

## APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP IN GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY

**Name of Institution:**

McGill University Health Centre/Jewish General Hospital (McGill University)

**Location:**

Royal Victoria Hospital room M8.12

**Type of Fellowship:**

Clinical fellowship in Geriatric Oncology

**Program Information:**

Number of fellowship positions requested: 2

Academic affiliation: Geriatric Medicine

Hospitals involved in training and % time spent by fellow in each institution:

1. Jewish General Hospital 40%
2. Royal Victoria Hospital 25%
3. Montreal General Hospital 25%
4. St-Mary's Hospital 10%

**FOR YOUR APPROVAL:**  
*J. Metten*  
**DATE:** *Sept 16/08*

Background:

Aging is the main risk factor for developing cancer. There is a growing interest worldwide in the field of Oncology and Aging (Geriatric Oncology) given the increasing number of seniors diagnosed with cancer. In Canada, 42% of cancer incidence and 60% of cancer mortality occur in persons aged  $\geq 70$  years old (Canadian Cancer Statistics 2008). Older persons often differ from the younger adult population in terms of biological, psychological, functional, and social perspectives; as such, they may have particular needs which require an interdisciplinary approach and intervention, especially when faced with a cancer diagnosis. The elderly population is heterogeneous, ranging from healthy seniors with no disability and few comorbidities to frail seniors who are disabled and have multiple comorbidities. This makes the assessment and management of this population challenging, especially when deciding on cancer treatment modalities.

Research activity:

Participating in research is strongly encouraged. Several members of the McGill Division of Geriatric Medicine are very active in research and eager to assist trainees in conducting research. Fellows will be linked to the Solidage Research Group of the Lady Davis Institute (Jewish General Hospital) for guidance, supervision and support to conduct research on a topic related to Geriatrics and Oncology during the fellowship year, with the aim of publication of the project.

Mission:

The mission of this fellowship program is to provide fellows with solid basic science and clinical knowledge in the fields of Geriatric Medicine and Oncology (Medical Oncology,

Hemato-Oncology, Radiation Oncology) to ultimately improve the care of older patients with cancer.

This fellowship is unique in that the type and number of rotations in Geriatrics and Oncology will vary depending on the candidate's background and prior residency training. For instance, a Radiation Oncology resident wishing to do this fellowship will likely do more rotations in Geriatrics, since he/her already has a strong background in Oncology.

**Name of the Fellowship Program Director:** Dr. Doreen Wan-Chow-Wah

**Names of the Teaching Faculty:**

Dr. Doreen Wan-Chow-Wah: Geriatrician who completed a fellowship in Medical Oncology at McGill University. Geriatric Oncology Fellowship program supervisor, Clinical tutor, research supervisor. Practices as a geriatrician at the MUHC (Royal Victoria Hospital); Medical director of and physician in the Consultation Service for Senior Oncology Patients at the Jewish General Hospital (outpatient-based clinic).

Dr. Johanne Monette : Geriatrician-epidemiologist, Research supervisor, clinical tutor. Will directly supervise candidates conducting research. Practices as a geriatrician at the Jewish General Hospital and is a physician in the Consultation Service for Senior Oncology Patients.

Dr. Carmela Pepe: Respiriologist/Pulmonary Oncologist with special interest and expertise in lung cancer in the elderly. Currently pursuing a Master's degree in Epidemiology. Clinical tutor, research supervisor. Practices at the Jewish General Hospital and is a physician in the Consultation Service for Senior Oncology Patients.

Dr. Ingrid Hings: Medical Oncologist at MUHC (Montreal General Hospital).

As a group, the teaching faculty named above have clinical and research expertise in the fields of Geriatrics and Oncology. Certainly, other members of the Division of Geriatric Medicine and the Department of Oncology will also have an active teaching role.

**Academic Facilities:**

Facilities for clinical and academic pursuit include all those McGill University-affiliated institutions where fellows will perform rotations, namely one or more of the academic teaching hospitals (Jewish General Hospital, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal General Hospital, St-Mary's Hospital). The candidate will work in various inpatient and outpatient services in Geriatric Medicine as well as in Oncology, depending on his/her background. A Geriatric Oncology fellowship reading package will be provided. Access to the library and multimedia learning materials will be made available.

**Fellow Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Call duty: On average once per month (5 weekdays, 1 weekend).

- Fellows are expected to supervise and teach junior trainees in both inpatient and outpatient settings.
- Certain rotations at designated institutions will be mandatory.
- Outpatient clinic responsibilities will include participation in the Geriatric Ambulatory Unit clinic, Memory clinic, Consultation Service for Senior Oncology Patients clinic, Medical Oncology and Hemato-Oncology clinics, Radiation-Oncology clinic. Fellows are expected to evaluate, diagnose and propose treatment plans, and communicate effectively with other members of the treating team. A longitudinal clinic whereby fellows can follow patients' progress over time will be scheduled.
- Attendance and participation in various academic activities such as journal clubs, teaching sessions (e.g. MORE sessions in Oncology), tumour boards, Geriatric Medicine Grand rounds, Medical Oncology rounds will be mandatory. Attendance at conferences in Geriatrics and/or Oncology during the fellowship year will be strongly encouraged (Canadian Geriatrics Society, American Geriatrics Society, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Société Internationale d'Oncologie Gériatrique, etc).
- Support staff available to the fellows include: Geriatric Oncology Fellowship program director, Geriatric Medicine Residency program director, Medical Oncology Residency program director, Hematology Residency program director, Radiation Oncology Residency program director, attending staff physicians, nurses, Clinical nurse specialist in Geriatrics, Nurse coordinator (Infirmiere Pivot) in Oncology, administrative assistants/secretaries in Geriatrics and Oncology.
- Participation in a research project is strongly encouraged. To be discussed with each fellow.

**Curriculum:**

- Intended case load: 8-10 patients on an in-patient ward; 1-2 patients per half-day clinic in Geriatrics; 4-8 patients per half-day clinic in Oncology.
- Fellows will receive a broad exposure to cases in Geriatrics (cognitive impairment, functional disability, mobility problems, frailty, geriatric syndromes, etc.) and in Oncology (various tumour types, solid and hematological malignancies, etc.).
- Key articles in Geriatric Oncology will be provided.
- Fellows will be active members of each respective service they are assigned to. They will evaluate patients, present cases (verbal and/or written), propose treatment plans, communicate with other team members, plan follow-ups, supervise medical students and junior residents. They will be asked to present relevant articles at journal clubs.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Doreen Wan-Chow-Wah, MDCM, FRCPC