

**Application for Area of Focused Competence in Cytopathology (AFC-cyto) training, Faculty of Medicine,  
Postgraduate Medical Education**

<u>Name of Institution</u>	McGill University and McGill University Health Centre
<u>Location</u>	Department of Pathology, McGill University Health Centre, Glen site
<u>Type of Fellowship</u>	Area of Focused Competence in Cytopathology (AFC-cyto) (i.e. clinical fellowship with Diploma status from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada)

Program Information

- Number of AFC-cyto positions requested: One
- Academic affiliation: McGill University
- Name of hospitals involved in training: McGill University Health Centre, Glen site

**Background:** The Area of Focused Competence in Cytopathology training year is a one-year post-residency clinical competency-based training leading to an official Diploma recognition from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. It offers a comprehensive, integrated exposure to the field of Cytopathology. The cytological specimens handled at the McGill University Health Centre include approximately 50,000 gynecological specimens per year (including approximately 7000 colposcopic specimens) as well as 10,000 non-gynecological specimens (including approximately 4000 fine needle aspirates). Exposure to liquid-based cytology is provided.

**Research activity and publications:** The AFC-cyto trainee will be expected to participate in at least one major research project involving, at a minimum, a review of a series of cases with an aim to publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

**Mission and objectives:** The general mission of the AFC-cyto program is to provide training in the interpretation of cytopathology to become cognizant of the entire spectrum of reactive and malignant entities seen in gynecologic and non-gynecologic specimens and to provide leadership skills for the field of cytopathology.

The AFC-cyto trainee will integrate light microscopy and ancillary studies (in particular, immunohistochemistry, and occasionally flow cytometry and molecular studies) to arrive at a precise diagnosis. The AFC-cyto trainee will interact with secretarial and laboratory personnel (in particular cytotechnologists), other colleagues and residents, as well as clinical staff in order to develop skills that will enable him to practice at a high level in an academic or non-academic setting.

The specific objectives to attain these are as follows:

Upon completion of this AFC-cyto training, the AFC-cyto trainee should be proficient with the following aspects of Cytopathology :

1. methods of tissue acquisition from various sites (including endoscopic and endobronchial ultrasound-guided fine needle aspirations, i.e. EUS-FNA, EBUS-FNA)
2. Performance of FNA for superficial body sites
3. Performance of Rapid On-Site Evaluation (ROSE) for FNAs
4. optimal fixation, tissue processing and staining (eg cytopins, direct smears, cell blocks)
5. indications for, and limitations of, the various exfoliative and non-exfoliative cytological procedures
6. the criteria for satisfactory/unsatisfactory for gynecologic and non-gynecologic specimens
7. the diagnostic terminology and criteria of The Bethesda System for reporting gynecologic specimens
8. recognition of normal and abnormal cytology of various common and uncommon entities from various non-gynecologic anatomical sites with formulation of adequate accurate diagnostic interpretation
9. the appropriate follow-up for lesions identified cytologically

10. the various uses of HPV testing in gynecologic specimens
11. diagnostic pitfalls
12. selection and integration of ancillary techniques to cytologic material
13. measures of quality assurance (including use of rapid pre-screening for gynecologic cytology)

• **How intended AFC-cyto trainee will enhance residency training:**

The AFC-cyto trainee will participate in the teaching to the Pathology residents doing rotations in cytopathology. He will also serve as a resource person for the residents in these rotations, along with the responsible staff member.

Name of AFC-cyto Program Director: Dr. Manon Auger

Names of the Teaching Faculty: Dr. Manon Auger, Dr. Yonca Kanber, Dr. Fadi Brimo and Dr. Derin Caglar

- Roles: These staff members will participate in the teaching as per their rotations on the Cytopathology service.

Summary of clinical practice: At the MUHC, there are always two cytopathologists on service every week. The AFC-cyto trainee will be assigned to one cytopathologist/week, alternating between GYN and non-GYN specimens on a daily basis.

