

Fellowship Opportunity: Advanced Inflammatory Bowel Disease, University Health Network

Program Director: Dr. Maria Cino

Co-Supervisor Faculty: Dr. Maria Cino, Dr. Alexa Sasson, Dr. Parul Tandon

Location: Toronto Western Hospital

Anticipated Start Date: July 1, 2025. (trainees may defer the start of fellowship until post RCPSC Board Examinations)

Application Deadline: January 31, 2025

The Inflammatory Bowel Disease Program at Toronto Western Hospital is pleased to announce a fellowship opportunity in advanced inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD). We are seeking applicants who wish to gain advanced training in IBD, both clinical and research.

SELECTION PROCESS

Standard document requirements include

- Curriculum vitae
- 3 letters of reference
- MD &, Specialty Certificates
- TOEFL Results (if not taught in English or French), proof of citizenship. If necessary, please outline any additional required documents: - as per above standard requirements
- Strong communication skills (verbal, written)
- Research interest & experience
- Alignment with goals of our program

Applications to be submitted to Dr. Maria Cino via email maria.cino@uhn.ca by January 31, 2025.

Applications will be reviewed by the following subcommittees:

- File Review Committee
- Interview Committee
 - Interviews will take place online via MST VIDEO at the end of February 2025

IBD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The advanced inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) fellowship consists of 12-month fellowship training period based at the IBD clinic, Toronto Western Hospital. The supervising staff physicians will be Dr. Maria Cino, Dr. Alexa Sasson and Dr. Parul Tandon.

CLINICAL CARE

The program consists of predominantly ambulatory-based clinical care in the IBD Clinic, with 3 to 4 assigned full day ambulatory clinic and/or endoscopy days per week. In view of the importance of nutrition in IBD care, the Fellow will be assigned at least 2 half-day clinics in nutrition per month. At UHN, the inpatient service is a consultative service. The Fellow will participate in the care of inpatients with IBD on the consultation service to gain experience in the management of IBD in the hospital setting.

STRUCTURE OF CLINICAL CARE

- Clinic Assignments: 6 to 8 ½ days per week. (Clinics include IBD office clinics and endoscopy clinics)
- Inpatient: The fellow may participate in up to 4 weeks on the general in-patient Gastroenterology consultation service. Most of the in-patient service exposure will be limited to assessment of inpatients with IBD, admitted under other services, where the Gastroenterology or Internal Medicine Residents on service are responsible for day-to-day patient care.
- Call Requirement: participation in the GI home on call services a GI Resident, maximum of 10 call nights during the 12-month training period. The trainee is eligible for a post call day.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS / OPPORTUNITIES

The Fellow must have completed training in adult gastroenterology prior to the start of the fellowship. They must also be licensed to practice in Ontario.

The Fellow is expected to read around cases, read current literature and be informed about current guidelines for the management of the patient with IBD. The Fellow may attend at least 1 clinic per month in the following areas at UHN. We are fortunate to have one of the most advanced programs in ankylosing spondylitis in the world. Similarly, the Autoimmune Liver Disease hosts the largest program of this nature in the world. These clinics will provide a wide scope of complexity to allow the Fellow to gain familiarity with extra-intestinal manifestations of IBD.

- Ankylosing Spondylitis Clinic TWH Dr. Robert Inman Dr. Nigel Haroon
- Autoimmune Liver Diseases TGH Dr. Gideon Hirschfield Dr. Aliya Gulamhusein
- Dermatology Clinic TWH Dr. David Croitoru

The Fellow will also attend:

- Weekly round table discussions during IBD Clinic – Mondays
- Monthly Multidisciplinary Autoimmune Diseases Rounds – Gastroenterology, Rheumatology, Dermatology - Mondays
- IBD Multidisciplinary Rounds, Sinai Health, weekly - Tuesdays
- Inflammatory bowel disease Journal Club rounds, weekly – Thursdays

RESEARCH

The fellows are expected to actively engage in research to contribute to the advancement of medical knowledge in the field of IBD. Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of research activities, including descriptive, observational, prospective trials, and/or quality improvement projects. Each fellow is encouraged to develop a research project under the mentorship of a faculty member, with the goal of presenting findings at national conferences and publishing them in peer-reviewed journals. This experience is designed to foster critical thinking, enhance understanding of evidence-based medicine, and prepare fellows for academic or leadership roles in their future careers.

TEACHING

- participation in IBD journal club - critical appraisal of IBD papers
- Teaching of GI, GIM (core and elective) trainees and medical students
- Teaching - noon IBD rounds

CanMEDS OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING

MEDICAL EXPERT

- Function effectively as consultants in gastroenterology to provide optimal, ethical and patient-centered medical care;
- Establish and maintain clinical knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to gastroenterology focused on inflammatory bowel disease;
- Perform a complete and appropriate assessment of a patient for gastrointestinal disease with inflammatory bowel disease;
- Develop proficiency in management of acute flares of inflammatory bowel disease in the ambulatory and inpatient setting;
- Develop proficiency in the long-term management of inflammatory bowel disease and strategies to prevent long-term complications;
- Demonstrate proficiency in the cognitive and technical aspects of diagnostic and therapeutic colonoscopy and upper endoscopy in a patient with inflammatory bowel disease;
- Work in a multidiscipline environment, with appropriate consultation from other health professionals and allied care health care workers – dermatology, rheumatology, surgery, dieticians;

COMMUNICATOR

- Develop rapport, trust and ethical therapeutic relationships with patients and families;
- Accurately elicit and synthesize relevant information and perspectives of patients and families, colleagues and other professionals;
- Accurately convey relevant information and explanations to patients and families, colleagues and other professionals;
- Develop a common understanding on issues, problems and plans with patients and families, colleagues and other professionals to develop a shared plan of care;
- Convey effective oral and written information about a medical encounter;

COLLABORATOR

- Participate effectively and appropriately in an inter-professional healthcare team with a focus on interactions with surgical consultants, nutritionists, pharmacists, and nurse managers in the context of management of inflammatory bowel disease;
- Effectively work with other health professionals to prevent, negotiate, and resolve inter-professional conflict.

LEADER

- Assume responsibility for the clinically appropriate use of healthcare resources in the care of hospitalized inflammatory bowel disease patients;
- Develop skills to effectively manage time and balance workload required for an IBD practice
- Provide guidance and leadership for general medical residents and medical students on the gastroenterology team.

HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Respond to the health needs of the ambulatory gastroenterology patients;
- Respond to patient health needs of inpatients on the gastroenterology service and issues as part of patient care;
- Identify the determinants of health of the populations in the IBD population.

SCHOLAR

- Maintain and enhance knowledge in inflammatory bowel disease through attendance at the weekly IBD Rounds, Journal Club;
- Critically evaluate the medical literature, and apply this appropriately to practice decisions through participation in journal club and review of the literature with gastroenterology staff;
- Facilitate the learning of patients, families, students, residents, other health professionals, the public, and others, as appropriate;
- Contribute to the creation, dissemination, application, and translation of new medical knowledge and practices through opportunities to participate in IBD and GI clinical and translational research.

PROFESSIONAL

- Demonstrate a commitment to their patients, profession, and society through ethical practice;
- Demonstrate a commitment to physician health and sustainable practice.