

# Canadian Headache Society Fellowship in Headache Medicine 2027 - 2028



## **Description:**

The Canadian Headache Society is proud to support the Canadian Headache Fellowship program. Headache Medicine is an exciting neurology subspecialty and is a field rich in research activity. **We invite interested neurology residents and other qualified individuals to apply for the fellowship.**

## **Centers Who Offer a Fellowship Program:**

Headache fellowships in Canada are available in Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, London, and Vancouver. Prospective fellows may also approach headache specialists in other Canadian Centres to complete a fellowship. These applications will also be considered. Fellowship supervisors must be members of the Canadian Headache Society. **The fellowship must be completed in Canada.**

## **Funding:**

The Canadian Headache Society (CHS) anticipates supporting the equivalent of at least two partial fellowships or one full fellowship, with the final number and configuration of awards (full vs partial) determined by the overall funding available at the time of selection. A full fellowship is valued at approximately \$78,000 CAD. All candidates must be deemed eligible and approved by the Fellowship Committee.

**During the term of the fellowship, fellows are not permitted to hold a second major award.**

With the approval of their Fellowship Director, fellows may engage in departmental activities which contribute to their development as an independent researcher or clinician. These activities should not exceed 20% of their total time. Remuneration for these activities is permitted. Remuneration will have to come from the department in/for which the work is being completed. The CHS will not provide remuneration for these activities.

## **Travel Awards:**

An amount of \$1,500 CAD will be provided to a fellow to support attendance at a major congress on headache medicine. A second \$1,500 CAD travel award could be allocated to a Fellow who has already benefited from a travel award but is presenting research at another headache event. Proof of attendance and the submitted abstract should be sent to the Fellowship committee Chair.

## **Who can Apply?**

- Candidates must have Canadian Citizenship, or permanent residency, and intend to practice in Canada.
- At a minimum, applicants must have an MD degree, or equivalent. Additional degrees (MSc or PhD) are considered an asset.
- Applicants must have completed a specialty program by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or equivalent.

## **Fellowship Requirements**

A fellowship focusing on clinical headache medicine is acceptable. A formal research project is strongly encouraged. If research is not part of the fellowship proposal, then another academic or scholarly project needs to be completed (e.g. a systematic review or similar activity). An application form with list of required documents is available.

## **How to Apply?**

The application process should be initiated no later than your fourth year of residency. We encourage you to contact the fellowship director in the center of your choice, and discuss the possibility of training in headache medicine and potential research (or scholarly) opportunities.

**Deadline for submission is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, for the 2027 fellowship.**

**Candidates will be notified of the results of the selection process by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

**Following documents must be included in the request:**

- 1. Completed application form**
- 2. CV (with details on headache medicine experience)**
- 3. 2 Letters of Reference**
- 4. Personal/Motivation letter including specific objectives to be accomplished during the fellowship.**
  - **A letter from the fellowship candidate outlining why the candidate wants to undertake a Headache Medicine fellowship. Specific objectives of the fellowship should be included. This letter should also include the proposed dates of the fellowship, the center where the fellowship will be done, and the candidate's current educational status.**
- 5. Fellowship Director Acceptance Letter**
  - **Acceptance letter by the fellowship director / supervisor which also outlines the details of the training program for the fellow.**
- 6. Research Submission or Scholarly Activity Plan**

## **Selection Process:**

The selection committee will consist of four (4) individuals appointed by the Canadian Headache Society.

Applications will be primarily evaluated on the following:

- The excellence of the candidate
- The quality of the fellowship proposal

**Please send the requested documents by email to the Canadian Headache Society c/o Lisa Tennant.**

**Email: [info@headachesociety.ca](mailto:info@headachesociety.ca)**

## Canadian Headache Society Headache Fellowship Sites: Calgary, Vancouver, Ottawa, London, Toronto

### Fellowship Description: Calgary

City	Calgary
University	University of Calgary
Duration	One year clinical and research fellowship
Fellowship director	Dr Prin Chitsantikul
Involved staff	Dr Farnaz Amoozegar Dr Jephtha Davenport Dr Lara Cooke Dr Serena Orr Dr Chantel Debert
Clinical opportunities	Clinical training in outpatient facilities as part of an Interdisciplinary team Opportunities for inpatient headache-related consultations Clinics at the Chronic Pain Center, Brain Injury Clinic, and pediatric headache at Alberta Children's Hospital
Clinical research	Opportunities to be involved in clinical research at several levels
Fundamental research	Involvement with our large neuroscience research group (Hotchkiss Brain Institute) is a potential option
Research in epidemiology	Opportunities are available
Ward duties	None