- **Major Strengths:**
  - Dr. M. Auger is a very experienced staff who has been teaching Cytopathology for 23 years. She has also given numerous lectures and courses in the field of Cytopathology throughout Canada, the United States and internationally. The four cytopathologists have had fellowship training in Cytopathology.

The material available for review is varied and covers the entire spectrum of non-neoplastic and neoplastic disorders from virtually all body-sites.

There are opportunities for teaching and research in Cytopathology.

Academic Facilities

- Facilities for clinical and academic pursuit: These are available at the Glen site of the McGill University Health Centre. All appropriate facilities and ancillary studies in the form of immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry and molecular diagnostics are available for diagnosis of cytologic specimens
- Cytopathology "Prep-lab" for hands-on training sessions of cytopreparatory techniques
- Cytopathology glass slide teaching collection (approximately 2000 cases)
- Cytopathology textbooks (available in cytotechnologists' screening room and in Dr. Auger's office and through McGill online library)
- Cytopathology journals (Acta Cytologica, Diagnostic Cytopathology, Cancer Cytopathology and Journal of the American Society of Cytopathology available in Dr. Auger's office; also through MUHC and McGill online library)
- Viewing powerpoint presentations with Dr. Auger on selected topics (during didactic sessions)
- Various CD-ROMs on Gynecologic and non-GYN cytology topics (from American Society of Cytopathology)
- Interlaboratory QA samples of gynaecologic and non-GYN cytology (from College of American Pathologists)
- Attendance and participation at Cytopathology rounds

AFC-cyto trainee Duties and Responsibilities: See also objectives above.

- The AFC-cyto trainee is expected to satisfactorily meet all the competencies required for completion of the Royal College portfolio (for obtention of the Royal College Diploma)
- The AFC-cyto trainee will have daily sign-out/review sessions with cytopathologists.
- The AFC-cyto trainee will act as a resource person for the Pathology residents rotating in Cytopathology, also reviewing occasional cases with them.
- The AFC-cyto trainee will also participate, as do Pathology residents, in medical student small group teaching of Pathology in first and second year medicine.
- The AFC-cyto trainee is expected to attend and participate in the Cytopathology rounds
- The AFC-cyto trainee is expected to organize and be the main presenter at one of the Cytopathology Rounds during academic year.
- Attend the weekly pathology rounds, and occasionally present at those rounds.
- Research productivity and publications expected by the AFC-cyto trainee: See above objectives.
- There is no on-call responsibilities for the AFC-cyto trainee.

### Curriculum

- Intended case load: In general, the AFC-cyto trainee will spend three-four days/week reviewing diagnostic cytologic material, alternating between gynecologic and non-gynecologic material on a daily basis; the fifth day will be reserved for working on projects. The AFC-cyto trainee is expected to be able to look at all the cases by the end of the AFC-cyto training, progressing from a smaller proportion at the beginning of the year.
- Regular reading materials provided: The resident will have access to the books referred to above, as well as be required to carry out regular literature searches on cases found with a view to arrive at a specific diagnosis and rule out other differential diagnoses.
- Conference weekly schedules: Monday 8:15-9:15 AM (every week): Pathology Rounds;  
Wednesday 11:00-noon (approximately 8/year): Cytopathology Rounds

### Evaluation methods

• There will be regular, formal, written evaluation of the AFC-cyto trainee by teaching staff. Evaluations will be completed and discussed with the AFC-cyto trainee at least once every 2 months, based on: assessment of diagnostic skills and general knowledge during sign-out sessions with pathologists, during research projects and at presentation at various rounds.

- The educational effectiveness of the AFC-cyto program will be evaluated in a systematic manner. In particular, the quality of the curriculum and the extent to which the educational goals have been met by AFC-cyto trainee will be assessed. The AFC-cyto trainee will submit formal, written evaluations of the program at least once each year for review by the director and the teaching staff.