



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Advanced Inflammatory Bowel Disease Fellowship

Introduction

Over the last number of years, the degree of change in the medical management of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) has been rivaled in the broader field of gastroenterology only by hepatology which has seen similar change in the management of viral hepatitis. As a consequence, IBD has evolved into a legitimate and distinct sub-specialty within gastroenterology. Indeed, since the late 1990's a number of training programs in the United States have offered additional training in IBD beyond a general gastroenterology fellowship. Though there is no explicit certification for IBD in the United States, it is recognized as a legitimate "non-standard" sub-specialty training program. The importance of specific training in IBD is increasingly important as the appropriate utilization of biologic agents in the management of IBD is an ever-evolving skill, often beyond the scope of many gastroenterologists who practice a broader scope of general gastroenterology. As is the case in the United States, IBD is not recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as an accredited training program. However, the increasing utilization of biologic agents and the rising burden of IBD in Canada and worldwide attests to the need for properly trained individuals to not only manage, but adequately study these patients. Canadian experts in inflammatory bowel disease are among the most acknowledged and respected in the world.

Calgary represents a unique environment in which to train in the arena of IBD. Within the division of gastroenterology there are currently five faculty members

who have obtained specific clinical and research training in IBD in US programs such as the Mayo Clinic, The Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and the University of Chicago. The IBD clinical trial program, established by Dr. Lloyd Sutherland and currently directed by Dr. Remo Panaccione, is one of the most active in North America with five to ten clinical trials ongoing at any given time. In addition, there are three MD/PhD faculty members who's main translational research interest lie in the field of IBD. Cumulatively, the work of the IBD faculty has been published in a number of journals including *the New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *Gastroenterology*, *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, *Gut*, *the American Journal of Gastroenterology*, among others. This degree of expertise coupled with our nearly unparalleled local prevalence and incidence of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease make the University of Calgary an ideal location in which to obtain high quality training in IBD.

The goal of the IBD fellowship program at the University of Calgary is to train highly qualified individuals to become clinical and research experts in all areas pertaining to the management and study of patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

Entrance Requirements

Applicants will have completed an accredited gastroenterology training program and have a demonstrated interest in pursuing further clinical and research training in inflammatory bowel disease. Applications will be considered from applicants of any nationality provided they are eligible for licensure as trainees in Canada.

Fellowship Description

The inflammatory bowel disease fellowship at the University of Calgary is a 12-month program designed to allow the trainee to develop expertise in clinical and research aspects of inflammatory bowel disease. It is a funded position with a salary commensurate with a PGY-6 trainee according to the salary scale outlined by the Professional Association of Residents of Alberta (PARA). Flexibility will be granted in order to accommodate fellows who have specific objectives. The completion of at least one major research project, with the goal of publication in a major peer reviewed journal, is a requirement of the program. Research can be in any area relevant to the interest of the trainee and the expertise of local faculty. At least three to four months of dedicated research time will be granted, during which clinical duties will be minimal.

Clinical training will be comprised of attendance at dedicated IBD clinics run by faculty which occur throughout the course of the week (4-5 half-day clinics per week). In addition, the fellow will have the opportunity to maintain a half-day per week longitudinal clinic where they will semi-autonomously manage their own cohort of IBD patients with graded responsibility granted through the course of the year.(feasible?) In addition to outpatient clinics, the fellow will have the opportunity to perform endoscopic procedures on IBD patients throughout the course of the year. All faculty have block endoscopy time each week and as such the fellow will obtain ample opportunity to perform procedures such as gastroscopy, enteroscopy, colonoscopy (including chromoendoscopy) and pouchoscopy on patients with IBD. (?will they be sub-I on any trials and be able to see research pts

Rotations and Objectives

1. **Clinical IBD [8-9 months]:** as described above.
 - a) **Faculty IBD Clinics (4-5 half-day clinics per week)**

Trainees will attend clinics precepted by faculty in the training program. The trainee will develop skills in the management of a variety of issues pertaining to patients with IBD including the use of biologic agents (anti-TNF therapy and experimental therapy).

b) IBD Fellows Clinic (1 half-day clinic per week)

Although precepted by a faculty member, the fellow will manage their own cohort of patients with IBD in a semi-autonomous manner. The fellow will be responsible for this clinic for the entire 12-month period, including research blocks.

c) Endoscopic Procedures on Patients with IBD (minimum 5-10 per week)

The fellow will perform procedures, in the setting of a faculty preceptor, on patients with IBD. Ample experience will be obtained in endoscopic investigation of patients with active IBD in addition to the proper performance of dysplasia surveillance (including chromoendoscopy). Experience may be obtained in the endoscopic dilatation of IBD-related strictures.

2. Research Rotation [3-4 months]

Trainees will complete at least one major research project during their fellowship. Trainees are strongly encouraged to contact faculty in advance in order to decide what sort of project would be appropriate in order to prepare the necessary research protocol in advance in an effort to meet abstract submission guidelines (December) for Digestive Disease Week. In accordance with this, at least 2 months of research time will be allotted early in the year to aid in meeting these deadlines.

3. Colorectal Surgery

Although not mandatory, it is highly recommended that the fellow spend one month in the setting of colorectal surgery. The University of Calgary has five active colorectal surgeons who perform the majority of IBD related surgery including ileal pouch anal anastomosis and examination under anaesthesia in the setting of perianal Crohn's disease. As surgery is of key importance in the management of IBD, this experience serves an important function as it gives the trainee the necessary perspective.

4. Pathology/Radiology

No specific rotations in either pathology or radiology will be offered. However, fellows will be encouraged to review pathology specimens with our resident expert GI pathologist, Dr. Stefan Urbanski.

Educational Rounds/Conferences

The IBD fellow along with faculty will be responsible for organizing and presenting at formal IBD rounds which will take place one day per month and will be attended by other faculty and fellows within the division of gastroenterology and the department of surgery. These rounds will generally comprise an up to date review of an area relevant to the arena of IBD or may take the format of a less formal discussion of interesting/difficult cases. (likely Monday mornings?)

Fellows will attend, and be expected to present their research at the Digestive Disease Week, held annually in the United States. The fellow may have the opportunity to attend other national (CDDW) or international meetings.

Call

There is no weekend or on-call component to the fellowship.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the IBD fellow will be performed at various points throughout the year. The fellow will meet with the inflammatory bowel disease fellowship program director every six months to review their progress in the fellowship and to provide feedback. Upon successful completion of the program, the trainee will receive a certificate from the University of Calgary attesting to their sub-specialty training.

Application Requirements:

- 1) Three letters of reference
- 2) Curriculum vitae
- 3) Cover letter

For more information please contact:

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