September 2023

**Fellowship in Aortopathy and Heritable Connective Tissue Disorders**

**Position:** The Department of Medical Genetics at the Children Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) in Ottawa, Ontario, is seeking applications for a Clinical and Research Fellowship opportunity in Aortopathy and Heritable Connective Tissue Disorders.

The rapid advance of genomic technologies has resulted in significant improvement in diagnostic yield and efficiency, and has immensely enhanced our understanding of rare disease etiology and pathophysiology. With these advances, the role of Genetics in the care of patients with cardiovascular diseases is expanding and genetic information is becoming increasingly actionable. Recently, the 2022 AHA/ACC guidelines[1] recommended that every patient presenting with an aortopathy at or before 60 years of age benefit from molecular testing, not only to help with the care of their at-risk relatives, but also to aid in the establishment of their surgical threshold and vascular surveillance protocol. Moreover, understanding the molecular underpinnings of peripheral arteriopathies is an emerging field which necessitates the attention of specialized physicians and researchers who care for these patients. In this new era of genomic medicine, there is an increasing need for physicians trained to see this specific population of patients.

This is a 1.0 FTE position with responsibilities spanning both research and direct clinical service. This one-year training position begins in Summer 2024.

Fellowship Director: Dr. Julie Richer, MD, FRCPC, FCCMG.

**Training Setting:** The Department of Genetics sees inpatient and outpatient consultations, providing excellent exposure to a variety of rare diseases. Of particular relevance to this training program is heritable connective tissue clinic which sees over 300 patients per year, including close to 150 new patients. The trainee will also have the opportunity to work in multidisciplinary settings and to spend time in multiple subspecialty clinics.

**Scholarship:** The fellow will be expected to take part in preparing a research manuscript, present at the Virtual Aortopathy Rounds and attend the HAD conference. The Fellow will have the opportunity to supervise medical and other trainees and will receive supervision on the training they provide.

**Didactics:** A rich array of didactic learning opportunities are available to fellows and staff at CHEO. Lectures, seminars and courses are offered through the Department of Medical Genetics. The Fellow will be able to participate in clinical and research seminars. The fellow will be expected

[1] Isselbacher et al. 2022 ACC/AHA Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Aortic Disease: A Report of the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines. Circulation. 2022 Dec 13;146(24):e334-e482

Fondation du syndrome Loeys • Dietz Syndrome Foundation · Canada

OTTAWA CARDIO VASCULAR GENETICS

to attend the Virtual Aortopathy rounds and will also be expected to attend and participate in the patient care rounds of the Aortic Clinic from the Heart Institute.

**Requirements:** Applicants should hold a MD degree and have completed a residency program accredited by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) in Medical Genetics or Cardiology (adult or pediatric). Applicants need to be eligible for an educational medical license in the province of Ontario.

**Compensation:** compensation will be commensurate with PGY level as per the PAIRO contract. This fellowship is co-funded by the Loeys-Dietz foundation of Canada and the Department of Genetics at CHEO.

**How to Apply:** Interested individuals should email their application, preferably in PDF format, to VascularGenetics@cheo.on.ca. Please enclose a statement of interest highlighting your reasons for applying to the fellowship and your CV.

Interested applicants may direct any informal enquires to: Christie Boswell-Patterson, Program Coordinator, by e-mail at VascularGenetics@cheo.on.ca or by phone at 613-737-7600 x 6078.

**Application Deadline:** April 2024, or until the position is filled.

Fondation du syndrome Loeys • Dietz Syndrome Foundation · Canada

OTTAWA CARDIO VASCULAR GENETICS