

NEUROSURGICAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

Name of Institution: Montreal Neurological Hospital – Institute
Location: 3801 University Street, Montreal, Qc H3A 2B4
Type of Fellowship: Neurosurgical Oncology Fellowship
Program Director: Dr Line Jacques
Supervisor: Dr Richard Leblanc
Co-supervisor: Dr Rolando Del Maestro & Dr Kevin Petrecca
Fellowship information: duration of not less than 1 year
Number of fellowship position per year: 1

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

The Neurosurgical Oncology Fellowship Program is designed to develop highly skilled neurosurgeons that have expertise in the complete management of central nervous system cancer patients.

The program expects fellows to acquire knowledge and skills in:

- clinical diagnosis in the in-patient and out-patient setting, appropriate patient selection for medical versus surgical management, preoperative, intra-operative and postoperative management of CNS tumour patients
- surgical resection of intra- and extra-parenchymal tumors, intra-operative brain mapping, awake craniotomy, navigational techniques, skull base approaches, endoscopic approaches, spine tumors, peripheral nerve tumors and surgical approaches for cancer related pain control
- the multidisciplinary approach to patient care including tumor board discussion with specialists in medical oncology, radiation oncology, neuropathology, neuroradiology and rehabilitation medicine
- clinical, transitional and/or basic research

TEACHING

The fellow is expected to play an active role in resident teaching in both the clinic and operative settings. Participation in weekly formal academic half-days is required.

RESEARCH

Participation in regional, national and international meetings is encouraged, as well as the generation of publications in peer-reviewed journal and textbooks. For fellows interested in advanced research, the Montreal Neurological Institute is home to more than 70 neuroscience-dedicated researchers engaged in the full spectrum of contemporary neuroscience research and patient care, including the new Brain Tumor Research Center. Numerous opportunities are available in clinical, translation and basic research.

DURATION

The duration of the fellowship program is one or two years depending on the desired amount of research experience.

A one year clinical fellowship includes 10 months on the neurosurgery oncology service, 1 month on the radiation oncology service and 1 month on the medical neuro-oncology service at McGill.

EVALUATIONS

The neurosurgery training program has, in place, a comprehensive evaluation system. All attending neurosurgeons are required to evaluate the residents and fellows they are in contact with. These evaluations are developed as medical evaluation directives for specialists put forth by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. All evaluations are reviewed with each resident by the evaluator and members of the training program committee. Mechanisms are in place for the assessment of grievances.

IMPACT

The Montreal Neurological Institute has a long and proud history of fellows that have trained at the NEURO and subsequently spread across the world to develop neurosurgical programs. This continues to be true today. Our feeling is that the NEURO experience enriches the lives and careers of our fellows and that our fellows enrich the life of the NEURO.

We have stressed that resident training cannot be diminished by the presence of a fellow. We have, however, found the opposite to be true. Our experience is that they have had an immensely positive influence on our residents and have played an important role in both didactic and surgical teaching. Our policy is that in the operating room, residents are the primary operators commensurate with their experience, skill and comfort level. Residents' surgical exposure is monitored closely by the training program director who discusses these issues with each resident.