Fellowship Position Description

Vancouver General Hospital
UBC Division of Otolaryngology

Fellowship Director: Dr Arif Janjua
Number of positions: One annually

Eligibility:
The eligible candidate must have sufficient knowledge and technical skills to manage Otolaryngology patients with minimal supervision. The fellowship position requires the applicant to have completed residency training in Otolaryngology and to have successfully passed (or at minimum, be eligible to write) licensing examinations in their country of origin. The fellowship is open to Canadian Otolaryngologists, as well as non-Canadian trained Otolaryngologists who are able to obtain an educational Visa for Canada and an educational medical license for the province of British Columbia.

Objectives And Training

Clinical
The Rhinology and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery fellowship program at the University of British Columbia (UBC) offers a one-year clinical experience to provide comprehensive medical and surgical care of patients with all types of Rhinologic, Sino-nasal and Skull Base disorders.

The Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery unit at the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) receives tertiary referrals for and manages a large array of nasal, sinus and skull base pathologies. Dr Janjua performs a significant volume of nasal, sinus and skull base surgeries annually. The skull base procedures are done in conjunction with the Neurosurgeons at VGH.

A wide range of endoscopic and selected open procedures are performed for the management of chronic rhinosinusitis, benign & malignant sino-nasal tumours, anterior cranial base pathologies (i.e. CSF leak repairs, meningoencephaloceles), and a variety of skull base tumours. The majority of the endoscopic skull base cases are Pittsburgh classification level 1-3 in difficulty, with some level 4 cases. The fellow will also have the opportunity for exposure to open skull base resections and reconstructions. Further opportunities exist to gain exposure to community-based Rhinology practice, if desired.

The fellow will be actively involved in the supervision and teaching of residents within the UBC Division of Otolaryngology, medical students rotating in Otolaryngology, management of in-patients on the hospital wards (in conjunction with Otolaryngology residents) and coverage of emergency room and in-patient consultations for patients with Rhinology disorders.

The residents have priority on surgical cases that are not designated as subspecialty in nature. The fellow has priority on surgical cases that are beyond the scope of the general Otolaryngologist. Owing to
UBC/VGH Rhinology and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery Fellowship

Dr. Janjua’s operative volume, the fellow is expected to have significant opportunity for hands-on surgical exposure. The level of practical involvement will be commensurate with initial level of training and skill progression during fellowship training. The impact on and by resident trainees is intended to be additive to the training experience, via the creation of a positive environment centred on teaching and learning for both parties. Fellow supervision of residents is expected, and mutually beneficial, as it is integral to fulfilling the training goals for a future surgical educator.

Case Mix:

- Approximately 300 endoscopic sino-nasal cases per year, approximately 40 expanded endoscopic approaches to the skull base per year.
- As desired, the fellow may also have exposure to: i) Major head and neck oncology cases, including open skull base resections and reconstructions, ii) A community rhinology practice.

Research

The fellow is expected to play an active part in clinical rhinology research during their time at UBC. Part of their training will include improvement in skills related to critical appraisal of the literature, research design, manuscript completion and application of evidence-based decision making to patient management decisions.

Basic science research is additionally possible and encouraged. The program is affiliated with a basic science laboratory conducting rhinology-related cytokine research. Numerous clinical projects are ongoing. Fellows will be expected to develop a research plan within the first 2 months of their fellowship. Minimally, it is expected that three research projects will be completed and submitted for publication. A second dedicated research year is possible as part of the fellowship – arrangements may be made on a case by case basis.

Academic Activity

Clinical fellows are expected to participate fully in the academic activity at VGH, SPH and UBC. The fellows are expected to give one Grand Rounds presentation during the year to the UBC Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. Additionally, they will frequently present at educational Rhinology rounds, which occur once per month. Fellows will be involved in formal Rhinology lectures held in conjunction with the UBC Resident Educational Curriculum and are also expected to give informal teaching seminars for residents. Fellows are expected to present a research topic at the UBC Otolaryngology Division’s P.J. Doyle Annual Research Day and submit research for presentation at the Canadian National Meeting and/or an International Spring Meeting (i.e. ARS/COSM). Any publications arising out of their fellowship will specifically acknowledge their position as a “Fellow, Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at the University of British Columbia”.

