Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit (CVICU) Clinical Fellowship

Introduction

The postoperative care of the cardiac surgery patient in a quaternary cardiac care centre occurs in a dedicated cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU). Present training for the critical care medicine (CCM) physician usually involves a short rotation in a CVICU. The increasing complexity, and expanded use of mechanical support devices in the pre- and post-operative cardiac surgery patient require additional skills. Our CVICU Clinical Fellowship allows the CCM physician to obtain the additional clinical experience and skills to provide comprehensive postoperative care for the cardiac surgery patient.

Clinical fellows complete their training in the CVICU at the Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute (MAHI) in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. This is a 26-bed subspecialty unit staffed by Intensivists with base specialty training in Anesthesia, Cardiology, Cardiovascular Surgery, Internal Medicine, and Respirology. There are more than 1400 admissions per year. Specific patient groups include: coronary artery bypass grafting; valvular heart surgery; thoracic aorta surgery; adult congenital heart surgery; heart, heart-lung and lung transplantation; pulmonary embolectomy, and extra corporeal life support (ECLS) post cardiac surgery, as a bridge to transplantation, and for severe respiratory failure. The MAHI has a rapidly expanding ventricular assist device service as well as the second largest thoracic organ transplant service in Canada (with approximately 70-80 lung transplants per year for example).

Fellowship Program

This one-year fellowship consists of clinical rotations in CVICU, and selected rotations in research/quality improvement (scholarly project), echocardiography, cardiac anesthesia, transplantation, and ventricular assist devices.

Clinical work includes evening and weekend in-house call (7 call shifts in 28 days).

Funding and Eligibility

Funding for Canadian trainees is provided by the CVICU Research & Education Fund, Department of Critical Care Medicine, and is commensurate with other fellowship programs at the University of Alberta. International trainees must have governmental/institutional funding.

Applicants must possess or be eligible for a specialist certificate in Critical Care Medicine, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or equivalent, and be eligible for licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA).
How to apply

To apply please forward the following to ccmedu@ualberta.ca:

1) Letter of intent
2) Curriculum Vitae
3) Three letters of reference including one from the applicant’s Critical Care Medicine Program Director
4) Funding commitment (international trainees only)
5) English language proficiency, if required (link)

The deadline for application is August 31 the year prior to program start date. The fellowship runs from July 1 to June 30 however off-cycle residents/fellows may be considered. For more information, please contact ccmedu@ualberta.ca (Program Administrator) and/or Dr. Dat Chin (Fellowship Director).

Details about the University of Alberta, the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry and the Department of Critical Care Medicine can be found on the Faculty’s Home Page at www.ualberta.ca/medicine. Details about the City of Edmonton can be found at www.edmonton.ca.

We thank all applicants for their interest; only those selected for an interview will be contacted. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

The University of Alberta and Alberta Health Services hire on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity in employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities and Indigenous persons.