

Fellowship Program in Surgical and Medical Retina
Department of Ophthalmology, University of Montreal

Faculty:

- Jean-Daniel Arbour
- Marie Carole Boucher
- Ghassan Cordahi
- Louis A. Corriveau
- Renaud Duval
- Danny Gauthier
- Karim Hammamji, Site Chief CHUM
- Sébastien Olivier
- Cynthia Qian, Chief of Retina (Retina Fellowship Director)
- Flavio Rezende
- Marc-André Rhéaume
- Mikael Sebag

The fellowship offers physicians who have completed their ophthalmology residency the opportunity to pursue a two-year specialized training in medical and surgical retina. The program's mission is to train future retina specialists who will not only serve their communities but also inspire the next generation of professionals. Training occurs primarily at two main sites: Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont (HMR) and the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM). Fellows may also have opportunities to train at CHU Ste-Justine, a quaternary pediatric hospital affiliated with the University of Montreal.

The fellowship consists of four six-month rotations alternating between the two main sites. Fellows will gain experience in clinic and surgical settings, engage in clinical research, and teach residents. Participation in retina-focused meetings is also an integral part of the program.

Program Details:

- **Duration:** Two years
 - **Positions Available:** One fellow per year
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Selection Criteria:

- Application through the San Francisco Match: www.sfmatch.org

- In-person interview with faculty members
 - Completion of an ophthalmology residency program recognized by the Collège des médecins du Québec (CMQ)
 - Proficiency in spoken French to communicate effectively with patients, assessed officially by the University of Montreal before the fellowship begins
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Program Objectives:

- The student will recognize and treat diseases of the retina.
 - Master diagnostic tools such as examination with the indirect ophthalmoscope, ultrasound, OCT and retinal angiography.
 - Develop expertise in areas related to the posterior segment of the eye such as oncology and uveitis and pediatric retina
 - Participate in high-volume retina clinics.
 - Perform laser treatments for various retinal diseases.
 - Assess patients in the preoperative and postoperative period.
 - Master the most common and important surgical procedures in retina, including:
 - Scleral buckling
 - Simple vitrectomy 20g, 23g, 25g
 - Vitrectomy with membrane peeling
 - Vitrectomy with membrane dissection for complicated rhegmatogenous or tractional detachments.
 - Vitreous, retinal and choroidal biopsies for the work-up of uveitis
 - Combined phacoemulsification and vitrectomy surgery
 - Medical and surgical treatment of endophthalmitis and ocular trauma
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Fellow Responsibilities:

- The fellow's involvement in resident training will include lectures, hands-on supervision, fluorescein conferences and grand rounds.
 - Present once a year at the monthly grand rounds of the department of ophthalmology
 - Present their research project and relevant results at the Annual Research Day
 - Achieve at least one research project at each center (HMR and CHUM) during his or her training, with the expectation of a publication at the end of training. Other projects can be done in parallel at the discretion of the fellow
 - Exemplary behavior in the workplace and professionalism is expected of the fellow.
 - The rules of the CMQ and the different hospitals will be respected by the fellow.
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Rules and Policies:

- Fellows must begin training on the agreed start date as per their contract. A delayed start may result in the contract being voided.

- The proposed schedule must be followed and can only be altered with prior approval from the Retina Fellowship Director.
- Fellows are entitled to four weeks of vacation and one week of conference leave per year, both requiring pre-approval. Additional conference leave may be granted for presenting University of Montreal research.
- Participation in the on-call schedule is a mandatory component of the fellowship. Fellows assigned to either Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital or the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) are on call whenever a retina attending at their assigned site is on call. This typically equates to an average of every other week (1:2 call).
- During on-call weeks, fellows manage emergencies at their site, collaborating with residents, who serve as first responders and escalate retina-related cases as necessary. Fellows are responsible for evaluating cases, contacting the retina specialist on call, and actively participating in emergency surgeries, including preoperative assessments and intraoperative assistance.
- Completion of the fellowship requires the successful fulfillment of two full years of training.
- Any breach of the rules will be reviewed by the Retina Division, and appropriate actions will be taken based on the severity of the violation. In cases of serious misconduct, the Retina Fellowship Director reserves the right to terminate the fellowship and withhold the diploma.

Funding:

Funding of up to \$40,000 CAD per calendar year may be provided. However, candidates with their own secured funding are highly encouraged to apply.

Evaluation:

Fellows will be formally evaluated every six months, coinciding with site rotations.

This revised version clarifies the importance of starting on time and highlights the funding details while maintaining a professional tone.