

Program Highlights

Welcome to the McMaster University Pediatric Residency Program! The program is committed to providing exceptional, flexible training in clinical pediatrics, advocacy, scholarly work and education. Residents benefit from our faculty's collegial approach and broad expertise, enabling trainees to thrive as they prepare for a career in pediatric medicine or its subspecialties. The Pediatric Residency Program accepts 9-12 residents per year from various entry streams.

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 as part of continuous program quality improvement, and to maintain high morale and pride amongst the residents.

Supporting residents is a priority for our faculty who are always available for clinical, research and educational mentorship. The residents recognize the collegiality of the faculty and close resident-faculty interaction as a major strength of the program.

McMaster Children's Hospital serves a population of over 2.3 million people, the second largest catchment area in Ontario. All pediatric subspecialties are represented within our Department of Pediatrics, with a wide variety of expertise amongst faculty. Residents obtain exposure to a diverse spectrum of diseases from common problems encountered in general pediatrics, to all subspecialties and referrals from surrounding communities.

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 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 LCC curriculum focused on the development of non-medical expert core CanMEDS competencies. 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, with well established connections with community partners and advocacy programs.

There are strong research faculty and supports at McMaster committed to promoting resident scholarly activities. The residency research committee helps to facilitate resident research and scholarly projects and the annual McMaster Child Health 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 and learning opportunities is available through the program.

The program is also known for its innovation and leadership in educational and quality improvement scholarship. Our Social Pediatrics rotation, unique Transition to Senior Resident curriculum, wellness supports and mentorship initiatives are all a result of resident-driven educational scholarship. Residents benefit from career counselling and transition to practice curriculum throughout all years of training, twice annual resident retreats including an annual overnight retreat, and multiple social and wellness activities throughout the year. We have a robust wellness curriculum with regularly embedded wellness topics throughout Academic Half-Day, as well as 'treats & talks sessions' facilitated by a Resident Affairs counsellor, a unique Resident Support Network and Resident council. Residents have multiple opportunities in the program to participate in teaching activities, scholarly projects, advocacy, committee work, leadership roles, curriculum development and resident selection.

Along with all pediatric residency programs in Canada, our program transitioned to Competency Based Medical Education in July 2021. This curriculum ensures that all residents completing the program 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. Our program allows for ample elective and selective time throughout the program, allowing residents to address individual learning objectives and prepare themselves for their selected career choice. All residents have elective time in Core and Transition to Practice stages (2nd to 4th year). Residents may 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, 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 (including Brampton, Niagara, Kitchener-Waterloo and Brantford), with strong educational links to these communities allowing for valuable learning experiences.