

# MICROSURGERY AND ONCOLOGIC RECONSTRUCTION FELLOWSHIP

The Division of Plastic Surgery at McMaster University offers a 12-month fellowship beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The multi-sited fellowship offers extensive exposure to microvascular and implant-based breast reconstruction, free and pedicled flap reconstruction of the extremities, abdomen and perineum. Exposure to H&N reconstruction may be accommodated per fellow's interest.

Hamilton Health Sciences is a level 1 Trauma Center. Fellows can expect additional microsurgical exposure including replants and peripheral nerve injuries.

The number of microvascular cases should exceed 75 free flaps. The fellow will also participate in approximately 150+ implant-based breast reconstruction procedures.

## Rotations

The fellowship is based at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS -Juravinski Hospital & Hamilton General) and St-Joseph's Healthcare. The fellow works with the attending staff in the clinic and operating room. There are no set rotations but the fellow assignments are geared toward participation in more complex (microsurgical) reconstructive cases. There is no formal on-call requirement but the fellow is expected to partake in urgent, 'after-hour' cases involving their patients or other microsurgical cases.

## Weekly Schedule

The weekly schedule reflects the schedule of the reconstructive staff at HHS and St-Josephs Healthcare. On average, there are 3-4 days of OR and approximately 2-3 half clinic days. The remainder of the time is allocated to research, education or other clinical endeavours.

## Diversity of Cases

The fellowship is based in a tertiary academic centre with exposure to reconstructive and some cosmetic procedures. The expectation is that the fellow has attained exposure and comfort in performing basic, non-complicated, recipient vessel harvest, breast implant procedures, classic axial-pattern flap elevation (free or pedicled) and microsurgical anastomoses and will not take away from the resident experience in those types of cases. The fellow will primarily gain experience in more complex level cases – implant revision, complex or prolonged perforator flap elevation, and complicated vessel harvest in radiated or traumatized fields There will be opportunities for participation in OHP (Out-of-Hospital Premise) aesthetic surgery cases

including combination procedures (liposuction & skin tightening, mastopexy/augmentation), revision/re-do breast procedures and extremity contouring.

## **Research Responsibilities**

It is expected that the fellow will develop at least one significant clinical research paper and complete most of the work during the course of the fellowship year. Opportunities for involvement in multiple projects are encouraged.

## **Teaching Responsibilities**

The fellow will also be mandated to help teach the residents with clinical and surgical skills relevant to Breast & Microsurgery and appropriate for the resident level. This may include common breast, pedicled flap & microsurgery techniques and management of complications, both acute and delayed. It is expected that the fellow will fulfill the role of an extra teacher of reconstructive microsurgery & other forms of tissue transfer and improve the learning of our plastic surgery residents.

### **Application Process:**

Clinical fellows must be eligible for a certificate authorizing postgraduate education from the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO). The CPSO requires the applicant be recognized as a specialist in the jurisdiction where the applicant has been practicing medicine. Trainees apply to the CPSO only after they have been accepted into the clinical fellowship program.

Candidates complete the McMaster Postgraduate application form and submit the following documentation:

- i. Up-to-date CV
- ii. Medical Degree
- iii. Reference letters

### **Funding –**

1. It is the applicant's responsibility to secure appropriate funding/sponsorship for the fellowship.
2. For Canadian and other candidate trainees eligible to obtain equivalent licensure and a billing number through the Ontario Ministry of Health, funding may be obtained via clinical billings during the fellowship.
3. Trainees funded through clinical billings will meet with the Department of Surgery manager to set up payroll deductions.

For non-Canadians, other information is necessary, including:  
Copy of Passport you would be entering Canada with  
Translations must be provided with the application and official documentation, relating to qualifications, both undergraduate and postgraduate.  
Letter of intent to return to Home country form, from the McMaster PGME website  
Additional information for Canadian and non-Canadian graduates including application forms may be found at:

<https://pgme.mcmaster.ca/apply/fellowships-application-bt/>

Eight weeks prior to the program start date, trainees must complete the McMaster health screening record and supporting documentation directly to the McMaster health screening office.

Requirements for Canadians coming from outside of Ontario:  
Must include a copy of their current provincial licensure that is valid to their Ontario start date. Learners that have not sat their certification are required to provide a letter from their residency program stating the dates they will successfully complete the program and sit their certification exams. The applicant is responsible for their funding/sponsorship to support their fellowship. The program will contact the applicant directly once all documents are received. Individual programs may have their own admission criteria.

Salary level is equivalent to a PGY6 level in the province of Ontario and applicants must be able to obtain a license from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (education or independent). ***Applicants must confirm with the CPSO that they have the qualifications for a license in Ontario before submitting an application.***

Applications should be sent by email including a letter of interest and curriculum vitae. Letters of reference will be requested upon review of the application. Please forward your application to the program coordinator, Jennifer Koch ([plasted@mcmaster.ca](mailto:plasted@mcmaster.ca)).

Questions about the fellowship should be forwarded by email to the Fellowship Director, Dr. Ronen Avram ([avramr@mcmaster.ca](mailto:avramr@mcmaster.ca)).

**Dr. Ronen Avram**— Fellowship Director

Email: [avramr@mcmaster.ca](mailto:avramr@mcmaster.ca)

**Jennifer Koch** — Residency Program Coordinator

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