wishes to pursue a research career. This program will be carried out under the auspices of the CSRG, a team directed by Dr Murray Baron, which consists of rheumatologists at 15 Canadian sites and 10-15 clinical and basic science researchers across Canada.

The fellow will participate
1. in research projects being performed at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), the home base of the CSRG;
2. in other CSRG projects taking place across Canada;
3. in the management of the CSRG under the supervision of Dr. Baron;
4. in formal courses in epidemiology and statistics at McGill U with the opportunity to enrol in ad hoc graduate programs.

- **Number of fellowship positions**: 1 per year. Depending on the resources available, more than one position may be offered in certain years.
- **Eligibility**: As per the McGill criteria for Clinical Fellowships, this fellowship is for:
  1. Trainees who have completed a full specialty program AND
  2. Who hold a specialty certificate from a Board or College AND
  3. Who have completed the MCCEE or MCCQE-I/II or USMLEs (Deans letters or support may also be acceptable).
- **Academic affiliation**: Division of Rheumatology, McGill University,
- **Length of Fellowship**: maximum of 2 years for any one fellow.
- **Name of hospitals involved in training**: The fellow is based at the JGH where most of his/her time is spent. Formal classes could be held also at McGill U main campus or at another McGill Affiliated Teaching Hospitals. Weekly rheumatology rounds are held at the McGill University Health Center – Montreal General Hospital site.
- **Background**: The CSRG is funded by multiple grants from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research including a Strategic Training Initiative in
Health Research grant which will fund this fellowship. The candidate may also be supported by other public or private programs to which he/she will be invited to apply.

- **Research activity:** The fellow will work mostly but not exclusively under the supervision of Drs. M Baron, M Hudson (Div of Rheumatology), M Gornitsky (Dentistry) and, Dr R Steele (Dept of Mathematics). There are many active projects being performed at the JGH on behalf of the **CSRG.** The current fellow will be involved in a project examining the role of gender in scleroderma and will be responsible for establishing an already CIHR funded research program in oral health of patients with scleroderma.

- **Publications.** The publications and abstracts of the **CSRG** are appended.

- **Mission:** The goals of the **CSRG** are to further research in Scleroderma in Canada and develop new independent investigators.

- **Outline how intended fellowship will enhance residency training.** This clinical research training program is offered for trainees who have already completed their adult or paediatric Core Medicine Residency program and Core Training in a medical sub-specialty (Rheumatology or others).

**Name of the Fellowship Program Director:** Dr. Murray Baron

**Names of the Current Teaching Faculty:** M Baron, M Hudson, M Gornitsky, R Steele.

- **Roles:** Each of the faculty is involved in the clinical projects of the **CSRG.** The fellow will work directly under the supervision of one or more of these mentors, depending on the project. Dr Steele is the biostatistician of the **CSRG.**

- **Summary of clinical practice:** Patients, referred for registration in the database of the **CSRG,** are seen at the JGH. The fellow will participate directly in the clinical evaluation of these patients which requires doing a directed history and physical exam to record pertinent predetermined data. Patients are seen once a year and about 150 scleroderma patients are seen at the JGH site each year.

- **Major Strengths:** This is a well funded multi-site multi-disciplinary research program with over 700 Canadian patients entered in the database to date. There are several dry-lab researchers (in epidemiology, psychology and biostatistics) as well as wet-lab researchers at the various sites.

**Academic Facilities**

- **Outline facilities for clinical and academic pursuit:** Office space and computer equipment are provided to the fellow at the JGH in the Division of Rheumatology.
Library access and materials relevant to fellowship training is available from McGill U. libraries and, all libraries of its Network of Teaching Hospitals, including that of the JGH.

- Multimedia learning materials available.
- Availability of the learning facility at McGill Simulation Center, if applicable

