

## University of Toronto Fellowship in Limb Preservation and Wound Care

**Number of Positions:** 1 per year.

**Next start date:** July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

**Duration:** 12 months.

**Description:** The University of Toronto Limb Preservation Fellowship is an interdisciplinary, 12-month clinical and research training program intended for a vascular surgeon seeking an immersive experience in the different aspects of limb preservation and amputation prevention, including foot and ankle surgery, physical medicine and rehabilitation, plastic surgery and wound care. The Fellow will also acquire training in quality improvement and complete a research project related to limb preservation.

### **Objectives**

#### **Overview**

- **Expertise:** The Fellowship will provide the trainee with the knowledge and technical skills in the preoperative evaluation and planning, operative management, postoperative care and follow-up of adult patients at risk of limb loss.
- **Collaboration:** The Fellow will learn the value of an interdisciplinary approach to these complex patients and will be able to work in a similar environment at their own institution.
- **Leadership:** The Fellow will be capable of leading a similar multidisciplinary, collaborative team at their own institution.
- **Scholarship:** The Fellowship focuses on training a clinician-researcher within an academic hospital environment. A mutual commitment to research and productivity is an important component of the Fellowship. The graduate will be expected to successfully complete the University of Toronto's Excellence in Quality Improvement Certificate Program (EQUIP) and the American Board of Wound Management Certified Wound Specialist Physician (CWSP) program.

#### **Foot and Ankle Surgery**

- Understand the biomechanics of the foot and ankle and how it is related to the overall gait mechanics of the lower extremity.
- Understand the assessment and management of various foot pathologies.
- Understand the natural development of the foot and differentiate between normal and pathological variations in foot mechanics.
- Develop and approach for evaluating of the neuropathic (diabetic) foot and understanding the stages of managing various problems related to this disease entity.
- Develop an approach for interpreting the radiographs and other investigations pertinent to the foot and ankle.
- Acquire skills in performing minor and major amputations, foot offloading, and correcting foot and ankle deformities.

#### **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

- Acquire expertise in orthotics, prosthetics and other devices that aid in the non-operative and surgical management of foot and ankle pathologies.

- Learn about offloading and rehabilitation of patients with complex mobility challenges.
- Learn about pre-amputation consults, acute care consults post-amputation, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation.
- Learn how to manage dysvascular and cancer related amputations.
- Develop an approach to complex traumatic and burn related amputations.

### **Wound Care**

- Develop an approach to the assessment of wounds.
- Learn about different wound treatment modalities and products.
- Learn how to manage chronic venous stasis ulcers, edematous wounds, diabetic neuropathic infections, non-healing surgical wounds, malignant wounds, and complex wounds due to systemic disorders.
- Complete the American Board of Wound Management Certified Wound Specialist Physician (CWSP) program.

### **Plastic Surgery and Burns**

- Evaluate burn patient consults and form basic management plans.
- Participate in the management of burn patients.
- Understand wound closure options for extremity wounds.
- Understand reconstructive surgery options for extremity wounds.
- Understand the principles and techniques of skin surgery.
- Acquire skills in performing split-thickness skin grafts.
- Learn the management of complex in-patient wounds.

### **Research and Quality Improvement**

- Exposure to different forms of health research, such as educational, quality improvement, and database research.
- Learn how to propose, structure and conduct research and quality improvement projects related to amputation prevention and wound care.
- Complete the University of Toronto's Excellence in Quality Improvement Certificate Program (EQUIP).

### **Schedule of rotations:**

July-September: Clinical rotation 1

October-December: Clinical rotation 2

January-February: Clinical rotation 3

March-April: Clinical rotation 4

May-June: Research and Quality Improvement rotation

### **Duties**

- The Fellow will participate (upon admission) in the Excellence in Quality Improvement Certificate Program (EQUIP) hosted by the University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine (<https://www.cpd.utoronto.ca/equip>)

- The Fellow will complete the requirements for the American Board of Wounds Medicine Certified Wound Specialist Physician (CWSP) program.
- The Fellow will provide on-call vascular surgery resident coverage (approximately 7-9 per month).
- The Fellow will engage in a quality improvement and research project throughout the year.
- The Fellow will participate and present at regularly scheduled limb preservation rounds, quality improvement rounds, journal clubs, and research days in the Division of Vascular Surgery at the University of Toronto.
- When not participating in the clinical care, research and teaching of the Limb Preservation Fellowship, the Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in the clinical and academic activities of the University of Toronto's Division of Vascular Surgery to augment their surgical training.
- The Fellow will be involved in resident and medical student teaching through seminars and small group teaching.
- The Fellow's responsibilities will not interfere with University of Toronto residency or fellowship training programs but will complement the continuous teaching of other trainees.

**Foot and Ankle Surgery (3 months):**

- Attend surgery.
- Attend outpatient clinics, inpatient wards, and the foot and ankle clinics.
- Assist in the pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative care of the supervisor's patients.
- Assist in the evaluation of in-patient, outpatient and Emergency Department consults referred to the supervisor.
- Work in a timely fashion with other house staff attending to patients in the Emergency Department.

**Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (2 months):**

- See inpatient consults and round in the inpatient amputee unit.
- See acute care consultations.
- Attend outpatient amputee clinics.
- Make clinical decisions regarding prosthetic care with multidisciplinary team members.
- Engage in teaching other medical trainees.

**Wound Care (3 months):**

- Attend wound care clinic.
- Attend wound care journal club.
- Engage in teaching other medical trainees.

**Plastic Surgery and Burns (2 months):**

- Evaluate and attend to burn patients.
- Take in-house call in the burn unit.
- Participate in the complex wound service.

**Research and Quality Improvement (2 months):**

- Complete a research project in any area pertaining to limb preservation.
- Present and publish their work at Canadian and international scientific meetings and peer-reviewed journals.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Applicants must have completed or be in the process of completing a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (or equivalent) accredited residency program in Vascular Surgery.
- Applicants must be eligible for an educational or independent license to practice medicine by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.
- Preference will be given to applicants with prospects of a position at an academic center and a clear research focus.
- Prospective Fellows must be proficient in spoken and written English. If the language of their medical training was not in English, it may be necessary to pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or the new TOEFL-ibt (<http://web1.toefl.org/tstgprog01.cfm>). Minimum scores are published under General Guidelines for University of Toronto Fellowships.
- The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups and others who may contribute to further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply. However, Canadians and permanent residents may be given priority.

### **Application Requirements:**

- Applicants must email the following to Dr. Ahmed Kayssi at [ahmed.kayssi@sunnybrook.ca](mailto:ahmed.kayssi@sunnybrook.ca) by December 15<sup>th</sup> 2022:
  - A copy of their most recent CV
  - Three letters of reference, including a letter from their residency program director or division chief.
  - A letter of intent outlining the applicant's career goals and training objectives.
- In person interviews or online video interviews will take place during the month of December 2022.
- All applicants will be notified of the Program Committee's decision by early January 2023.
- The successful applicant must apply to EQUIP by end of March 2023.