

Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine
Western University

Acute Pain Service
Program Directors – Dr. Kevin Armstrong
Dr. Qutaiba Tawfic



Please visit the Acute Pain Service Fellowship site for most up-to-date information:

http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/anesthesia/education/fellowship/fellowships_offered/acute_pain.html

Clinical Fellowship – Acute Pain Service

The purpose of the Acute Pain Service (APS) program is to provide trainees with a broad range of knowledge skills and attitudes so as to be able to:

- Assess patients pre-operatively as it relates to risk of complex pain.
- Initiate an appropriate pain management plan, commence appropriate treatment of pain and identify and liaise with the pre-op and intra-op teams to ensure appropriate and definitive care.
- Assess postoperative patient under APS and commence, continue and alter pain management plans by using different modalities.
- Identify complex pain patient and diagnose the most likely underlying problem.
- Diagnose side effects related to pain medications and commence the needed action.
- Being clinically and academically effective as a part of the Comprehensive Pain Management Program in Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry and London Hospitals.
- Participate in endeavours to educate patients, patient supporters, hospital providers (anesthesia, nursing, surgery), and primary health care providers.
- Participate in scientific inquiry to challenges relevant to acute pain management

The program builds on the CanMeds roles recommended by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The APS fellowship program will deliver the training and experience needed for this by giving the fellow an opportunity to work and learn in both the post -surgical and non-surgical acute pain management. Also, fellows will get exposure to regional anesthesia and management of chronic pain/opioid tolerant patients, as the knowledge base and skill set of these specialties are closely related. These specialties interface in the multidisciplinary care

of in hospital pain patients. By working in these specialties, the fellow will become familiar with the common acute pain presentations, their rapid initial assessment and treatment and how to determine what definitive care will be needed and how it should best be provided.

The delivery of a well structured training program in Acute Pain medicine will enable the fellow to work effectively, both individually and as part of a team in the care of the acute pain patient and develop a firm foundation for their future as APS specialist.

RESEARCH

APS fellow will spend up to 1 day per week in research and educational activities (if approved in advance). This time is very much depending on the fellow's commitment accomplishing the proposed activities. It is an expectation that, with supervision, APS fellows will play an active role in a research project during fellowship. This can include design, grant writing, ethics submission and conduct of a project. A number of courses in research methodology and statistics are available through Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.

EDUCATION

APS rounds are held at the departmental level throughout the year which will include journal discussions, case discussions, and didactic presentations. Fellows are expected to participate in these rounds to gain experience in presentation and teaching. Fellows are also expected to attend/participate in regional anesthesia and chronic pain rounds when possible. There is an opportunity to combine rounds for all the three subspecialties (APS, chronic pain and regional anesthesia). Fellow will be required to take an active role in resident and medical student's education in acute pain management.

FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE

- **Duration:** The fellowship training program will be undertaken over twelve consecutive months and includes four weeks of vacation time.
- **Number of fellowship positions:** 2
- **Sites:** APS Fellow will be primarily allocated to LHSC (University and Victoria hospitals), with learning experience and the provision of service at any of the London acute care hospitals.
- **Leadership:** This fellowship program is under the Comprehensive Pain Management Program- Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine-Western University.
- **Supportive specialties:** Regional anesthesia program, multidisciplinary pain clinic and Palliative Care as a part of Comprehensive Pain Management Program.
- **On Call Duties:** Weekend APS rounds 12-16 times per year

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CANADIAN and FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES

Requirements for Application:

- Candidates must possess a medical degree from a recognized University
- International Medical Graduates must be approved by the PGE Office at Western University
- English Language Requirement: TOEFL-iBT required to achieve an overall score of no less than 100 with a minimum score of 24 in speaking or listening (**IMG only**).
- **Link to Application Requirements:**
http://www.schulich.uwo.ca/anesthesia/education/fellowship/application_requirements.html

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

Fellows will acquire a broad-based understanding of the principles, philosophy, core knowledge, skills and attitudes of APS.

