



Dr. Doron Sommer
Clinical Professor
Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery
Rhinology, Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery
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Rhinology/Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery Fellowship at McMaster University
Director – Dr. Doron Sommer
Co-directors – Dr. Kesava Reddy, Dr. Justin Khetani.

Overview/Goals and Objectives of Fellowship

The aim of this fellowship is to offer high quality training focusing on advanced rhinology and endoscopic skull-base surgery. It is our intention to provide training to individuals who will become leaders focusing on exemplary clinical care, quality improvement standards, research and education. The fellowship provides a focused rhinologic and skull base experience in a tertiary-care adult and pediatric academic environment. This fellowship emphasises inflammatory paranasal sinus disorders, revision sinus surgery, complex frontal sinus disease, revision sinus surgery and minimally invasive approaches to the paranasal sinuses and skull base for treatment of pathologies including infection, optic nerve lesions, CSF leak management and resection of benign and malignant sinonasal neoplasms utilizing trans-nasal and trans-orbital endoscopic approaches.

Rotations

The fellowship is based at Hamilton Health Sciences - HHS (McMaster University Medical Centre and Hamilton General Hospital). The fellow works with the rhinology/skull-base attending staff in the clinic and operating room. There are no set rotations, however the fellow assignments are arranged for participation in more complex revision sinus and skull base cases and rhinology focused clinics as well as combined skull bases/pituitary clinics. The fellow will also be expected to take part in on call duties as well as help in the provision of routine and more urgent care for inpatients and emergency department patients. These clinical opportunities may be modified to allow fulfillment of clinical, research and educational interests including the possibility of working with Dr. J. Khetani and S. Nayan in a community hospital setting.

Weekly Schedule

The weekly schedule mirrors the schedule of the attending rhinology service at HHS. On average, there are 2 days of OR and approximately 2-3 days of clinic. The remainder of available time is allocated to research, education and other clinical endeavours.

Diversity of Cases

The fellowship is based in a tertiary academic centre with exposure to both adult (majority) and pediatric cases. The expectation is that the fellow has attained a good exposure and comfort level in surgical primary sinus cases throughout their residency (ie. maxillary antrostomy, ethmoidectomy, polypectomy, sphenoidotomy) and will not take away from the resident experience in those types of cases. The fellow will primarily gain experience and exposure in more complex, fellowship level type cases (revision sinus surgery, frontal sinus surgery, complex allergic fungal sinusitis, CSF leak repair, optic nerve decompression, trans-orbital endoscopic approaches, nasal and anterior skull base neoplasia, and other skull base procedures). The case load includes approximately 80-100 skull base cases and over 150 advanced endoscopic sinus surgical cases.

Research Responsibilities

It is expected that the fellow will develop at least one significant clinical research project 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 Rhinology appropriate for the resident level. This may include approaches to common Rhinology problems, the basic work up and management of sinonasal tumors, as well as the medical and surgical approach to chronic rhinosinusitis in day to day practice or teaching session(s). It is expected that the fellow will fulfill the role of an educator within the division and improve the learning for our McMaster residents.

Application Process:

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

The application process:

Initial expression of interest including CV and references may be sent to:

mcmaster.rhinology@gmail.com

After successful application, candidates complete the McMaster Postgraduate application form and submit the following documentation:

Up-to-date CV (must be up-to-date within 6 months of application submission)

Medical degree

Specialty Certificate (or MCCEE/MCCQE1 exam results if no specialty certificate)

Transcripts

Reference Letters

II. Funding – Funding options depend on the candidate's eligibility for billing through the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

- For Canadian and other candidate trainees eligible to obtain equivalent licensure and billing number through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, funding may be obtained via clinical billings during the fellowship

- Trainees that are funded through clinical billings will meet with the Department of Surgery manager to set up payroll details
- For fellows who are ineligible for a billing number through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, funding is available at approximately \$70,000 per year, or through the candidate's own institution/regional funding source.

III. 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/>

IV. 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.

V. Requirements for Canadians coming from outside of Ontario:

A copy of current provincial licensure that is valid to their Ontario start date.

Learners that have not sat their board 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 application deadline is flexible, and the position will be filled when a successful applicant is selected.

Doron Sommer MD, FRCSC

Clinical Professor

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