



HEALTH SCIENCES



Juravinski Hospital
and Cancer Centre

Clinical Research Fellowship Opportunities Malignant Hematology

The Department of Oncology at McMaster University has several clinical research fellowship positions available in Malignant Hematology. McMaster University is one of Canada's top ranked research-intensive universities and the Faculty of Health Sciences is a major contributor with more than \$100 million in research funding being overseen by health sciences investigators. In addition, the Faculty of Health Sciences is partnered with the Hamilton Academic Health Care Network, which provides care to Hamilton, Central West and North-Western Ontario, serving more than 2.2 million people. The Department of Oncology is located at the Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton, Ontario and offers one of the largest cancer treatment services in Ontario. Physicians in the region refer over 5,000 new patients to the centre each year.

The primary objective of a 1-2 year fellowship in **Malignant Hematology** is to provide clinical and research training opportunities across the spectrum of acute and chronic leukemia, marrow failure syndromes, lymphoproliferative disorders, plasma cell neoplasms, and stem cell transplantation. The Division of Malignant Hematology is comprised of 13 full-time members with specific subspecialty and research expertise covering a broad range of hematologic malignancies including an active, FACT approved allogeneic (80/year) and autologous (150/yr) stem cell transplant program. Specific research strengths include basic laboratory/translational studies with a focus on stem cell biology and tumour immunology/novel cellular immuno-therapeutics (including an evolving CAR-T cell program), active involvement in Phase I/II/III clinical trials across all disease subtypes and with provincial/national leadership roles in the fields of leukemia and stem cell transplantation, active participation and leadership in the Program for Evidence-based Care (PEBC) Hematology Disease Site Group of Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), and Health Services Research. Opportunities exist for fellows to obtain formal graduate training (MSc) in Health Research Methodology through McMaster University's renowned Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and to lead the development of a practice guideline for the CCO-PEBC

Duration: 1 - 2 year Fellowships

Start Date: July 1, 2022

Deadline Date for Applications: October 1, 2021

Following a review by the fellowship committee, selected applicants will be offered invitations to interview for a fellowship position. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

The one-year Clinical Fellowship provides fellows with a focused and high-level clinical experience as the primary goal of training. In addition to developing specific clinical/laboratory expertise in their disease sites of interest (e.g. acute leukemia/MDS/MPN, lymphoma, myeloma), fellows are expected to develop a plan for participating in specific scholarly activities/projects within education and/or research. At a minimum, fellows are encouraged to take the *HRM 721 – Fundamentals of Health Research & Evaluation Methods* course in the Health Research Methodology Program at McMaster University. The course will cover the basic concepts in formulating a research question, literature reviews, study designs, selection of study populations, choice of measuring instruments,

research ethics and knowledge translation. The course will provide students the opportunity to develop a research question and determine the appropriate research methods. Research designs discussed include randomized clinical trials, cohort and case-control designs, qualitative methods, health technology assessment and the evaluation of diagnostic test properties. Other opportunities include McMaster University's Online Graduate Program in Clinical Epidemiology (GDCE).

The two-year Clinical Research Fellowship provides fellows an opportunity to develop a research intensive fellowship (50-80% of time) in addition to a focused and high-level clinical experience (20-50% of time) in their disease sites of interest (e.g. acute leukemia/MDS/MPN, lymphoma, myeloma). Fellows are expected to obtain formal research training in order to support their academic fellowship goals and are strongly encouraged to enroll in a graduate degree program. Fellows who have been accepted into the program have had an opportunity to obtain a *Master of Science Degree in Health Research Methodology (MSc-HRM)*, and *Master of Education (MEd)* from McMaster University. Fellows have also been supported to obtain graduate degrees in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. The MSc-HRM degree at McMaster University is world renowned and provides fellows the opportunity to develop research skills required to become an independent clinician researcher. This program requires students to complete five courses and a thesis. In general, each course meets for one half-day per week, with the need for about three to five hours of outside preparation per hour of class time. The three basic courses are an introduction to clinical epidemiology, an introduction to biostatistics, and a course on research methodology, in which students learn how to prepare a research protocol. In addition, HRM students participate in research internships designed to provide practical experience in clinical research. The thesis may be a "design" thesis, in which the candidate designs a study in his/her area of interest, including the implementation and analytic strategies, while considering and addressing the relevant methodological issues. Although conducting the study is not a requirement of the thesis, fellows are strongly encouraged to choose projects which they would actually like to carry out. Often the thesis forms the basis of a grant proposal that can launch the next phase of career development as a clinical investigator. For more information on *the HRM Program and deadline dates* please visit: <https://healthsci.mcmaster.ca/hei-hrm>

Specific funding opportunities:

(1) Cancer Care Ontario Clinical Fellowships (2018-2021): up to one fellowship position per year

(a) Acute Leukemia Fellowship (One year)

2) McMaster University Department of Oncology Malignant Hematology Fellowship: up to one fellowship position per year. One year Clinical and Two year Academic Fellowships available (*Fellows with a focus on lymphoid malignancies (e.g. lymphoma/myeloma/autologous stem cell transplantation) will be prioritized for this funding opportunity during years where CCO Acute Leukemia and Stem Cell Transplantation Fellowships are available*).

** Applicants are also encouraged to apply for alternative sources of funding if possible (e.g. Ministry of Health funded Clinical Investigator Program fellowships).*

Where appropriate, fellows may wish to consider an application concurrently to the McMaster University Clinical Investigator Program (CIP) <https://pgme.mcmaster.ca/discover/enhanced-training/cip-working-page/cip-prospective-trainees/> Enrollment in the CIP mandates no more than 20% of time dedicated to clinical work and thus provides a protected training environment to enable the development independent clinician researchers.

Application Requirements: (Please note: Incomplete applications will not be accepted)

1. Must have completed Hematology subspecialty training
2. CPSO licensing to practice in the Province of Ontario
3. Curriculum vitae - include information on teaching and research positions, list of publications, certificates, awards, scholarships, memberships, etc.
4. Three appropriate professional letters of reference, one from the Residency Program Director

5. Covering letter outlining personal learning goals and preliminary thoughts for development of a research/clinical project
6. Medical School transcripts

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. However, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be considered first for these positions. McMaster University is strongly committed to employment equity within its community, and to recruiting a diverse faculty and staff. The University encourages applications from all qualified candidates, including women, members of visible minorities, Aboriginal peoples, members of sexual minorities and persons with disabilities.

Submit online application <https://pgme.mcmaster.ca/apply/fellowships-application/> by **October 1, 2021**

***Reference letters** should be submitted directly to Heather Shiskoski at hethomas@hhsc.ca

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