

OTOLOGY & NEUROTOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

St. Paul's Rotary Hearing Clinic
& Vancouver Hospital Neurotology Service
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C.

Fellowship Director: Brian Westerberg, MD, FRCSC

Duration: One-year clinical fellowship. A second research (nonclinical) fellowship year can be arranged if interested.

Number of Positions: One annually accepted to start July 1.

Eligibility:

The eligible candidate must have sufficient knowledge and technical skills to manage patients with minimal supervision. 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 Otolaryngologists, as well as non-Canadian trained Otolaryngologists who are able to obtain a training Visa for Canada and an educational license for British Columbia.

Accreditation:

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

OBJECTIVES AND TRAINING

Clinical

The Otology & Neurotology fellowship program at the University of British Columbia (UBC) offers a one year clinical experience in training to provide comprehensive medical and surgical care of patients with diseases and disorders that affect the temporal bone, lateral skull base and related structures of the head and neck primarily in the adult population. Arrangements can be made for exposure to pediatric otology through B.C. Children's Hospital as desired by the fellow.

The fellow will be actively involved in the supervision and teaching of residents within the UBC Division of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery, medical students from UBC rotating in OHNS, management of patients on the ward (in conjunction with OHNS residents) and coverage of emergency and inpatient consultations for patients with otology and neurotology disorders.

The surgical procedures that the fellow will be involved in will include otologic as well as neurotologic (skull base) procedures, including exposure to endoscopic ear surgery techniques. The level of practical involvement will be commensurate with their level of training. The impact on resident training is expected to be positive by creating an enhanced teaching/learning environment and by respecting that the priority of the UBC OHNS training program is to train Residents to become competent general otolaryngology-head and neck surgeons.

Research

The fellow is expected to have an active role in furthering research in the field of Otology & Neurotology. Part of their training will include improvement in skills related to critical appraisal of the literature and application of evidence-based decisions to their patients.

Basic science research is possible. The fellowship program enjoys a close working collaboration with Basic Scientists, particularly in the area of molecular biology in relation to vestibular schwannomas and stem cell research. Numerous clinical projects are usually ongoing, in which the fellow can participate. A second research fellowship year is possible as part of the fellowship.

The Fellowship Environment

The year will include participation in and supervision of otology/neurotology patient clinics, operating room experience, and research and teaching opportunities. UBC has a fully equipped temporal bone laboratory for ex-vivo practice of otologic and neurotologic surgery. The Fellow will have an active role in teaching residents and may have access to this laboratory setting for self improvement in surgical techniques.

Course Structure St. Paul's Hospital

Monday:

07:00-08:00 St. Paul's Hospital, Otology Rounds led most often by the fellow.
08:00-15:30 Operating Room, SPH (BDW)
08:30-16:30 Otology/Neurotology Clinic, SPH (TBD)

Tuesday:

07:45-16:30 Operating Room, Neurotology Surgery, VGH (BDW)
08:30-16:30 Otology/Neurotology Clinic (TBD) OR Resident Clinic SPH

Wednesday:

07:00-08:00 Otolaryngology Grand Rounds, 2nd floor Leslie Diamond Ambulatory Care Centre OR
Department of Surgery Grand Rounds
(Last Wednesday each month)
08:30-16:30 Otology/Neurotology Clinic, SPH (BDW)
08:30-15:00 Operating Room SPH (TBD)

Thursday:

08:00-15:00 Operating Room SPH (BDW or TBD) (Most Thursdays)
08:30-16:30 Otology/Neurotology Clinic, SPH (BDW or TBD)

Friday:

08:30-16:30 Otology/Neurotology Clinic, SPH (BDW or TBD) OR
08:30-15:00 Operating Room SPH (TBD or BDW) OR Research Time

Operating days vary week-to-week. Approximately two to three days per week will be spent in the operating room.

SPH, St. Paul's Hospital; VGH, Vancouver General Hospital.

BDW, Dr. B. Westerberg;

Interdisciplinary Approach

The fellowship program enjoys a collaborative relationship with colleagues in the fields of Neurosurgery, Radiation Oncology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Audiology, Neuro-Radiology and Neurophysiology.

Financial Arrangements for Fellows

\$50,000 CAD funding will be provided unless other sources of funding are procured. Candidates are encouraged to apply for scholarships and grants to assist with funding of the fellowship.

Vacation Time

The Fellow is encouraged to take vacation time to coincide with time during which one of the fellowship supervisors is away. Up to 4 weeks of vacation time will be granted.

On-call Requirements:

The Fellow is expected to take some call as part of the transition to independent practice. They should be available for any otologic or neurotologic emergency surgery occurring after hours and/or on weekends, which occurs few times annually. They are also expected to take second call to the UBC OHNS Residents when Dr. Westerberg is on-call (approximately one week in five).

Application Process

The completed application should include:

1. Curriculum vitae
2. Three references with their contact information
3. A copy of any recent and relevant publications
4. A personal letter outlining the candidate's interest in the fellowship as well as future plans upon completion of the fellowship

Applications are due on September 30th two years prior to commencement of the fellowship (for example, applications are due Sept 30th, 2023 for a fellowship start date of July 1st, 2025). Interviews for successful applicants will be offered in December, the same year as application submission.

For further information, please contact:

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