Mentors

- Dr Arif Janjua (Principal supervisor)
- Dr. Peter Gooderham (Neurosurgery)
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Potential additional fellowship experience may be garnered with the following clinicians:

- Dr. Don Anderson
- Dr. Chris Diamond
- Dr. Scott Durham
- Dr. Eitan Prisman

Locations

- Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) – Ambulatory clinic, hospital inpatient, on-call and Operative
- St Paul’s Hospital (SPH) - Hospital inpatient, on-call and Operative
- University of British Columbia Hospital (UBCH) – Operative and on-call
- False Creek Health Care Centre (FCHCC) - Operative

Objectives

At the completion of the fellowship, the fellow will be expected to have gained sufficient knowledge and skills to function as an independent tertiary-referral Rhinologist. In general, this includes the acquisition of appropriate critical diagnostic and operative skills in order to effectively manage rhinology patients from the initial clinic evaluation to subsequent operative intervention and appropriate follow up care. Fellows will gain training and experience in the diagnosis and management of common and rare nasal and sinus conditions, gain experience in performing basic and advanced endoscopic sinus surgery (including a significant exposure to Frontal Sinus Surgery) and basic endoscopic skull base surgery.

Fellows are expected to contribute to the rhinology literature during their fellowship by undertaking and completing a minimum of 3 clinical research projects published in an international peer-reviewed journal and/or presented at a national or international Otolaryngology meeting. Additionally they will participate in on-going surgical education within the division, and are expected to gain critical appraisal skills and be able to critique and comment on peer-reviewed rhinology literature.

Course Structure

The course structure will vary from week to week, depending on Dr Janjua’s operating room allocations (which are set in three month blocks). Generally, the fellowship will include:

- Approximately 2-3 days per week in the operating room, assisting Dr Janjua
- 1-2 days per week with Dr Janjua in the VGH ENT ambulatory clinic
- +/- 0.5-1 research days per week
- +/- 0.5-1 independent ‘fellow clinic’ days in the VGH ENT clinic [licensure dependent]
- During the academic year, participation in:
  - Monthly Journal Club
  - Weekly Otolaryngology Grand Rounds, including presenting one session during the academic year
  - Monthly UBC Rhinology rounds
  - Bi-weekly research meetings
Financial Arrangements for Fellows
No formal funding exists for the fellowship position. If applicants do not have funding from another source, they are still encouraged to apply. Some ad hoc funding (i.e. through on-call stipends and/or remuneration for educational clinic supervision) has been sought, and successfully obtained, for previous fellows within the division.

Duration of fellowship:
The duration of the fellowship is for 1 year with a start date between July 1st to September 1st (depending on situation). It is important to allow sufficient time to obtain the appropriate medical registration prior to that time. The fellowship ends 1 year after commencement unless special arrangements are made.

Application Process
Applications should be submitted to Dr Janjua, and include the following:

- Updated curriculum vitae
- Three references (with their contact information) – please arrange for letters to be sent directly to Dr. Janjua (mailing address and email below)
- A copy of any recent and/or relevant publications
- A personal letter outlining the candidates interest in the fellowship as well as future plans upon completion of the fellowship

Rolling interviews will be conducted throughout the year (including interviews by web teleconference, where required), with a final decision to be made in May of the year preceding the fellowship start date (ie. May 2015 for a summer 2016 start date).

Applicants are encouraged to visit Vancouver and tour the facilities at any time during the year. Visitors should to apply to the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons for privileges to observe Dr Janjua in the ambulatory clinics and operating rooms. Although not mandatory, in person visits provide an improved opportunity for discussion about the applicant’s interest and suitability for the fellowship position.

To submit your application or for further information, please contact:

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