

Orthopaedic Surgery - Combined Spine Surgery

Number of Positions:	5 per year	
Next Start Date:	July 1 and February 1	
Duration:	1 year	
Sites:	Foothills Hospital	
Program Director:	Dr. Steve Casha	
Preceptors:	Dr. Jacques Bouchard	Dr. Peter Lewkonja
	Dr. Roger Cho	Dr. Paul Salo
	Dr. Stephan du Plessis	Dr. Alex Soroceanu
	Dr. Richard Hu	Dr. Ganesh Swamy
	Dr. Bradley Jacobs	Dr. Ken Thomas

Summary:

The Clinical Fellowship at the University of Calgary is a combined Orthopaedic surgery and Neurological surgery clinical experience. The goals of the fellowship are to train orthopaedic and neurosurgical surgeons in the diagnosis and management of diseases of the spine.

The University of Calgary Spine Program is a multidisciplinary group dedicated to the management of individuals with spinal disease. The program is based at the Foothills Medical Centre and the Alberta Children's hospital, tertiary care centers and level one trauma service for the population of Calgary and the surrounding regions of Southern Alberta, Southeastern British Columbia and Southern Saskatchewan (total 2.5 million). An estimated 2000 spinal procedures are performed each year at the Foothills Medical Centre by the Combined Spine Program faculty.

Objectives:

Emphasis in the program is upon the decision-making and surgical techniques of spinal surgery. At the end of the fellowship, the trainee will have experience and ability to independently perform surgical approaches, decompressions, and instrumentation in areas of the spine from the occiput to llium.

- Decompression techniques both anterior and posterior will be acquired.
- Exposure to multiple different instrumentation systems will occur.
- Surgical experience will include anterior and posterior stabilization of the cervical spine, thoracic spine and lumbar spine, motion preserving technologies like cervical and lumbar disc arthroplasty, techniques for deformity correction, open and minimally invasive approaches, complex intradural and extradural oncology surgical management, craniocervical decompression and fusion, management of syringomyelia, Chiari malformation and related congenital and acquired pathologies.
- Image guidance and intra-operative imaging including MRI, CT scan and fluoroscopy are operational and routinely used.

Clinical:

Three fellowship positions follow a July 1 to June 30 academic year. One position follows a February 1 to January 31 calendar. Time is equally divided between the Orthopaedic and Neurosurgical service.

Combined teaching conferences occur weekly with discussion of recent cases and complex management cases. In addition, weekly spine topic rounds are attended by fellows and faculty.

Morbidity and Mortality rounds are conducted monthly. Journal club is also a monthly educational event for fellows and faculty.

Fellows are scheduled to attend a weekly outpatient clinic and three operative days (on average) with the attending faculty.

In addition, an on call roster rotates among each fellow with call duty extending 1 week at a time. Typically the fellow is assigned call weeks together with a surgeon on their current service rotation. Resident(s) on call for that service are assigned on a daily rotation. On call consultations are initially assessed by the resident team and management decisions are made by the resident and fellow staff with close supervision by the attending staff. Fellow call is at home call with no in-hospital responsibilities. Under exceptional circumstances a fellow may be asked to help cover in house call for the spine service when a resident is not available. Such requests will not exceed 1 day/month on average.

Research:

There are opportunities for basic science and clinical research and a project will be selected by each fellow with the guidance of the Program Research Director and Fellowship Preceptor(s).

The fellow will be required to present at the Annual Surgical Fellows Research Symposium held annually.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must have completed, or be completing, a Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (or equivalent) accredited residency program in Orthopaedic Surgery or Neurosurgery.
- Must be eligible for an Educational or Independent license to practice medicine by the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta.
- If prospective fellows have done their medical school outside of an English speaking country, candidates must complete their IELTS (International English Language Testing System) academic version and submit it with their application. Please refer to <http://www.cpsa.ca/language-proficiency/> for more information.
- Fellows are required to meet Canada's immigration laws and other requirements in regards to obtaining a work permit.

Application Requirements:

- Curriculum vitae
- 3 letters of reference
- Letter of intent

Application Process:

Interested applicants are asked to apply online at the link below.

For more information, please contact the Office of Surgical Fellowship.

APPLICATION LINK:

[Apply Online](#)