

FELLOWSHIP IN GYNECOLOGIC PATHOLOGY

NAME OF INSTITUTION:

Sir Mortimer B. Davis-Jewish General Hospital

LOCATION:

3755 Côte Sainte-Catherine Road
Montréal, Québec, Canada H3T 1E2

TYPE OF FELLOWSHIP:

One-year gynecopathology fellowship

PROGRAM INFORMATION:**• Number of fellowship positions requested:**

One

• Academic affiliation:

McGill University, Department of Pathology

• Name of hospitals involved in training:

Sir Mortimer B. Davis-Jewish General Hospital – 90% of time spent as Fellow
Montreal General Hospital – 5% of time spent as Fellow
Royal Victoria Hospital – 5% of time spent as Fellow

• Background:

The Department of Pathology at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis-Jewish General Hospital is known for its excellence in diagnostic pathology and commitment to academic activities. Its gynecologic pathology service is one of which the Department proudly claims its expertise. The Division of Gynecologic Pathology and Cytology at the Jewish General Hospital is under the leadership of Dr. Alex Ferenczy.

The Division handles 7,000 surgical gynecological cases of which 200 are malignant, invasive lesions and over 700 colposcopy-related precancers of the lower genital tract. In addition, the Division carries out a significant number of internal and outside consultations in the field and functions as a referral centre for diagnostic gynecological pathology as well as a continuing resource for teaching and research activities.

There are 42,000 cases of PAP cytology of which 5% are abnormal. These are reviewed by the pathologists including Dr. Alex Ferenczy, and all discrepant cytological cases are correlated with histological diagnoses including those from the Colposcopy Clinic of the JGH.

Dr. Ferenczy is involved in weekly Gyn Oncology Tumour Boards and monthly teleconferences with CHUM as well as the MUHC's Royal Victoria and Montreal General Hospitals. At these conferences histological slides are used and demonstrated to participants via television systems. The teleconferences are attended by gynecologic oncologists, both surgical and medical, and residents and medical students from their respective institutions. Academically affiliated with

the Department of Pathology of McGill University, Dr. Ferenczy has been actively involved in the teaching of pathology residents from McGill University and visiting fellows from other countries. In recent years, on average, eight McGill residents and four clinical fellows each year receive training from Dr. Ferenczy for variable terms. As an established researcher in the field of gynecopathology, particularly cervical pathology related to HPV infection, Dr. Ferenczy also emphasizes the importance of research skills and always encourages his trainees to participate in the various on-going research projects in which he plays a leadership role.

• **Research activity and publications:**

The fellow will be required to participate in at least one on-going or new research projects. (Details in the section entitled “fellow duties and responsibilities”.)

The fellow will be required to submit at least one research paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. A case report is considered an acceptable alternative only under exceptional circumstances.

• **Mission and objectives:**

The year of fellowship in gynecologic pathology will provide the opportunity for the trainee to gain knowledge and develop expertise in the field of gynecologic pathology. The training will promote aptitudes of competence and leadership in the operation of a busy gynecologic pathology/gynecologic cytology service, as well as in research, teaching and other academic activities in the fields related to gynecologic pathology.

Upon completion of training, the fellow must have acquired adequate knowledge, perfected the technical skills and developed the professional attitudes expected of a medical expert in the field of gynecologic pathology. The objectives are detailed as follows according to the CanMEDS framework of competencies:

1. Medical expert

- a) Acquisition of basic and clinical scientific knowledge pertinent to the pathogenesis, clinical manifestations and pathologic features of benign and malignant diseases of the cervix, the uterus and the ovary.
- b) Strengthening of diagnostic skills in gynecologic pathology through the practice of interpreting histological findings with the consideration of the clinical presentation and with the full awareness of the potential clinical impacts of the different diagnoses.
- c) Consolidation of knowledge of ancillary techniques available for the accurate assessment and diagnoses of diseases in the field of gynecologic pathology, such as, special histological stains, immunohistochemistry techniques, HPV testing, electromicroscopy, FISH study, and molecular techniques.
- d) Acquisition of basic knowledge of the clinical procedures related to gynecologic pathology, such as PAP smear, colposcopy, endometrial biopsy, endocervical biopsy and endocervical curettage.

e) Obtaining knowledge of the Material Safety Data Sheets and awareness of other management issues related to laboratory safety.