### Fellowship Description: Vancouver

City	Vancouver
University	University of British Columbia
Duration	1 yr.
Fellowship director	Dr Sian Spacey
Involved staff	Dr Sian Spacey Dr Michael Butterfield Dr Sina Marzoughi An Interdisciplinary team of pharmacists and nutritionists
Clinical opportunities	Opportunity to assess and manage a very wide range of primary and secondary Headache disorders through an Academic Tertiary Care Headache Medicine Clinic and in-patient hospital population. Opportunity to learn interventional headache medicine (Onabotulinum Toxin Type A, occipital nerve blocks). Opportunity to have specialized training in Concussion and Post-Traumatic Headache.
Research Opportunities	Range of clinical and basic science research opportunities available
Ward and call duties	None

### Fellowship Description: Ottawa

City	Ottawa
University	University of Ottawa
Location	Ottawa Headache Centre Ottawa Hospital
Duration	One year
Fellowship director	Dr Suzanne Christie MD FRCPC, Neurologist

Involved staff	Lucian Sitwell, MD, FRCPC, Neurologist Ana Bradi, M.D., FRCPC, Neurologist Achelle Cortel-Leblanc, MD, FRCPC Neurologist Ilana Hanes, MD, FRCPC, Pediatric Neurologist
Clinical opportunities	-Out-patient, community based Headache Medicine Fellowship with extensive exposure to headache patients with both primary and secondary headache disorders. -Faculty have close ties to the Division of Neurology at the Ottawa Hospital and the University of Ottawa -Principal site for teaching Headache Medicine to Neurology Residents and Pain Medicine Residents in Ottawa. -Botox training and nerve blocks (Ottawa Hospital). -Clinical rotation at the Acquired Brain Injury Out Patient Clinic at the Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre and Concussion 360 with focus on persistent headache attributed to head trauma -Clinical rotation at the Ottawa Hospital Multidisciplinary Dizziness Clinic with focus on different presentations of acute and chronic vertigo and overlap with vestibular migraine -Clinical rotation through the Ottawa Hospital Chronic Pain Clinic with a focus on sphenopalatine blocks and facet blocks Dedicated time with neuroradiology at the Ottawa Hospital to review the imaging of more complex headache patients -Training in how to establish and operate a headache clinic <a href="http://thinkottawamedicine.ca/fellowships-programs/">http://thinkottawamedicine.ca/fellowships-programs/</a>
Clinical research	Opportunities available for clinical research/publication
Research in epidemiology	Opportunities could be made available
Ward Duty/Call	None

### Fellowship Description: London

City	London
University	University of Western Ontario
Duration	1 year
Fellowship Director	Dr Tommy Chan (Director, John H. Kreeft Headache Clinic)
Involved Staff	Dr Paul Cooper Dr Marissa Lagman-Bartolome
Clinical Opportunities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Comprehensive Patient Care:</b> Gain hands-on experience in diagnosing and managing a diverse range of headache disorders in both pediatric and adult populations. [<b>Primary and Secondary Headache Disorders:</b> Encounter and manage a broad spectrum of primary headache disorders (e.g., migraine, tension-type, cluster headache) and secondary headache disorders (e.g., post-traumatic, post-craniotomy, high CSF, low CSF)].</li> <li><b>Interventional Procedures:</b> Learn various interventional procedures for headache management, including nerve blocks, trigger points and Botox injections.</li> <li><b>Neurosurgery, Neuroradiology, Neuro-otology, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Collaboration:</b> co-manage secondary headache disorders.</li> </ol>
Research Opportunities	Range of clinical, quality improvement, educational and neuro-imaging research opportunities available
Ward	As needed – inpatient consults for specialty headache management
On-call Duties	None

