

Nephrology

Clinical Fellowship in Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease (MCK)

Application details

Prerequisite(s): Certification in Nephrology	Start date: July 1 st (not including PEAP period if required)
Estimated % clinical workload: 75%	Application deadline: September 15 th
Number of positions annually: 1	Contact: Lesli Ransome (613) 738-8400 ext. 82509
Duration: 1 year	Fellowship Director: Dr Ayub Akbari

Background

The University of Ottawa advanced chronic kidney disease Fellowship is a one-year program designed to provide advanced training in the medical management of patients with severe chronic kidney disease, as well as the managerial skills required to head a multidisciplinary clinic.

You will gain experience in a large and diverse program working with faculty with expertise in medical education, clinical research, vascular access, home dialysis, in-center hemodialysis and kidney transplantation. You will be expected to participate in scholarly activity in the form of research or quality improvement projects, while developing clinical expertise in the care and management of these patients.

The University of Ottawa Nephrology training program offers an adult nephrology education program, affiliated to the University of Ottawa and accredited by the Royal College. In addition, we also have an AST and RCPSC accredited transplantation fellowship, ASH accredited hypertension fellowship and fellowships in home dialysis, acute kidney injury, and hemodialysis.

Training will take place within the Division of Nephrology at the Ottawa Hospital and the University of Ottawa. The Division provides multidisciplinary clinical care to severe kidney disease patients in a tertiary care hospital that serves a population of approximately 1 million. The multidisciplinary severe chronic kidney disease program delivers outpatient care to approximately 700 patients in the Multi Care Kidney (MCK) clinic.

Aim of the Program

The program will foster clinical knowledge and research in the field of severe kidney disease, introduce the important concept of quality assurance and teach the roles and obligations of a medical director of a multidisciplinary clinic.

Specifically, the trainee will achieve the following competences:

- a) Ability to independently assess a patient with severe kidney disease, to determine optimal timing of dialysis start within an intent-to-defer strategy, and to prescribe the initiation of dialysis.
- b) Ability to provide conservative management to patients with severe kidney disease who have chosen not to have renal replacement therapy.
- c) Ability to work up patients with severe kidney disease for pre-emptive transplantation.
- d) Ability to taper immunosuppressive medications in patients with a failing kidney transplant.
- e) Ability to independently assess and monitor patients with decreased kidney function and alter medications to delay progression of kidney disease.
- f) Gain expertise in the management of hypertension in the context of advanced CKD
- g) Ability to identify, investigate and treat complications of severe kidney disease such as electrolyte abnormalities and bone-mineral disorders.
- h) Ability to manage comorbidities that have an important impact on CKD, particularly congestive heart failure.
- i) Become a medical expert in vascular access for elective start of dialysis, including choice of appropriate access.
- j) Become familiar with the use of decision aids to provide patient-centered care in determining dialysis modality of choice.
- k) Gain knowledge of the responsibilities of a medical director of a multidisciplinary severe chronic kidney disease program, including the ability to perform ongoing quality assurance monitoring. This also encompasses effectively interacting with allied health personnel and hospital administration staff involved in the multi-disciplinary care of individual patients as well as the management of the overall program.

Training

The following structure is proposed for this clinical fellowship which is planned for a period of 12 months:

- Initial two-month rotation in the MCK Clinic following the objectives and schedule of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (RCSPC) training program. This will be evaluated using the rotation specific ITER that is also used by the RCSPC nephrology training program.
- Following the satisfactory completion of the initial two-month orientation period
- Four months of inpatient care on the consult or in-patient service.
- Five months spent in the CKD multidisciplinary clinic focusing on various aspects of care of patients with severe CKD including kidney transplant recipients.
- One month dedicated to a CKD research project, this could be a traditional clinical research project or a quality improvement project. Mentors with research expertise will guide the candidate in the inception and publication of the project.
- Attendance at vascular access clinic, half a day once a month while doing MCK clinics.
- Attendance half a day once a month at peritoneal dialysis access clinic while doing MCK clinics.
- Attendance at all MCKC management meeting while on doing MCK clinics.



Benefits

The program is expected to raise the level of knowledge in the management of patients with severe CKD and increase awareness of concepts related to the care of these patients. Upon graduation, the fellow will be a clinical expert in clinical management of patients with severe kidney disease as well as in the administrative responsibilities of a multidisciplinary clinic.