

Program Highlights

Welcome to the McMaster University Pediatric Residency Program! The program is committed to providing the best education possible for our residents with skills in clinical pediatrics, research and education. Residents graduating from the McMaster pediatrics program are fully prepared for their ultimate career in either general consultative pediatrics or subspecialty pediatrics. The Pediatric Residency Program takes 12-14 residents per year from various entry points.

The biggest strength of the residency program is the faculty, with close resident and faculty interaction. The Department of Pediatrics at McMaster has a wide variety of expertise. All faculty members regard residency education as a priority and are always available for clinical and scholarly mentorship. The residents recognize the collegiality of the faculty as a major strength of the program.

The McMaster Children's Hospital serves a population of over 2.2 million people. Residents obtain exposure to a diverse spectrum of disease from common problems encountered in general pediatrics and from referrals from surrounding communities.

Residents receive an excellent foundation in pediatrics that will prepare them for any career they may eventually choose. The structure of the 4-year program is designed to facilitate graduated responsibility and flexibility in training. After 3 years of training residents will have covered all their core rotations. There is ample time for electives during the first 3 years. The fourth year is a fairly flexible year, allowing residents to prepare themselves for a future career in general pediatrics.

A unique undergraduate program at McMaster allows extensive involvement by pediatric residents. Many of our residents teach formal clinical skills to the undergraduate class and are acknowledged by the students as outstanding teachers. Residents receive training and coaching in developing their skills as a teacher and have the opportunity to participate in a rotation in their senior years focused on teaching skills and medical education principles.

McMaster University is the home of many of the world experts in evidence-based medicine. Residents in the training program can expect to receive outstanding formal training and critical appraisal skills through CTU rounds, Academic Half Day, Journal Clubs, subspecialty teaching rounds, morning resident teaching sessions and our unique longitudinal CanMEDS curriculum. Through their clinical rotations, residents learn to use literature in daily management of patients, providing them lifelong learning skills that will make them better physicians.

Social accountability is emphasized within the program. McMaster was one of the first pediatric residency programs to initiate a unique Social Pediatrics rotation, which now spans first and second year, with well established connections with community partners and advocacy programs.

There are strong research faculty and supports at McMaster committed to promoting scholarly resident activities. The residency research committee helps to facilitate resident research and scholarly projects and the annual resident research day. There is competitive funding available for resident projects through the Pediatric Residency Program and the Postgraduate Office. There is available protected time for research during the residency program. Funding for annual conferences is available through the program.

All residents have elective time in their 2nd and 3rd years. Many of our residents participate in global health experiences during these electives, with global health training opportunities and mentorship within the department and the university for all residents. There is also significant flexibility through Integrated Pediatrics (IP) blocks throughout senior years within the program, allowing residents to return to clinical areas for more experience and to explore unique supplementary clinical opportunities.

We feel it is essential for residents to be exposed to general consulting pediatric practice in the community setting, thus there are mandatory community rotations in the program. Hamilton has many smaller communities within an hour of the city, with strong educational links to these communities allowing for valuable learning experiences.

The program is known for its innovation and leadership in educational scholarship. Residents play a pivotal role, alongside the faculty, to continue to improve and vitalize the program. Their opinions are highly valued, and we depend on resident involvement to keep the program evolving, and to maintain high morale and pride amongst the residents. Residents benefit from career counselling and transition to practice curriculum throughout all years of training, twice annual resident retreats including an overnight retreat, and multiple social and wellness activities throughout the year. Residents have multiple opportunities in the program to participate in teaching activities, scholarly projects, advocacy, committee work, leadership roles, curriculum development and resident selection.

A competency-based curriculum is in place for many rotations and the program is moving rapidly to adopt Competency By Design (from Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada) by July 2021.