Clinical and Research Fellowship in Interventional Neuropsychiatry

Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto
Interventional Neuropsychiatry Program, St. Michael's Hospital
https://research.unityhealth.to/research-programs/interventional-psychiatry-2/

Description of the fellowship opportunity:

The Interventional Neuropsychiatry Program at St. Michael's Hospital, under the guidance of Dr. Venkat Bhat, welcomes candidates for its clinical and research fellowships. This Program is an avenue where multifaceted clinical and research experiences intersect, encompassing various fields within medicine (including psychiatry, anesthesia, neurology, and surgery) and extending to domains beyond such as engineering, computer science, AI/analytics, and the social sciences.

Participants in the Program will gain exposure to cutting-edge psychopharmacological treatments, including the use of IV ketamine and psychedelics in conjunction with psychotherapy. They will also explore neurostimulation approaches such as rTMS, ECT, and up-and-coming neurostimulation techniques, alongside digital therapies that utilize VR, apps, and wearables including combinations of psychotherapy and lifestyle interventions to address neuropsychiatric conditions. The Program prides itself on its interdisciplinary framework, presenting new, procedure-based treatments for neuropsychiatric conditions. Concurrently, its research arm is dedicated to unraveling the mechanisms of treatment response associated with these emerging therapies. Fellows may also have the chance to engage with specialized brain stimulation techniques, including Deep Brain Stimulation and invasive epilepsy brain mapping, as well as Functional Electrical Stimulation, through projects steered by Dr. Bhat at the University Health Network, with which he is also associated.

The program offers exposure to treatment-resistant mental illness with diversity of patient profiles evaluated for emerging treatments including: A) Mood & anxiety, PTSD, concurrent disorders, etc; B) Neuropsychiatry (e.g., MS, stroke, TBI, etc); C) Medical conditions with co-morbid mental illness (e.g., heart-brain, etc); D) Special populations (e.g., sleep clinic and bariatric surgery). Fellows have the ability to personalize training further based on special interests: a) specific modalities (e.g., pharmacological/neurostimulation/digital); b) specific populations (e.g., Mood, sleep, neuropsychiatry, etc); c) specific combinations (e.g., CBTi, psychedelic psychotherapy, etc). The program houses the Digital Intelligence and Intelligence Group (DiiG), a multi-institutional digital research group which conducts innovative combinations/delivery of psychotherapy and lifestyle interventions with emerging treatments accompanied by Artificial Intelligence & Analytics across various populations in Canada/Internationally.

The position of a clinical research fellow will allow collaboration with eminent practitioners and investigators from a spectrum of disciplines, including psychiatry, anesthesia, neurology, surgery, imaging, informatics, engineering/computer science, AI/analytics and social sciences. Importantly, this funded position is adaptable and can be customized to suit the professional aspirations and requirements of the fellow. Training must be a minimum of 1 year in length; longer durations are negotiable.

Training start date:

Fellowship training should start on **July 1 annually** if possible, to align with the new academic year. However, alternative start dates may be negotiated in consultation with Dr. Bhat (venkat.bhat@utoronto.ca) & the Psychiatry Fellowship Program (psych.fellows@utoronto.ca).

Stipend availability:

Psychiatry fellows must receive a minimum stipend of $65,000 CAD/annum annually for a full-time training position. Up to two candidates selected for a Clinical and/or Research Fellowship in Interventional Neuropsychiatry can be supported by funds within the program, others are expected to source their own stipends through institutional research/educational scholarships or grants; a return-of-service agreement; home country sponsorships*, or self-funding through anticipated independent OHIP billings (see Psychiatry Fellowship Program's website for more information).

* Sponsored candidates are applicants from the following countries whose governments have official postgraduate medical training agreements with the university of Toronto: **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates**, and **Saudi Arabia**.

Note: Sponsored candidates must have already initiated an application on the University of Toronto's **Sponsored Trainee Application Registry (STAR)**. For more Information, contact the University's postgraduate medical education (PGME) office at: pgme.international@utoronto.ca

Application Process

Overview:

Eligibility:

-       Completion of a psychiatry residency training program
-       Excellent clinical and written/verbal communication skills
-       Interest in emerging treatments within Interventional Psychiatry

Candidates must review the University of Toronto Psychiatry Fellowship Program's application requirements carefully **before** initiating an application. Internationally trained applicants may be asked to provide **English proficiency test results** at the time of application. To learn more, see:

https://psychiatry.utoronto.ca/apply-fellowship-program

Interested candidates are invited to submit their updated **CV**, copies of their **MD** and **specialty certificate***, a **letter of intent** detailing their interest in this opportunity and how it aligns with their career goals, as well as the contact information of **3 references** one of whom being their Residency Program Director. Reference letters must be received by the above-listed deadline. Other requirements may apply - see: https://psychiatry.utoronto.ca/apply-fellowship-program

* In lieu, current domestic residents can submit a letter of good standing indicating their anticipated graduation date from their residency program

Application period:

Applications to this opportunity for entry in the **2024-25 academic year** (July 1 academic session) will be ideally accepted between **Oct. 1, 2023 – Nov. 30, 2023** on the Psychiatry Fellowship Program's application platform: https://documents.med.utoronto.ca/Forms/FellowshipsApplication

Applications received after Nov 30 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis; please contact Dr. Venkat Bhat to learn more.

Contact:

Please contact **Dr. Venkat Bhat** for more information (venkat.bhat@utoronto.ca)