2. Communicator

- a) Ability to communicate effectively with the treating physicians regarding the interpretation of the pathologic diagnoses.
- b) Demonstration of the skills to interact professionally with pathologists, colleagues and the laboratory personnel to ensure the optimal operation of the service.

3. Collaborator

- a) Readiness to function effectively as consultant to provide optimal assistance in difficult or challenging cases encountered in general surgical pathology practice.
- b) Development of teaching skills for the junior residents and medical students.
- c) Willingness to introduce new advancements in disease classification to the treating physicians; willingness to cooperate with other pathologist or clinician colleagues to conduct research in the field of gynecology/gynecologic pathology.

4. Manager

- a) Ability to function in an organized and orderly fashion.
- b) Cost effective use of the ancillary techniques in making pathologic diagnoses.
- c) Ability to supervise the pathologist assistants in processing the gynecologic specimens.
- d) Acquisition of skills in managing a histology lab in fields related to gynecologic specimens.
- e) Developing expertise in quality assurance and quality control in gynecologic pathology.

5. Health advocate

- a) Willingness to give the treating physicians feedback regarding treatment effects and to provide them with the information related to better treatment of the patients, such as new classification system of a certain disease.
- b) Willingness to participate in awareness campaigns, public forums to promote women's health and to reduce the incidence of preventable gynecologic diseases.

6. Scholar

- a) Motivation to become familiar with the current literature relevant to the field of gynecologic pathology.
- b) Enthusiasm to contribute to the advancement of the science of gynecologic pathology through active involvement in research activities.
- c) Active participation in academic societies and conferences.

7. Professional

- a) Awareness of the ethical and medico-legal aspects of the practice of gynecologic pathology.
- b) Demonstration of professionalism by being punctual, reliable and responsible and showing due respect to colleagues.

- How intended fellowship will enhance residency training:
The fellow will participate in the teaching of residents doing a rotation in gynecologic pathology at the Jewish General Hospital. The fellow's role will be active tutoring the residents and ensuring that residents acquire the basic notions of gynecologic pathology. The fellow will also serve as a resource person for the residents and provide help as needed.

NAME OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Dr. Alex Ferenczy

NAMES OF THE TEACHING FACULTY:

Dr. Alex Ferenczy, MD
Department of Pathology
SMBD-Jewish General Hospital
3755 Côte Sainte-Catherine Road
Montréal, Québec, Canada H3T 1E2
Telephone : (514) 340-7526
Fax : (514) 340-7542
E-mail: alex.ferenczy@mcgill.ca
Head of Gynecologic-Pathology & Cytology, Jewish General Hospital, Montreal,
since 1973

Dr. Alan Spatz
Department of Pathology
SMBD-Jewish General Hospital
3755 Côte Sainte-Catherine Road
Montréal, Québec, Canada H3T 1E2
Telephone: (514) 340-8222 loc. 5470
Fax: (514) 340-8102
E-mail: alan.spatz@mcgill.ca
Pathologist-in-Chief, Department of Pathology, Jewish General Hospital,
Montreal, since 2008

ACADEMIC FACILITIES:

The Department of Pathology at the Jewish General Hospital is well equipped to facilitate the teaching of residents/fellows.

The residents' room is located within the Department with a capacity to accommodate five residents/fellows simultaneously. Each desk is equipped with a microscope; two computers are to be shared by the trainees. The computers have accesses to the Jewish General Hospital intranet as well as to the internet; they also have access to the McGill library catalogue through the virtual private

network connected to the McGill University system. Essential textbooks and reference books in pathology are also provided in the residents' room.

The Department has a 10-head multi-headed microscope that is available for the teaching of residents/fellows and for inter-departmental conferences with the clinicians.

Dr. Ferenczy has a large collection of teaching slides in gynecologic pathology and gynecologic cytology, and these materials are made available to the trainees upon request.

For technical assistance, the Department has multiple well-established and well-maintained labs, including one histology lab, one cytology lab and one immunohistochemistry lab. In case flow cytometry or molecular studies are needed, arrangements could be made either with another department within the hospital or through the McGill University Health Center.

The daily functioning of the Department has been computerized; and the Department has been providing secretarial assistance to the trainees.

