

The TWJ FOUNDATION and UHN CLINICAL & RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN NEUROTOLOGY/OTOLOGY

Description

The TWJ Foundation and the University Health Network (UHN), University of Toronto offers fellowship training that will provide the applicant with further exposure to advanced otologic surgery, endoscopic ear surgery, lateral skull base surgery and the subspecialty of medical neurotology. The fellowship runs for a calendar year (minimum 6 months). Funding will be provided by both the TWJ Foundation and the UHN Division of Otolaryngology/Neurotology.

Fellowship Mentors

John Rutka MD FRCS
Ambrose Lee MD FRCS

Resource Personal

Carolyn Falls MSc (Audiology)
Kaitlin Harvey MSc (Audiology)
Philip Gerretsen MD FRCP (Psychiatry)
Robert Ure MD FRCP (Neurology)
Elizabeth Crawford MSc (Vestibular Physiotherapy)
Shaleen Sulway MSc (Vestibular Physiotherapy)
Ivan Radovanovic MD FRCS (Neurosurgery)
Hugo Andrade-Barazante MD FRCS (Neurosurgery)

Locations

University Health Network (both Toronto General and Toronto Western Divisions)
McKenzie Health
Hospital for Sick Children
Niagara ENT Associates

Available Resources

The University Health Network (UHN) surgical and ambulatory care areas
The Hertz UHN Multidisciplinary Neurotology Program
The UHN Center for Advanced Hearing and Balance Testing
The Hospital for Sick Children
McKenzie Health
The Thai Rural ENT Foundation
Chulalongkorn University, Department of Otolaryngology, Bangkok, Thailand
Niagara Falls Medical Center
Dryden Regional Health Center

Funding

Current funding is at a level of £ 27,500 for the first 6 months and \$ 40,000 Cdn (pre-tax) for the second 6 months. Further funding and fellowship extension may be available but cannot be promised at the point of writing. The successful candidate will be required to have an educational license granted from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) and the University of Toronto.

Details

This is an academic fellowship with the aim to provide the TWJ/UHN fellow with educational and clinical experience in addition to clinical and related scientific related research activities.

Clinical Experience

The fellowship is heavily weighted in advanced otologic medicine/surgery, lateral skull base surgery, endoscopic ear surgery and medical neurotology. The TWJ/UHN fellow will have exposure to the ambulatory and operating room settings at the University Health Network, McKenzie Health and the Dryden Regional Health Center.

The fellow is to appreciate that their clinical experience must not be at the expense of the University of Toronto Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residents for general ENT procedures. Experience in the fellowship program is shared with our other established Peter and Melanie Munk Fellowship position in advanced otology/neurotology.

Exposure to general otology, ossiculoplasty and stapedotomy surgery is available in collaboration with Dr Ambrose Lee at McKenzie Health.

While cochlear implantation and bone-anchored implantation technology is not offered at present the fellow is encouraged to spend 2-4 weeks at the Hospital for Sick Children to observe pediatric otology and cochlear implantation at Canada's largest implant program under the supervision of Drs Blake Papsin, Adrian James and Sharon Cushing. Exposure to pediatric neurotology is offered through Dr Cushing in addition.

Other clinical activities include monthly visits to Niagara Falls to provide outreach services. There are scheduled visits to Northern Ontario to provide Underserved Areas Program (UAP) in the community of Dryden, Ontario. Here the fellow will have the opportunity of providing ENT care in a rural setting and will also be exposed to Indigenous Health Issues.

Research

The fellow will be expected to take part in clinical research projects that will lead to peer reviewed publications. A minimum of 2-4 publications is anticipated. Clinical research may take place within the Available Resources Section above but could also include collaborative projects with basic research labs available within the University of Toronto.

Current data bases for academic projects include the WSIB Neurotology Head Injury Data Base, the UHN Mastoidectomy Data Base, the Gentamicin Vestibulotoxicity Data Base and the UNH Center for Advanced Hearing and Balance Testing Data Base.

Academic Enrichment, Continuing Medical Education and Other Activities

The fellow is expected to attend weekly UHN Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Rounds (Wednesdays from 07:15-08:00 hrs), University of Toronto Department of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Grand Rounds (Fridays from 07:30-08:30 hrs) and is encouraged to attend monthly University of Toronto Journal Club Rounds (on Tuesday evenings). The fellow will be also encouraged to attend special lectures and educational events within the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery.

Specific sub-specialty Multidisciplinary Neurotology and Neuroradiology Rounds will be held monthly with the fellow expected to present pertinent topics of interest and to arrange for the review of interesting imaging findings.

Unique clinical activities include trips to Northern Ontario to provide Underserved Areas Program Care. The trips are weekly in duration and occur 3 times a year. The fellow will also be given the opportunity of travelling to Thailand for an ear camp experience in conjunction with the Thai Rural Ear Nose and Throat Foundation and Chulalongkorn University for 1-2 weeks.

Future Directions

We are in the process of re-tooling our UHN Division of Otolaryngology/Neurotology and currently are seeking 2 new younger staff to provide continuity of care and the sustainability in our fellowship program. The new staff will be available as fellowship mentors to the TWJ/UHN fellow additionally.

Other Considerations

The TWJ/UHN fellow must qualify to have an educational license as mentioned prior. The registration process at minimum is 6 months and an earlier start to complete the process is recommended. This can be facilitated by the University of Toronto, Faculty of Medicine Post-Graduate Office.

The TWJ/UHN fellow is also responsible for taking 2nd call along with resident staff during their fellowship. Call commitments are not burdensome and generally average to 3-4 days/month. Call can be taken from home. Fellows are expected to have living accommodations within 20-30 minutes of the hospital when on call by car, taxi or public transportation. TWJ/UHN fellows are also responsible for elective consults at the Toronto Western Division. Historically this has provided the fellow with a certain amount of elective surgery (primarily tracheotomies) and interesting neurosciences consultations.

Although an unlikely scenario, fellowship mentors have the right to discharge a fellow following due process in such circumstances if the fellow is incompetent, disruptive of the spirit of the fellowship, fails to perform their expected academic requirements etc.

A Word About Life Outside Your Fellowship Responsibilities

Fellowship duties and responsibilities require continued dedication and work. Life is however more than just medicine and academics. Recreational and social activities have been built into the framework of the fellowship over decades to cement personal ties and establish long lasting friendships. *"Where there is work there is play"* and the fellow is welcome to activities including group dinners, the Wilderness Professor's Backcountry Camping Trip, our annual ski day, recreational activities in Northern Ontario that depending on the season can vary from fishing to hiking to canoeing to dogsledding etc.