



## HEAD & NECK PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

**KEY INFORMATION:**

Length of Fellowship	Primary Location	Number of Positions per year	Applications due	Time Breakdown (Teaching vs. Clinical vs. Research)	Call Requirements
1 year	Foothills Medical Centre 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor McCaig Tower 3134 Hospital Dr NW	1	March 31 yearly (~18 months prior to July start)	10% vs. 75% vs 15%	No

### Eligibility Requirements

All applicants for MD Post Graduate Fellowships must fulfill the following pre-requisites:

- ⇒ Royal College Certification in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology or Diagnostic and Clinical Pathology or equivalent OR eligibility for Royal College certification in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology or Diagnostic and Clinical Pathology
- ⇒ Legally allowed to work in Canada
- ⇒ Able to satisfy the eligibility requirements of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) for [Post Graduate Trainees](#)

### Introduction/Background

The Head and Neck Pathology Fellowship Program is directed by Dr. M. Hycza, in collaboration with the other members of the Alberta Precision Laboratories Head and Neck pathology group. The Head and Neck pathology specialty group serves the city of Calgary and the region of Southern Alberta with an approximate catchment population of 2.5 million persons. The group sees a wide variety of cases with an extensive consultation component of 20-30 consultations cases per week. The group is based at the Foothills Medical Center which is the regional center for Head and Neck Oncology and the surgical center where all reconstructive Head and Neck surgery takes place. The fellowship program includes optional additional training in ophthalmic and/or endocrine pathology. The Fellow will be primarily located at the Foothills Medical Centre.

### Supervising Faculty

**Program Director:**

Martin D. Hycza

**Other Preceptors:**

Emilija Todorovic

Carolyn Teman

Nicholas Wiebe

Andrzej Kulaga (ophthalmic pathology only)

Konstantin Koro (endocrine pathology only)

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## Statement of Clinical Focus/Educational Purpose of the Fellowship

The purpose of the Head and Neck Pathology Fellowship program is to provide focused post-graduate training to resident physicians wanting to obtain expertise in head and neck pathology with the hope to practice primarily within this subspecialty. The post-graduate trainee will receive focused training in an excellent breadth of specialty, with both neoplastic and inflammatory conditions, in addition to learning aspects of head and neck oncology. The trainee, at the end of the Fellowship, will be confident in their ability to sign-out head and neck cases in whatever faculty position they pursue.

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## Curriculum/Rounds

The Fellow is expected to attend and participate in the following Rounds:

- weekly Arthur Child Comprehensive Cancer Center Head and Neck Multidisciplinary tumour board rounds
- biweekly H&N multi-header teaching rounds for the DMP and DCP pathology residents
- biweekly Arthur Child Comprehensive Cancer Center Thyroid Multidisciplinary tumour board rounds

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## General Objectives

There are three main objectives within the Head and Neck Pathology Fellowship:

1. Develop excellent diagnostic skills with head and neck pathology cases
2. Complete at least one research project, with the objective of publishing a paper in a research journal and attend at least one conference to present the research
3. Complete one QA/QC project related to H&N or ophthalmic pathology.
4. Develop excellent teaching skills for Head and Neck pathology

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## Evaluation/Assessment

The Fellow will be evaluated continuously through the year by the supervisors; formal evaluations will be done at the 3-, 6- and 9-month points using feedback from rotation supervisors.

The Fellow will be required to complete a 4 (four) month probationary period as directed by the University of Calgary Post Graduate Medical Education Office.

A final evaluation by supervisor with the input from all teaching faculty members and project collaborators will be completed at the end of the Fellowship. Evaluations will be based on the CanMEDs competencies outlined in this document.

