THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Fellowship in Paediatric Ehlers Danlos Syndrome

Position: The Division of Clinical and Metabolic Genetics at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) in Toronto, Ontario, are seeking applications for a Clinical and Research Fellowship opportunity in diagnosis and management of Paediatric Ehlers Danlos Syndromes (EDS) and related connective tissue disorders. As an emerging area in paediatrics, this clinical research fellowship offers clinicians the opportunity to pursue independent research and clinical work in partnership with a wide range of professionals to enhance the health and well-being of children with EDS and related disorders. This is a 1.0 FTE position with responsibilities spanning both research and direct clinical service to the children, youth, and families served by the hospital. This one-year training position begins in July 2022 an earlier/later start date can be discussed with individual applicants

Fellowship Directors: Drs. Roberto Mendoza and Sarah Schwartz

Training Setting: SickKids, affiliated with the University of Toronto, is Canada's largest and one of the world's leading paediatric academic health care institutions. As innovators in child health, SickKids improves the health of children by integrating care, research and teaching. It is a centre of excellence in the delivery of cutting-edge health care to the paediatric population and is supported by Canada's strongest hospital-based Research Institute. SickKids is the home to the Ontario paediatric EDS and rare disease program and evaluates and manages patients with these diagnosis through a specialized multidisciplinary team.

Clinical Training: The fellowship offers the successful candidate the opportunity to be a fully integrated team member in the weekly EDS Clinic and participate in the evaluation of referrals, initial assessments, development of management plans and follow up of a variety of patients with different types of EDS and connective tissue disorders associated with hypermobility. The clinic is staffed by a multidisciplinary team that includes a pediatrician, geneticist, nurse practitioner, physiotherapist, psychologist, genetic counsellor, and social worker. This fellowship will allow the trainee to better understand the process of diagnosis and management of patients with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and related connective tissue disorders through clinical rotations. Complimentary clinical experiences in subspecialty clinics such as cardiology, neurosurgery, gastroenterology, and pain clinics, among others, may be incorporated depending on the fellows' personal learning goals and career plans. In addition, the fellow will have the opportunity to develop a better understanding of advanced genomic tools including microarray, genetic panel testing and whole exome and whole genome sequencing. Indications for, and interpretation of, genetic testing in this population will be emphasized. Upon completion of the fellowship, graduates will have developed a greater understanding of EDS and related conditions, the diagnostic criteria, management protocols and the tools available for the diagnosis and management of Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. They will be better prepared to consult with health teams and act as a point person within their specialty for the evaluation of patients with these conditions. Clinical supervision will be provided by staff in the EDS program and other specialty areas in the Department of Paediatrics and involves observation, report review, and one-to-one supervision sessions.

Research training: The Fellow will have protected time for research. The Fellow will develop and pursue an independent research project in their area of interest under the supervision of a senior clinical or research staff. The objective of the research project would be to advance the understanding of EDS either from a molecular genetics perspective or by developing and testing management guidelines and recommendations to improve the outcomes in this patient population. A scholarly focus in quality improvement and patient safety may also be considered.

Scholarship: Graduating fellows will have demonstrated their knowledge and expertise within Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and related connective tissue disorders by offering talks, didactics, and/or case presentations during their fellowship. These presentations may include provision of education on specialty topic areas to colleagues, and presentations on broader topics. The Fellow will have the opportunity to supervise medical and other trainees and will receive supervision on the training they provide.

Didactics: A rich array of didactic learning opportunities are available to fellows and staff at SickKids. Lectures, seminars and courses are offered through the Division of Clinical and Metabolic Genetics, the department of paediatrics, the Division of Genome Diagnosis, the Research Institute and other areas of interest to the applicant. The Fellow will be able to participate in weekly Rounds, as well as clinical and research seminars.

Requirements: Applicants should hold a MD degree or equivalent and completed an accredited residency program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and/or College of Family Physicians Canada (CFPC), or equivalent training. Applicants should be experienced working in a paediatric medicine environment. Applicants from any specialty or subspecialty are welcome to apply, as we will customize the experience to address the individual's interests and learning needs. Previous research experience is not required but will be considered when evaluating applicants. Applicants need to be eligible for an educational medical license in the province of Ontario.

How to Apply: Interested individuals should email their application, preferably in PDF format, to brittany.marshman@sickkids.ca. Please enclose a statement of interest highlighting your reasons for applying to the fellowship, your most updated CV, a list of your credentials and the names of three referees. Letters of support will be requested if you are pre-selected.

Interested applicants may direct any informal enquires to: Brittany Marshman, Education Coordinator, Division of Clinical & Metabolic Genetics, The Hospital for Sick Children, 555 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5G 1X8, brittany.marshman@sickkids.ca.

Application Deadline: December 3rd, 2021