

# VA SPECIAL CLINICAL & RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN PARKINSON'S DISEASE & OTHER MOVEMENT DISORDERS

## *Curriculum for Two-Year Fellowship*

### **Purpose**

The VA Special Clinical and Research Fellowship in Parkinson's Disease and other Movement Disorders will offer clinicians intensive training in the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and related disorders and comprehensive, multidisciplinary care of patients with movement disorders, including deep brain stimulation and botulinum toxin injection. In addition, the fellowship will offer instruction in the methodologies needed to conduct research in movement disorders as well as experience in either basic or clinical research.

### **Eligibility**

Fellows must have completed an ACGME-accredited residency in neurology and be board eligible or certified in neurology. They must have an active, unrestricted license from any state to practice medicine in the United States of America.

### **Overview of Curriculum**

Fellows will initially receive formal orientation to the Portland VA Medical Center, PADRECC, and VHA including VA information systems and telemedicine programs. Fellows' clinical training will consist of formal didactic training including assigned reading; mentored, hands-on experience working in multidisciplinary movement disorder clinics; and clinical rotations through other specialized movement disorder clinics serving a variety of patient populations.

Concurrently, fellows will participate in formal didactic training in methodologies of clinical research in the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Human Investigator Program (HIP). Fellows will conduct one or more mentored research projects, and will gain experience preparing a protocol as well as writing a paper either resulting from their studies or a review article.

### **Didactic Clinical Training**

Didactic training will include:

- 1) Assigned readings of seminal and timely publications in the field of movement disorders. A list of articles is included in the core curriculum for movement disorder fellowship training prepared by the American Academy of Neurology section on movement disorders. This reading list, updated as is appropriate, will serve as the core reading material. The fellows will meet with one or more of the movement disorder faculty once a week to review these materials.
- 2) Participation in the OHSU Human Investigators' Program. This is a two-year intensive didactic program leading to a certificate of training in human investigation and is supported by a K-30 Training Grant from NIH. The program director, Dr. Cynthia Morris, encourages the participation of the VA Parkinson's disease and movement disorder research fellows in the program. This program has lectures weekly with assigned readings and homework. The various areas covered include clinical research, regulatory issues, biostatistics, clinical research design, molecular biology for clinical researchers, ethical issues of clinical research, scientific writing, data presentation, evidence-based medicine, medical informatics, outcome and measurement analysis, and fundamentals of clinical trials. The program requires that the participants prepare a grant for submission to a funding agency.
- 3) Participation in weekly Journal Club, which covers both basic and clinical research that is pertinent to movement disorders, and in the weekly Video Rounds.
- 4) Attendance of Neurology Grand Rounds and Residents' Noon Conference to maintain their skills and knowledge-base in general neurology.
- 5) Participation in weekly movement disorders video rounds and present once a month.

### **Mentored Clinical Experience in PD Clinics and Inpatient Units**

Fellows will participate in three movement disorder clinics that will expose them to a large number of patients with Parkinson's disease and other forms of parkinsonism as well as other movement disorders including dystonia, Tourette's syndrome, and various tremors. During the first year of fellowship, fellows present all new patients to a movement disorder faculty member. During the second year of fellowship, fellows present patients at their discretion. Each of these clinics will end with a brief conference that will review patients seen in clinic that day and discuss issues surrounding diagnosis or management of the disorders. Fellows may be asked to do up to two weeks of attending on the consult and inpatient service at the VA and up to two weeks of phone/night coverage on the inpatient service at OHSU.

### **Mentored Research**

Fellows can choose between basic research and clinical research projects. Fellows will be involved in ongoing projects or given an academic project such as writing a case report, or writing a review paper. Each fellow will develop his/her own project under the supervision of a faculty mentor. This research project will also be used in the Human Investigations Program (HIP). All movement disorder faculty members are available for research mentoring, but fellows may also utilize faculty from other divisions and departments within the Portland VA and OHSU. Fellows will meet with their mentor weekly to discuss progress and other research topics.

### **Teaching Experience**

Fellows will teach medical students and neurology residents in movement disorder clinics, medical students in small group sessions during the neuroscience block, patients and families, and will attend on VA wards two weeks each year.

### **Expectations of Fellows**

***Clinical:*** Fellows will develop competency in diagnosing and managing the common movement disorders.

***Teaching:*** Fellows will present monthly at video rounds, present at two Journal Clubs per year, and conduct one Residents' Noon Conference during the course of the fellowship program. Fellows will also talk to patient groups once a year.

***Research:*** Fellows will submit one article for publication, submit a poster for a national meeting, and develop a research proposal.

### **Tour of Duty**

VA Special Fellows have a Tour of Duty from midnight to midnight, Sunday through Saturday. Fellows are expected to be on campus Monday through Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm, on duty. Working off campus during those hours requires approval from the program director and will be considered on a case by case basis. The VA performs regular time and attendance audits. Being unaccounted for can result in AWOL status, loss of pay, and reprimand. Regular attendance at staff meetings is mandatory.

### **Evaluations**

The Parkinson's disease and movement disorder fellows will be evaluated every six months by the movement disorder faculty. Evaluations will include review of feedback from supervising clinicians and review of the progress in research projects. The mentors will give direct feedback to the fellow following each evaluation. Additionally, on an annual basis, fellows will be evaluated by nursing and support staff in a 360 evaluation.

The fellowship program will be evaluated annually by the PADRECC Advisory Committee as part of the annual review of the PADRECC. The long-term success of the program will be determined by the positions the fellows obtain following their training (VA vs. non-VA, academic vs. non-academic, and involvement in Parkinson's disease and movement disorders practice vs. general practice).

**Resources**

Fellows will be provided an office at the Portland VA Medical Center equipped with a computer that has access to the VA network. A workspace with computers is also provided at OHSU. Fellows will be provided with support to attend one national meeting per year.

**Other**

The program can be adapted to the special strengths and needs of each fellow.

**MOVEMENT DISORDERS FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Weekly Schedule**

The following is a sample weekly schedule for each fellowship year. The schedule may be altered depending on specialty rotations. During Year 2, fellows will alternate staffing the VA Neurology clinic once a month on the second Tuesday of the month.

**Year 1 & 2**

Hours	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8-9	VA DBS Surgery <i>Fellow to observe about once a month</i>	OHSU Movement Disorders Clinic (8:30-12:00pm)	Neurology Grand Rounds (8:00-9:00am)	Movement D/O Journal Club (8:30-9:30)	Research	
9-10			OHSU DBS Clinic <i>Once a month</i>			Research
10-11						
11-12						
12-1						Neurology Resident Conference (12:00-1:00)
1-2	OHSU Movement Disorders Clinic (12:00-5:00pm)	OHSU Botox Clinic <i>Every other week (1:00-4:00pm)</i>	VA Movement Disorders Clinic (12:30-4:30pm)	Research	VA Botox Clinic <i>Once a month</i>	
2-3						
3-4						
4-5						Clinic Conference (4:30-5:30pm)
5-6						HIP Program (4:30-6:30pm) <i>Fall/spring term</i>