Any performance deficiencies identified will be remediated/resolved according to the [Clinical Fellows Policy](#) of the University of Calgary Post Graduate Medical Education Office

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## Fellow Responsibilities/Specific Objectives

1. Prepare surgical Head and Neck pathology cases at Foothills for sign-out with the H&N pathologist (this includes typing up complete diagnoses, filling in the synoptic reports, ordering ancillary testing as required, and contacting the clinicians when necessary)
2. Preview all selected cases, work up as appropriate, and prepare the consultative opinion for review with the H&N pathologist.
3. Prepare for the weekly ACCC Head and Neck multidisciplinary tumour board rounds by reading up all patient's histories, reviewing the pathology specimens, and filling in the missing parameters as necessary.

4. From the third month of the fellowship on, be the presenting pathologist at the ACCC Head and Neck multidisciplinary tumour board rounds.
5. Work with junior and senior residents on the H&N service by assigning cases tailored to the experience level of the trainees and reviewing them at the multiheaded microscope.
6. Attend the biweekly H&N pathology teaching rounds and participate in conducting these rounds.
7. Assist pathology assistants with head and neck specimen grossing when requested.
8. Propose a research question relevant to head and neck pathology and develop a research proposal to solve it.
9. Prepare a minimum of four personal learning projects on a head and neck pathology subject.
10. Review pathologists' personal teaching sets.
11. Read the WHO classification of Head and Neck Tumours to obtain an overview of the tumours encountered in H&N pathology practice.
12. Learn the head and neck anatomy and embryology with sufficient detail to understand the structures, locations, and surgical approaches.
13. Achieve basic understanding of head and neck oncology practice patterns with particular focus on the which pathology parameters affect treatment decisions.
14. Read current H&N pathology literature with the particular focus on newly proposed entities and the changes to the current practice patterns.
15. Understand the role and interactions of oral surgeons and oral pathologist in the diagnosis of odontogenic and non-odontogenic oral lesions.

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### Terminal Objectives/Outcome

Upon completion of the fellowship, the fellow will be able to:

- Diagnose most of non-pediatric head and neck conditions
- Be able to handle the full workload of a H&N pathologists at a tertiary care center
- Communicate effectively with other clinicians and colleagues, including surgeons, oncologists, cytopathologists, surgical pathologists, and dentists
- Appreciate areas of controversy and uncertainty in head and pathology and how to address them
- Offer consultative opinions while communicating effectively the uncertainty inherent in some cases
- Effectively teach head and neck pathology to resident physicians and medical students.

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### Additional Training Opportunities

Opportunities are available to arrange additional training in the areas listed below. Please note that not all of the following options can be arranged within the same 12-month fellowship.

1. **Ophthalmic pathology:** The fellow may choose at the beginning of the fellowship to enroll in concurrent longitudinal ophthalmic pathology training. This additional training would constitute approximately 10% of the fellowship and would be conducted under the supervision of Drs Hycza and Kulaga, two expert ophthalmic pathologists. The fellow would be expected to preview and prepare for sign-out all ophthalmic pathology cases received at Rockyview General Hospital during the duration of the fellowship. If this option is selected, the fellow would be also expected to attend the weekly ophthalmology department rounds and the annual meeting of the Canadian Ophthalmological Pathology Society.
2. **Oral pathology elective:** This 2- to 4-week elective can be arranged at the fellow's request and cost. It would take place at an oral pathology department outside Calgary, most likely in Edmonton or Toronto and it would require the fellow to arrange their own transportation and lodging.
3. **Pediatric H&N pathology elective:** This 2-4-week elective can be arranged at the fellow's request. It would take place at the pediatric pathology department of the Alberta Children's Hospital.
4. **H&N cytopathology elective:** This 2-4-week elective can be arranged at the fellow's request. It would take place at the cytopathology department of the Diagnostic and Scientific Center or Alberta Precision Laboratories in Calgary.