MEDICAL EXPERT

- Able to assess patient and options for perioperative pain control.
- Understand the pathophysiology and treatment of various types of acute pain.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of anatomy, physiology and pharmacology of pain transmission and modulation.
- Understand the general principles of postoperative pain evaluation and management.
- Understand the importance of using multimodal analgesia in pain management.
- Able to describe multidisciplinary approach for pain management.
- Design a care pathway that is effective, responsive, and covers the needs of surgical patients from pre-op through the postoperative period.
- Understand the treatment approaches to Acute post-operative pain, including:
 - a. Regional techniques (neuraxial and peripheral)
 - b. Opioids pharmacotherapy (IV PCA , oral opioid doses and opioid rotation)
 - c. Adjuvant drugs (e.g. antidepressants and anticonvulsants)
- Demonstrate the ability to initiate and discontinue PCA pumps, when indicated.
- Demonstrate the ability to deal with the problems and complications associated with PCA use.
- Understand the role, indications and contraindications of regional anesthesia in postoperative pain management.
- Demonstrate the ability to identify and treat neuropathic pain.
- Identify patients with risk of chronic post surgical pain and make a plan for follow up.
- Demonstrate the ability to manage acute-on-chronic pain, including opioid dependent patients.

COMMUNICATOR

- Demonstrate the ability to communicate pain management plans to, surgery teams, anesthesia providers, and allied health professionals.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with patients, families, and the public, as appropriate, across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds.

- Demonstrate the ability to able to interact effectively and professionally with patients, families, physicians, nurses, and other members of the healthcare team.
- Demonstrate the ability to maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records.

COLLABORATOR

- Demonstrate the ability to work as part of an APS team, respecting the roles of team members.
- Demonstrate an appropriate way of communication and proper methods to resolve conflicts within APS teams and with other physicians and services.

LEADER

- Understand the principles behind quality assessment and improvement initiatives.
- Demonstrate the ability to perform APS rounds effectively on a high volume of patients.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze challenges that occur in the various stages of care.
- Contribute to the improvement of health care deliver in teams, organizations, and systems.
- Engage in the stewardship of health care resources.
- Demonstrate leadership in professional practice.

HEALTH ADVOCATE

- Demonstrate the ability to act as an advocate within the health care system.
- Understanding of the patient safety issues associated with pain management.
- Effectively utilize hospital resources for in patient acute pain management.
- Understand barriers to effective care in pain management.

SCHOLAR

- Apply critical appraisal skills to acute pain medicine literature
- Understand the principles and techniques of research methodologies and outcome evaluation.

PROFESSIONAL

- Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others.
- Demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity, and kindness in relationships with patients, families, and colleagues.
- Understand of the concepts of patient confidentiality and informed consent.
- Demonstrate respect for patient privacy and autonomy.
- Demonstrate adheres to ethical principles, respect, compassion and integrity.
- Maintain appropriate relations with patients.

ASSESSMENT

APS fellowship trainee will be assessed on:

- Daily and weekly bases direct assessment by the staff conducting the APS round.
- Quarterly meeting feedback will be admitted directly by the fellowship director.
- Periodic 360 Degree evaluations.
- Fellow will be required to perform periodic self-Assessments.
- Feedback from nursing staff, especially APS nurses will be considered.

Satisfactory performance in the clinical, teaching and research activities are required to fulfill the requirements for fellowship certificate.

The APS fellowship program will produce anesthesiologists/acute pain specialists who are competent, and able to recognize and manage the in-hospital pain patient. They can define the nature of pain problems, and apply a required intervention. They can supervise APS specialty training in the future and act as resources for their non specialist colleagues. Through mentorship they will gain appreciation for research in acute pain. They are expected to contribute to research activities.

The APS fellowship program offers opportunities for fellows in other clinical programs (e.g. Regional Anesthesia and Chronic Pain Medicine Program, Palliative Care) to participate in an APS clinical rotation.