**Fellow Duties and Responsibilities**

- **On Call responsibilities** for Rheumatology Service coverage: none
- **Acting as Senior Supervisor to residents:** no
- **Fixed rotations** at various institutions: no
- **Outpatient clinic responsibilities:** as related to the research project. Candidates will have the opportunity to attend the McGill Scleroderma clinic and the combined lung/rheumatic disease clinic.
- **Responsibilities towards residents** on service: none
- **Teaching responsibilities:** Yes, but related to scleroderma and research methodology.
- **Outline participation in academic activities** involving the residents: seminars, outcome assessment (morbidity and mortality rounds etc): weekly division of rheumatology rounds. If eligible, the fellow may enrol in a graduate program in epidemiology McGill U.
- **Describe any support staff** available to the fellow: program coordinator, nurse clinician, secretarial: the national coordinator of the CSRG and the assistants work at the JGH. They are available to the fellow for consultation. The statistician of the CSRG who works under the direction of Dr Steele also works full time at the JGH and will be available to the fellow.
- **Proposed meetings** to be attended by the fellow: Yearly scientific meeting of the CSRG and at least one other international meeting related to scleroderma/rheumatology. This will be funded by the training and NET grants of the CSRG.
- **Research productivity** and publications expected by the Fellow: The fellow will be expected to present at a major scientific meeting. By the end of one year he/she should have participated in the writing of at least one scientific paper. It is understood that it may require more time to complete such a paper and some of this work could take place after one year.

**Salary**

The salary for the fellow will vary according to the candidate's qualifications and will primarily come from the grants received by the CSRG or from private or public granting agencies such as the FRSQ or the CIHR to which the candidate will be asked to apply. In the case of a successful application to
one of these agencies, the **CSRG** will provide ad hoc complementary salary support in addition to the external funding received. It is understood that the fellow is not an employee of McGill U or JGH and that the Academic Division of Rheumatology and Department of Medicine have no financial responsibility in providing for the establishment and maintenance of the fellowship.

**Evaluation:**

The trainee will evaluate his/her supervisors every 6 months (appendix 1) and will receive a written evaluation of his/her performance every 6 months (appendix 2).

**Curriculum:**

The fellow will be provided with the opportunity of taking biostatistics course at the University. In certain circumstances where appropriate, the fellow may register as a masters student in epidemiology at McGill and will take the required courses for that program.

The schedule of academic conferences is as follows:

- **Monday** – 12:30 - Grand Medical Rounds, Jewish General Hospital
- **Tuesday** – 9-11 am, Rheumatology Academic Half Days, Montreal Children's Hospital
- 3:30 – 5 pm – Rheumatology Problem Rounds, Jewish General Hospital
- **Thursday** – 1:30 – 2:30 pm - CSRG Webcourse – this is an online course of lectures for all graduate students given by experts in scleroderma research from around the world
- 3 – 4:30 pm – once monthly Online Research Seminars for CSRG trainees – these are given by the trainees ad attended by all trainees with the mentor of the presenting trainee present
- **Friday** – 7:30 – 9 am – Rheumatology Grand Rounds, MUHC

The fellow will also be trained in managerial aspects of a large research team. For example, the director organizes the regular web course for all trainees. The fellow would take over the management of this course and would direct the research coordinators in this matter. The fellow will participate in planning the yearly scientific conference of the CSRG and other online research conferences that take place.

Also, the fellow will have access to the help of summer research students who are hired by the CSRG and will learn the skills of supervising a student. The fellow will also participate in the grant writing process for any CSRG grants being prepared during his training period.
# Grants of the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of proposal</th>
<th>Funding source</th>
<th>Total amount (CAN$)</th>
<th>Support period from</th>
<th>Support period to</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic Training Initiative (STIHR):</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>1,800,000$ (300K$/y)</td>
<td>04/2007</td>
<td>03/2013</td>
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<td>New Emerging Team (NET)</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>1,400,000$ (250K$/y)</td>
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<td>The Development of Classification Criteria for Scleroderma</td>
<td>The Arthritis Society</td>
<td>50000$ (10K$/y)</td>
<td>06/2006</td>
<td>06/2011</td>
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<td>Development and Validation of a patient assessed DAI in Systemic Sclerosis</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>275000$ (92K$/y)</td>
<td>04/2007</td>
<td>10/2010</td>
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<td>Impact of Orofacial Manif. of Scleroderma on Health-Related QoL</td>
<td>CIHR</td>
<td>212570$ (106K$/y)</td>
<td>01/2008</td>
<td>01/2010</td>
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<td>Systemic Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases (SARD) Research Group</td>
<td>Canadian Arthritis Network (NCE)</td>
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<td>01/2007</td>
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<td>Development of a</td>
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Publications of the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group (as of Feb 13, 2008)


15. Baron M. Current treatment for scleroderma. The Journal of the Canadian Rheumatology Association 2001;Fall(Solicited article).

Abstracts of the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group


18. Walker J, Baron M, Taillefer S, Hudson S, The Canadian Scleroderma Research Group. Disease activity over time in systemic sclerosis (abstract). In:
assessments on numerical rating scales in systemic sclerosis (SSc) (abstract). Arthritis Rheum 2005;52(9 (suppl)):585.