5. **Surgical oncology elective:** This 2-week elective would allow the trainee to shadow a H&N oncologic surgeon, including OR time, H&N Cancer Clinics at Arthur Child Comprehensive Cancer Center, and in their respective surgical clinics.
6. **Endocrine pathology component:** The Head and Neck Pathology fellowship includes thyroid and parathyroid cases but endocrine pathology is not the primary focus of the fellowship. Candidates with strong interest in endocrine pathology are encouraged to consider a combined H&N and endocrine pathology fellowship which would combine 6-9 months of H&N pathology training with 6-9 months of endocrine pathology training. The endocrine pathology component of such combined fellowship would include thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal, GI, and hepatobiliary neuroendocrine pathology, whereas the Head and Neck Pathology fellowship will cover only thyroid and parathyroid pathology. While such combined fellowship is not yet offered at this time at the University of Calgary, interested candidates are welcome to inquire about the possibility of such fellowship being offered in the future.
7. **Clinician-Investigator Program:** Candidates with strong research interest can consider combining the Head and Neck Pathology fellowship with the Clinician Investigator Program (see <https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/cip>), which is a Royal College accredited program that provides trainees who are interested in pursuing a career as a clinician researcher with the opportunity to pursue graduate training as part of their medical training. Combining the fellowship with the CIP program could lead to obtaining an additional Master's or Ph.D. degrees or a postdoctoral training. The combined length of the fellowship and CIP would depend on the length of the research component (2 years for Master's, 4-6 years for Ph.D., and 2-3 years for a postdoctoral study).

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## Resources and Recommended Reading

1. WHO Classification of Tumours 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Head and Neck Tumours.
2. Oral Pathology: A comprehensive Text and Atlas, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Sook-Bin Woo, Elsevier.
3. Textbook of Head and Neck Anatomy, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Hiatt and Gartner, Jones & Bartlett Publishers.
4. Histology for Pathologists, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Stacey Mills, Wolters Kluwer
5. (optional) Eye Pathology: An Atlas and Text, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Ralph Eagle, Wolters Kluwer
6. (optional) WHO Classification of Tumours 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Eye and Orbit Tumours.
7. (optional) Endocrine Pathology, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Mete and Asa, Cambridge University Press
8. (optional) WHO Classification of Tumours 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Tumours.

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## CanMeds Objectives

### Medical Expert

The Fellow should demonstrate a good understanding of...

- Normal anatomy of the head and neck
- Genetic basis for head and neck conditions
- Normal microscopic appearance of different head and neck anatomic sites and patient ages
- Immunohistochemistry of the normal head and neck tissues
- Gross dissection of head and neck specimens
- Microscopic appearance and pathobiology of head and neck conditions
- Use of ancillary techniques in head and neck pathology

### Communicator

- Listen, and communicate questions and ideas effectively
- Communicate effectively with laboratory staff
- Communicate effectively in written form, specifically in pathology reports

### Collaborator

- Contribute effectively with multidisciplinary Head and Neck Tumour team

### Leader

- Understand important aspects of quality control and quality assurance in head and neck pathology
- Anticipate the changes expected to occur in head and neck pathology

### Health Advocate

- Identify the important parameters affecting patient diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes
- Contribute effectively to improved health of patients and communities
- Understand the need to ensure that laboratory practices and test selection are regularly evaluated to determine that they meet these community needs
- Recognize and respond to situations where health advocacy and application of health resources are required.

### Scholar

- Develop a personal continuing education strategy in head and neck pathology
- Undertake at least one research project in H&N pathology
- Present the research findings in at least one conference
- Develop a personal continuing education strategy

### Professional

- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviour
- Act as an appropriate role model to colleagues and laboratory staff
- Understand the importance of consultation and seeking of appropriate second opinions
- Deliver highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion
- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours
- Practise medicine ethically consistent with obligations of a physician
- Demonstrate a professional attitude to colleagues, students, other health professionals, and laboratory support staff
- Have an appreciation of the crucial role of the pathologist in providing quality patient care. This will include knowledge of individual professional limitations and the necessity of seeking appropriate second opinions.
- Demonstrate commitment to patient confidentiality, respect for others, conflict of interest, codes of conduct, personal and professional boundaries and informed consent

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### Certification

Upon successful completion of the fellowship, the candidate will be issued a formal certificate from the Post Graduate Medical Education Office of the University of Calgary