FELLOW DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Mandatory activities

a) Call duty and responsibilities

There will be no call duty during the year of fellowship. The fellow will have the following responsibilities during the year:

- a) The fellow will be responsible for the intraoperative consultation of gynecologic cases during daytime on work days.
- b) The fellow will be responsible to read and interpret the slides of gynecologic pathology/cytology and then come up with provisional diagnoses. For challenging cases, the fellow is expected to conduct literature search and organize proper further investigation. All the service slides will then be reviewed at the multi-headed microscope by both the supervising staff and the fellow before they are signed out. The fellow is expected to discuss the interesting cases and the relevant literature with the staff at the time of sign-out.

b) Attendance at Rounds

Attendance by the fellow at the following rounds is encouraged:

- Monthly gynecologic tumour boards at Jewish General Hospital
- Weekly gynecology/obstetrics rounds at the Jewish General Hospital
- Monthly JGH and University of Montreal joint rounds of gynecology
- Monthly joint conferences with Oncology Department and the Department of Epidemiology of McGill University on HPV research
- Weekly surgical pathology rounds at MUHC (Mondays, at MGH/RVH)

In the above mentioned rounds, if a case with pathologic diagnosis is presented, the fellow is expected to present the pathologic findings and discuss the case with the treating physicians.

The fellow is expected to give presentations periodically at the MUHC surgical pathology rounds as per the department schedule.

c) Resident and staff teaching

The fellow will be a senior supervisor of residents doing a rotation in gynecologic pathology at the Jewish General Hospital. The fellow's role will be active tutoring the residents and ensuring that residents acquire the basic notions of gynecologic pathology.

d) Research and Publications

The fellow's research activities will potentially include but not be limited to the following projects:

- The "Endometrial Polyp Project": this is an on-going retrospective study to investigate the malignant potential of endometrial polyps, if any. The role of the fellow is to continue reviewing the slides, ordering and interpreting the immunohistochemistry studies, summarizing the findings and writing up the paper.
- The "Endocervical Curettage Project": this will be a new project to retrospectively study the role of endocervical curettage in the clinical management of patients with cervical squamous intraepithelial lesions. The fellow is expected to actively participate in the initial literature research, the designing of the study, the interpretation of the findings in the biopsies and the resection specimens, and in summarizing the data.
- The "Pre-colposcopy PAP project": this will be another new study to investigate the usefulness and cost-effectiveness of pre-colposcopy PAP smear. The fellow is expected to participate from the start and be responsible for the collection and interpretation of data as well as the writing-up of the paper.

The fellow will be required to submit at least one research paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. A case report is considered an acceptable alternative only under exceptional circumstances.

2. Recommended activities

- a) Annual Meeting of the College of American Pathologists
- b) Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology
- c) Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pathologists

CURRICULUM:

1. Intended case load

The gynecologic pathology service of the Jewish General Hospital sees an average of 7,000 surgical and 35,000 gynecologic cytology cases per year. Of the surgical cases, approximately 60% are cervical cases, 30% are endometrial cases and 10% are ovarian cases.

2. Reading materials: Books

- Blaustein's Pathology of the Female Genital Tract, 5th Edition, Springer, New York, 2002.
- Gynecology and Obstetrics Looseleaf CD-ROM, Vol. 5, Chapter 18, Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2004.
- The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology, Springer-Verlag Berlin and Heidelberg GmbH & Co. K (January 1994).
- DIAGNOSIS OF ENDOMETRIAL BIOPSIES, Springer; 2nd edition (December 15, 2004).
- World Health Organization: Tumours of the Breast and Female Genital Organs, IARC Press-WHO; 1 edition (October 1, 2003).
- Colposcopy: Principles and Practice – An Integrated Textbook and Atlas, 2nd edition, Saunders/Elsevier, Philadelphia, 2008.
- Clinical Practice of Gynecology. New York: Elsevier Science Publishing Co. Inc., 1989.
- Pathology of the Female Genital Tract. New York: Springer-Verlag, 1977.

EVALUATION:

1. The fellow will be evaluated twice a year by both of the supervisors. Acquisition and development of CanMEDS competencies will be assessed and reported on evaluation forms similar to those used for the residents in the training program. Evaluations will also be verbally discussed with the Fellowship Director and presented at the Residency Program Committee.

2. The fellowship program will be evaluated once a year, using a form similar to the one used by the residents to evaluate the residency program. Once completed, this evaluation will be submitted directly by the fellow to the Residency Program Director who will subsequently present it to the Residency Program Committee.