



**Clinical Fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology
Division of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery**

The Stollery Children's Hospital, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Program Director: Dr. Hamdy El-Hakim

Number of Positions: One per annum

Annual Fellowship Date: July 1 to June 30

The Pediatric Otolaryngology Clinical Fellowship at the Stollery Children's Hospital, University of Alberta in Alberta, Canada has been in place since 2004. The first fellow started in October 2004, and his successors have since followed his footsteps. We aspire to enhance our educational role nationally and internationally.

Eligibility:

The fellowship position requires the applicant to have completed residency training in Otolaryngology and to have successfully passed licensing examinations in their country of origin. The fellowship is open to Canadian, as well as non-Canadian trained Otolaryngologists. Foreign medical graduates must be able to obtain a training Visa for Canada and an educational license for Alberta. It is important to note that as per [The College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta](#), unless exempt, candidates are required to have completed the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) academic version **within 24 months**, as noted on their website (link above).

The Stollery Children's Hospital:

The Stollery Children's Hospital, located within the University of Alberta Hospital, is home to a mosaic of highly skilled child health professionals from many countries around the world. They have made this "hospital within a hospital" into a well-recognized centre for complex and specialized services. We care for children from Northern Alberta, including Edmonton and the metropolitan area, as well as Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. For Pediatric Otolaryngology the population served is arguably in excess of two million. Please click on the link above for complete details regarding the Stollery Children's Hospital.

The Team:

Dr. Hamdy El-Hakim (Fellowship Program Director and Residency Program Director)

Dr. Yaser AlRajhi (Division Lead)

Dr. Andre Isaac

Dr. Eduard Eksteen

Dr. Trina Uwiera

One Clinical Fellow

Otolaryngology Residents

One Clinical Nurse Practitioner

Description of Services:

The service is a busy subspecialty in the Stollery Children's Hospital. While existing as a service under the jurisdiction of the Department of Pediatric Surgery and closely tied to the Department of Pediatrics, its educational, training and academic mission is primarily guided by the division of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery (OHNS). The vast majority of the services are delivered in the Stollery, we cover all city hospitals and visits may be made to the other neonatal intensive care units.

A broad range of surgical repertoire is offered; open and endoscopic structural and functional airway procedures, cochlear implantation, mastoidectomies and tympanoplasties, saliva control procedures, sleep nasopharyngoscopy guided surgery, endoscopic nasal procedures, and developmental and oncological neck surgery. Multidisciplinary cases with other Pediatric surgeons, adult Skull-base surgeons and OHN surgeons are often undertaken. Joint endoscopic

assessments along with pediatric Pulmonologists and Gastroenterologists are commonly undertaken for swallowing disorders and complex children with respiratory multi-factorial disease.

A number of Multidisciplinary collaborations and Clinics exist

1. Complex Pediatric Airway reconstruction team (Dr. El-Hakim and Dr. AlAklabi – Cardiovascular Surgeon)
2. Aerodigestive & Aspiration Clinics (Drs. El-Hakim & Isaac, Pulmonary, Gastroenterology, Speech & Language Pathology)
3. Tracheostomy Clinic (All staff, Pulmonary, Respiratory Therapy, Home Care, Home Nutrition Support Program and Speech & Language Pathology)
4. Voice Clinic (Dr. Eksteen, SLP)
5. Upper Airway Clinic (Dr. El-Hakim, Pediatric Pulmonary, Pediatric Orthodontics)
6. Cochlear Implant clinic (Dr. Uwiera, Audiology)
7. Vascular Malformations clinic (Dr. AlRajhi, Interventional Radiology, Dermatology, Plastic surgery)

Research Scope and Activity:

Despite the overriding clinical nature of the training program, clinical research is desirable and encouraged. The Program Director, Dr. El-Hakim, and Dr. Isaac guide and supervise the process; from the inception, planning and allocation stages to the execution and analysis. Monthly meetings for monitoring research progress are expected. The critical appraisal journal club serves as a training ground and hunt for ideas with structured literature searches and evaluations directed at clinical problems seen on a regular basis in the center.

Academic Meetings / Journal Clubs:

- Pediatric Otolaryngology Journal Club – monthly meetings. A critical appraisal of selected articles and Dr. El-Hakim leads the meetings. This is a forum for structured teaching of research methodology and evidence based medicine, in addition to core subjects.
- OHNS Journal Club - monthly meetings. Discussion of 3-4 articles from otolaryngology literature.
- OHNS divisional grand rounds (weekly)
- Pediatric Surgery grand rounds (monthly)

- Department of Surgery Grand Rounds (monthly)
- Department of Pediatrics Grand Round (weekly)
- OHNS Residents Research Day (annual – first Friday of May)
- Attend and participate in at least one of the major otolaryngology meetings in North America ([AAO-HNS](#), [SENTAC](#) & [ASPO](#)), or an alternative in Europe if agreed upon with the director.

Allied Services:

- Audiology service. All modern investigative techniques are available and provide a health of experience to the fellows. Another rehabilitation center (The Glenrose Hospital) houses advanced Speech and Audiology services including the Cochlear Implant Program; their scope is mainly children with multiple disabilities.
- Speech & Language Pathology. The team covers out-patient and inpatient consults with bedside, functional endoscopic evaluation of swallowing and video-fluoroscopic assessments. They also support the Cleft Lip and Palate Program.

