

# Fellowship program in surgical and medical retina at the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Montreal

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We offer to physicians who have completed their training in ophthalmology the opportunity to pursue a 2-year fellowship in medical and surgical retina. Our mission is to train future retina specialists who will practice in their communities and become role models for future generations. Training is provided on two main sites: Hospital Maisonneuve-Rosemont (HMR) and the CHUM. The fellow in training will have the chance to work both in the clinic and in the operating room with a multitude of retina specialists. The fellowship is composed of four 6-months periods that will alternate between each site. The program also includes a component of clinical research where fellows will participate in projects at both sites. Teaching residents and participating in retina-specific meetings are required.

## Program:

The program is for a period of 2 years. We accept one fellow per year.

## Selection criteria:

- Have completed a residency in ophthalmology that meets the criteria of the College of Physicians Of Québec (CMQ).
- Mastering the French language (speaking level) in order to communicate with patients. The candidate's French proficiency level will need to be assessed one month prior to the start of the fellowship.
- Submission of a CV with three original letters of recommendation, one of which comes from the residency program director and the other two by retina specialists.
- Interview with the faculty members.

## 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.
- 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

The fellow's involvement in resident training will include lectures, hands-on supervision, fluorescein conferences and grand rounds.

Possibility of presenting 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. This project will ideally involve both academic centers. Other projects can be done in parallel at the discretion of the fellow, but they cannot compromise the main project.

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.

### **Rules of the fellowship:**

The student is subject to the general rules of the CMQ and the hospitals where they work. This includes sufficient French language proficiency to be able to communicate with the patients. In the event that a candidate does not meet the required French language skill requirements, a French language course may be required. Fluency in French must be achieved at least one month before the start of training.

The proposed schedule should be respected and cannot be changed without the approval of the retina fellowship director. 4 weeks of vacation and 1 week of conference leave is offered every year, and must be pre-approved by the retina fellowship director. Special permission for extra conference leave may be granted to present the results of research projects done at the University of Montreal.

The call schedule must also be respected. As an important element of the fellowship training, being on call is mandatory. The fellow at either of our fellowship sites (Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital and CHUM) will be on call whenever a retina attending at that same center is on call. This amounts to every other week call on average (1 in 2 call). When on call, emergencies arriving at either site will be taken care of. Residents are usually first call and will then communicate with the fellow for any retina-related problems during the fellow's week of calls. The fellow will then be responsible for assessing the situation and appropriately contacting the retina specialist on call. When emergency surgeries happen during a fellow's call, he or she will be encouraged to participate in the preoperative assessment of cases as well as take part in the surgery. The call schedule is established by the retina fellowship director or a person appointed by him.

Two complete years of training must be completed for the fellow to be granted a diploma at the end of the fellowship.

Any violation of the rules will be discussed with the other members of the retina division, and appropriate sanctions will be decided upon depending on the situation. In the event of a serious offense, the fellowship director reserves the right to remove a fellow's training privileges and deprive him or her from graduating.

**Evaluation:**

An assessment is made and discussed every 6 months when the fellow alternates between both main training sites.

**Funding:**

The student is responsible for funding the fellowship since no salary is awarded by the University of Montreal.