Fellowship in Advanced Aortic Surgery

Number of Positions: *1 every two years*
Next Start Date: *July 1, 2027*
Duration: *2 years*
Application Due Date: *October 1, 2026*
Sites: *Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre & University Health Network (Toronto General Hospital)*
Co-Program Directors: *Drs. Jennifer Chung & Miranda Witheford*
Program Committee: *Drs. Chris Tarola, Bobby Yanagawa, Andrew Dueck, Thomas Lindsay, Elisa Greco, Maral Ouzounian, Kong-Teng Tan, Sean Crawford, Thomas Forbes*

DESCRIPTION

The Advanced Aortic Surgery Fellowship is a collaborative effort by the Divisions of Cardiac Surgery and Vascular Surgery at the University of Toronto. The Fellowship offers a unique two-year clinical AND research program that provides specialized and advanced training in open and endovascular surgery for thoracoabdominal aortic pathologies (including aneurysms and dissections), beyond that of Cardiac Surgery and Vascular Surgery residency training.

The Fellowship will take place in a busy multidisciplinary, multihospital, academic environment where the best surgical treatment (open and/or endovascular repair) is chosen for each patient. The Fellow will have the opportunity to train at the two major University of Toronto academic teaching hospitals where a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach is taken to treat these aortic pathologies.

OBJECTIVES

- Graduates of the Fellowship will be well trained academic advanced aortic surgeons, capable of participating in and leading a similar multidisciplinary, collaborative team at their own institution.
- The Fellowship will provide the trainee with knowledge and technical skills in the preoperative evaluation and planning, operative management (open and endovascular), postoperative care and follow up of adult patients with thoracoabdominal aneurysms and dissections.
- The Fellow will learn the value of a multidisciplinary approach to these complex patients and will be able to work in a similar environment at their own institution.
- The Fellowship takes place in an academic environment and research training is provided and productivity is expected and an important part of the Fellowship.

CLINICAL

- The Fellow will rotate between the two main academic teaching hospitals. While based at a hospital, the Fellow will participate in the planning, surgery (endovascular and open) and postoperative care of all patients with elective and emergent thoracoabdominal aortic pathologies.

- Additionally, the Fellow will participate in the care of patients with thoracoabdominal aortic pathologies at Toronto General Hospital, subject to scheduling and coordination by the Fellowship administrative coordinator.
- The Fellow will participate and present at regularly scheduled Aortic Surgery rounds, Journal clubs and Grand Rounds of the Advanced Aortic Fellowship as well as his/her home specialty (Cardiac Surgery OR Vascular Surgery).
- The Fellow will participate in the weekly multidisciplinary Thoracic Aortic Surgery Clinic whenever scheduling allows.
- The Fellow will have on-call responsibilities for the advanced aortic patients as well as regular call responsibilities of his/her home specialty (Cardiac Surgery OR Vascular Surgery) at the hospital where he/she is currently sited.
- When not participating in the clinical care, research and teaching of the Advanced Aortic Fellowship, the Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in the clinical and academic activities of his/her home specialty (Cardiac Surgery OR Vascular Surgery) to augment his/her surgical training.
    - For example: Cardiac Surgeons will gain additional experience in proximal aortic reconstructions and aortic arch replacements, among other areas. Vascular Surgeons will gain additional experience in endovascular and open surgery for the infrarenal aorta and peripheral vasculature, among other areas.
- The Fellow will be involved in resident and medical student teaching through seminars and small group teaching. The Fellow's responsibilities will not interfere with the Cardiac Surgery and Vascular Surgery Residency Training Programs but will complement the continuous teaching of residents.

RESEARCH

- A research project(s) are a mandatory component of the Fellowship. There are opportunities for basic science and clinical research and a project will be selected by each Fellow with the guidance of the Co-Program Directors and Fellowship Research Coordinator.
- The Fellow is expected to present and publish his/her work at national and international scientific meetings and peer reviewed journals.
- The Fellow's research project will run concurrently with clinical training throughout the two year Fellowship. Completion of the research project is mandatory.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Must have completed, or be completing, a Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (or equivalent) accredited residency program in Cardiac Surgery OR Vascular Surgery.
- Must be eligible for an Educational or Independent license to practice medicine by the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario.
- Prospective Fellows must be proficient in spoken and written English and if language of medical school is not English, it is necessary to pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL-iBT) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). If you took the TOEFL (iBT) examination, the overall minimum score must be 93 with a minimum score of 24 for the speaking section. If you took the IELTS, the minimum requirement is an overall band of 6.5, with no band below 6.0. (http://web1.toefl.org/tstgprog01.cfm).
- Minimum scores are published under General Guidelines for University of Toronto Fellowships (see Additional Information). Preference will be given to candidates with experience with open and endovascular surgery in the thoracoabdominal aorta, prospects of a position at an academic centre, and a clear research focus.

- The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups and others who may contribute to further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents may be given priority.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Letter of interest, including experience and training in open and endovascular aortic surgery, career plans and research experience and interests.
- 3 letters of reference. One letter must be from the Program Director of Cardiac Surgery or Vascular Surgery training program. If employed for more than 2 years, this letter may be written by the chief of the division in which the surgeon is working.
- Curriculum Vitae which includes pre-medical, medial and post-medical school training, publications, certificates, awards and scholarships.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline for applications to be received is October 1, 2026 for start date of July 1, 2027. In person interviews or online video interviews will take place during November and December. All applicants will be notified of the Program Committee's decision by the end of 2026.

CONTACT AND APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

• University of Toronto Department of Surgery Fellowship Information
http://surgery.utoronto.ca/education/fellowships.html