## Fellowship Description: Toronto

City	Toronto
University	University of Toronto City-Wide Fellowship
Duration	1 or 2 years
Fellowship director	Dr Claire Sandoe (Clinician Teacher)
Involved staff	<p>Dr Christine Lay (Clinician Teacher)            Dr Ioana Medrea (Clinician Investigator)            Dr Suvendrini Lena (Clinician Teacher)            Dr Candice Todd (Clinical Associate)            Dr James Im (Clinical Associate)            Dr Rebecca Barmherzig (Pediatric Headache)            Dr Orit Zamir (Headache Psychiatrist)            Dr Manav Vyas (Clinician Scientist)            Valerie Lawler, NP            Heather Clark, NP            Lina Jobanputra (Social Work)            Katie Healey, RN</p>
Community Staff	<p>Dr Rose Giammarco            Dr Danny Monsour            Dr Ian Finkelstein</p>
Clinical opportunities	<p>The catchment area for this fellowship is the entire province of Ontario, thus the fellow will see a diverse group of patients with both complex and more routine migraine and headache disorders. The Centre for Headache has more than 6000 patient visits per year, including more than 800 new patient visits.</p> <p>In addition to migraine, our team has special expertise in trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias such as cluster headache. Community and Academic Tertiary Care Headache Medicine clinics encompass pediatric and adult populations, including dedicated weekly pregnancy referrals, and include opportunities to learn about mindfulness and meditation. The fellow will have exposure to cross-disciplinary clinics encompassing common comorbidities such as cardiac (POTS/dysautonomia), neuro-ophthalmology/neuro-otology/vestibular, and psychiatric issues.</p> <p>The fellow will learn interventional headache medicine procedures (onabotulinumtoxinA injections, cranial nerve blocks), including those requiring ultrasound guidance if interested. Opportunities for elective or observational time can be arranged in Canada, the USA, and abroad.</p> <p>The fellow will have a significant role in headache teaching for rotating University of Toronto trainees at all levels. The fellow will also have the opportunity to present cases and journal club rounds to our large headache team on a regular basis.</p> <p>Our dedicated research team of 8, led by Dr. Vyas, conducts a wide range of research and is available for expert research supervision and collaboration; the fellow will have the opportunity to present their research at University of Toronto events as well as at our own annual research day.</p> <p>Our team includes world experts in headache medicine, many of whom have leadership and educational roles in the Canadian Headache Society, American Headache Society, and International Headache Society. There is also a unique</p>

	<p>opportunity for advocacy work through our staff's involvement with the American Migraine Foundation.</p> <p>Time can be given to support advanced training during fellowship, such as pursuing further teaching, research, or quality improvement certification.</p>
Research Opportunities	Wide range of clinical and epidemiological research opportunities available
Ward duties	None
On-Call duties	None

### Fellowship Description: Toronto (Sunnybrook)

City	Toronto
University	University of Toronto (Sunnybrook site)
Duration	1 or 2 years
Fellowship director	William Kingston, MD FRCPC FAHS
Involved staff	<p>Dr. Monica Maher  Dr. Velina Tzankova  Dr. Ian Finkelstein  Dr. Danny Monsour  Shawna Kelly, NP</p> <p>Collaboration with other U of T site and their staff, Community partners  Collaborations from Neuroradiology (Dr. Anish Kapadia) and Anesthesia (Dr. Howard Meng) as it relates to the SIH clinic.  Collaboration with Dr Ben Davidson as it relates to the SIH clinic and surgical treatments for refractory headache</p>
Clinical opportunities	<p>This fellowship allows us the opportunity to gain clinical expertise in a wide variety of headache disorders. The Sunnybrook site has a unique opportunity to assess medically complex patients given its position as a quaternary health care centre status. Complex neurovascular patients and opportunities for inpatient consultations also exist.</p> <p>There is the unique opportunity to participate in the weekly headache and pregnancy clinic which is the first of its kind and we are also developing partnerships with community fertility clinics for specific expertise in pre-conception headache management. There is also a specialized multidisciplinary working group on spontaneous intracranial hypotension and opportunity to assess and manage these patients and gain expertise about what novel treatments exist.</p> <p>There is specific opportunity to master skills such as cranial nerve blocks, trigger point injections as well as botulinum toxin injection.</p>
Research Opportunities	A research component is expected of the successful candidate. Research can include either clinical or epidemiological research. There are also opportunities for collaborations in research with other disciplines within the division of neurology.
Ward duties	We run an inpatient headache consult service primarily directed towards the treatment of headache in neurovascular patients. There is no after hours or weekend call associated with this, but the fellows are responsible for occasional consults from Monday to Friday. There is also opportunity to participate in quality improvement initiatives with regards to inpatient headache management.
On-Call duties	No after hours or weekend call is expected.