

Clinical Research Fellowship in Youth Addictions and Concurrent Disorders

Rationale

Mental illness and substance use disorders are the leading causes of disability in Canada¹. Young people aged 15 to 24 are more likely to experience mental illness or substance use disorders than any other age group in Ontario², where, unfortunately, there are fewer than 160 active child psychiatrists: only 56 of these psychiatrists practice in Toronto, with areas of the province entirely unserved^{3,4}. Fellowship is a unique post-graduate opportunity to enhance specific professional skills, work with leading medical experts and receive mentorship for early career planning.

Description of the fellowship:

The Youth Addiction and Concurrent Disorders Services in collaboration with the Brain Health Imaging Centre at the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH), Toronto, ON, offer a one–or two–year clinical and research fellowship with youth (14-23 years of age) who present various mental health and substance use disorders.

Aim:

The fellowship aims to provide exceptional training in youth addiction psychiatry, and clinical positron emission tomography (PET) trials with a focus on youth mental health and co-occurring substance use disorders."

Educational goals:

The successful candidate will:

1. Gain expertise in evidence-based psychiatric approaches to youth who present mental health complexities and substance use disorders, including, Nicotine, Cannabis, Alcohol, Opioids, Stimulants and Amphetamines.
2. Work alongside a multi-disciplinary clinical team, in a variety of care settings, with exposure to a range of treatment intensities: outpatient, day treatment, and inpatient facilities, under the supervision of leading clinicians and researchers in the field.
3. Join as a co-investigator and expand experience in research in youth addiction and concurrent disorders by working in an internationally recognized brain imaging research lab. The research work will include medical supervision, authoring scientific papers and contributing to grant writing.
4. Contribute to academic teaching by mentoring residents and medical students at the Division of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto.

Training locations:

Clinical training: 80 Workman Way, Toronto (CAMH, Queen St Campus). For three days a week.

Research: Neuroimaging (PET) trials in youth with substance use disorders. The Brain Health Imaging Centre, Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute, 250 College St. CAMH. For two days a week. On-call duties will/not be part of the training.

Supervisors:

Clinical:

Primary supervisors:

Amit Rotem, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Addiction Psychiatrist, Assistant Professor, the Division of Child Youth and Mental Health, CAMH

Dafna Kahana, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, Addiction Psychiatrist, Assistant Professor, the Division of Child Youth and Mental Health, CAMH

Research:

Isabelle Boileau, Senior Scientist, Head of the Addiction Imaging Research Group, Associate Director of the Brain Health Imaging Centre, Campbell Family Mental Health Research Institute, CAMH.

Eligibility

Domestic Candidates

Psychiatrists and current psychiatry residents eligible for RCPSC certification

International Candidates

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) who are not RCPSC-certified but hold equivalent certification from another country are also eligible to apply for this position.

Stipend

The selected candidate will receive a stipend of **\$85,564.01 CAD CAD/annum** for the full-time (5 days/week) training position. Training stipends for sponsored* candidates will be provided directly by the respective sponsor.

*Sponsored candidates are applicants from the following countries whose governments have official postgraduate medical training agreements with the university of Toronto: **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.**

Fellowship start date:

Fellowship training should start on **July 1 annually** if possible, to align with the new academic year. However, alternative start dates may be negotiated in consultation with the fellowship supervisor (see above) & Psychiatry Fellowship Program (psych.fellows@utoronto.ca).

Application Process

Applications to this opportunity for entry in the **2025-26 academic year** (July 1 academic session) are open until the position is filled on the Psychiatry Fellowship Program's application platform:

<https://documents.med.utoronto.ca/Forms/FellowshipsApplication>

Interested candidates are invited to submit their **updated CV**, copies of their **MD** and **specialty certificate***, a **letter of intent** detailing their interest in this opportunity and how it aligns with their career goals, as well as the contact information of **3 references**. Reference letters must be received by the above-listed deadline. Other requirements may apply - see below.

* In lieu, current domestic residents can submit a letter of good standing indicating their anticipated graduation date from their residency program.

Notes:

Candidates must review the University of Toronto Psychiatry Fellowship Program's application requirements carefully before initiating an application. Internationally trained applicants may be asked to provide English proficiency test results at the time of application. To learn more, see:

<https://psychiatry.utoronto.ca/apply-fellowship-program>

Sponsored candidates must have already initiated an application on the University of Toronto's Sponsored Trainee Application Registry (STAR). For more Information, contact the University's postgraduate medical education (PGME) office at: pgme.international@utoronto.ca.

References

1. Lang et al. (2018). Global Burden of Disease Study trends for Canada from 1990 to 2016. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 190: E1296-E1304.
2. Pearson, Janz & Ali (2013). Health at a glance: Mental and substance use disorders in Canada. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-624-X.
3. Ontario Needs Psychiatrists: Chronic psychiatry shortage contributing to Canada's mental health crisis. OPA report 2018.
<https://eopa.ca/sites/default/uploads/files/Ontario%20Needs%20Psychiatrists%20FINAL%20-%20August%207%2C%202018.pdf>
4. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. 2023. <https://www.cpso.on.ca/>