General Duties and Responsibilities of Fellows:

This is a one-year duration which is primarily clinical in nature. Specific clinical responsibilities for the fellow are as follows:

- Help maintain the consultative service for otolaryngology
- Provide direct and daily input to the neonatal and pediatric intensive care units with respect to airway management.
- Attend to all surgical or endoscopic operative cases that evolve out of the above activities.
- Attend major surgical cases unique to the practice of pediatric otolaryngology.
- Attend daily ward rounds
- Maintain a collegial and collaborative working relationship with the resident(s) and other staff.
- Provide on call cover, under supervision of staff pediatric Otolaryngologists. The fellow takes part in a 1:3 on-call roster; this is complimented by the rotating otolaryngology resident and the pool of otolaryngology residents attached to the adult service. The fellow does not cover the adult on call.

Objectives and Expectations of Fellows:

The aim is to train a professional, clinically and academically competent candidate ***Professional:***

1. Compliance with the structure of the program, leadership of the director, the Otolaryngology Fellowships Committee, under the umbrella of the division of otolaryngology Head & Neck surgery
2. Respectful interaction with peers, other specialists & allied health workers
3. Compliance with the prescribed study (2 weeks), statutory leaves, and holidays (4 weeks) and disclosure of any reason that may hinder meeting these obligations.
4. Reporting feedback appropriately through the mid-term and final evaluation processes, and provision of final report on activity and experience at the end of training.

Clinical:

1. Timely and completely meeting daily clinical assignments
2. Documenting prospectively an operative log book and producing it (or at least a summary) to the director at mid- and end of term evaluations
3. Timely and appropriate response to feedback on clinical performance and progress
4. Sharing an equitable on call and daily clinical roster with the residents and reporting to the fellowship director on proposed arrangement or changes prior to implementation
5. Responsible use of allocated clinical resources (equipment, computers, instruments, records, etc.)

Academic:

1. Working on under guidance of the program director to enhance research methodology skills, practice of critical appraisal, and allocation of appropriate research projects
2. Working towards producing one to two manuscripts during the year
3. Presentation at local, national or international venues as committed and agreed upon with the primary investigators and the fellowship director

Specific Clinical learning objectives

1. **Airway:** achieve ample exposure and competence in the comprehensive multidisciplinary management of
 - a. Complex airway conditions (including dynamic and structural congenital and acquired problems)

- b. Voice and swallowing disorders (including familiarity with various diagnostic and therapeutic options)
 - c. Sleep apnea (including mastering sleep nasopharyngoscopy and understanding non-surgical options and non-obstructive conditions)
- 2. Otology:** achieve ample exposure and competence in the comprehensive multidisciplinary management of
- a. Complex middle ear conditions (including various approaches to surgical treatment)
 - b. Sensori-neural hearing loss, vestibular disorders and lateral skull base conditions (including cochlear implant surgery and proficient understanding of various supplementary rehabilitative options)
- 3. Rhinology:** achieve ample exposure and competence in the comprehensive multidisciplinary management of
- a. Chronic allergic and non-allergic rhinitis and sinusitis
 - b. Nasal skeletal acquired and congenital abnormalities and overlap with maxilla-mandibular disproportion
 - c. Anterior skull base conditions and surgical approaches
- 4. Collaborative activities:** achieve ample exposure and competence in
- a. Collaboration with multi-disciplinary Aerodigestive teams
 - b. Collaboration with Cardiovascular surgical and medical teams
 - c. Collaboration with Tracheostomy clinic and inpatient teams
 - d. Collaboration with Voice teams
 - e. Collaboration with Cleft Lip & Palate clinic teams

Timetable:

The fellow alternates with the resident to attending clinical sessions in the operating rooms and clinics. The complexity of cases and clinics determines attendance under the guidance of the Program Director.

Funding:

The annual salary is CAD \$92K. Details can be inquired about from the Program Director.

Accreditation:

The fellowship is not accredited, given the lack of an accreditation body and process in Canada for Pediatric Otolaryngology fellowships.

Application Process:

The completed application should be emailed to Hamdy El-Hakim at hamdy.elhakim@ahs.ca and include:

1. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
2. Three letters of reference with contact information for each
3. A personal covering letter outlining the candidates interest in the fellowship, as well as future career plans upon completion of the fellowship
4. A copy of any recent and relevant publications

Deadline for considering applications is 31st December (for e.g. for appointment starting July the 2021, the deadline is 31st December 2019).

If granted, an interview will take place in Edmonton giving the applicant an opportunity to see the facilities available for the fellowship for one week. Customarily, within two months from the interview date, the successful candidate will be informed once the committee has taken the decision and the funding for that particular year has been secured.

For application or inquiries, please contact:

Dr. Hamdy El-Hakim, FRCS (Ed), FRCS (ORL)

Fellowship Program Director

Residency Program Director

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Email: hamdy.elhakim@ahs.ca

Past and Current Fellows:

- 2004 – 2005 Dr. Amged El-Hawrani, UK
- 2005 – 2006 Dr. William Andrew Clement, UK
- 2006 – 2007 Dr. Mihalravi Thevasagayam, UK
- 2007 – 2008 Dr. George Kuruvilla, India
- 2008 – 2009 Dr. Marie Lyons, UK
- 2009 – 2010 Dr. Hani Rifai, United Arab Emirates
- 2010 – 2011 Dr. Anura Manuel, Malaysia
- 2011 – 2012 Dr. Zeinab Alqudehy, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 2013 – 2014 Dr. Ali Taghi, UK
- 2015 – 2016 Dr. Ameen Binnasser, Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 2017 – 2018 Dr. Danah Aljomah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 2018 – 2020 Dr. Hussein Jaffal, Lebanon
- 2020 – 2021 Dr. Hussein Smayli, Lebanon