

WESTERN UNIVERSITY · DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY

Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry

Clinical Fellowship Program

12 months	London Health Sciences Centre	Mon–Fri, 8am–5pm	No on-call	4 weeks vacation
-----------	-------------------------------	------------------	------------	------------------

About the Fellowship

Consultation-liaison (CL) psychiatry — also known as psychosomatic medicine — is a subspecialty focused on the psychiatric care of patients with complex medical conditions. This fellowship trains psychiatrists to assess and manage psychiatric symptoms and disorders arising in medical and surgical settings, to support interdisciplinary teams, and to advance the field through scholarship and education.

Western University's CL Psychiatry Fellowship is a one-year postgraduate clinical fellowship aligned with the Royal College Area of Focused Competence (AFC) in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry. It is based at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), one of Canada's largest acute care teaching hospitals, affiliated with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. The program is designed to produce graduates who are competent, confident, and ready to lead CL services independently.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the fellowship, graduates will have achieved the following core competencies, aligned with the Royal College AFC framework in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry.

1

Assessment of new psychiatric presentations in medically ill patients

Assess patients with psychiatric symptoms arising during the treatment of a medical or surgical condition, including those with pre-existing psychiatric disorders that complicate medical care, and patients presenting with somatic symptom and related disorders.

2

Management of psychiatric disorders in complex medical settings

Provide acute and comprehensive ongoing psychiatric management — including psychopharmacology, brief psychotherapeutic interventions — for patients with complex medical conditions across inpatient and outpatient environments.

3

Consultation and collaboration with interdisciplinary teams

Provide CL psychiatry expertise to support physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals in managing patients with coexisting psychiatric and medical conditions. This

includes capacity assessments, MAID evaluations, psychosocial suitability assessments for transplant and major procedures, and facilitating family and care team meetings.

4

Leadership and management of the CL psychiatry service

Triage and prioritize new consultation requests, coordinate interdisciplinary CL rounds, lead an inpatient CL service, and develop skills in managing an outpatient CL practice in a complex health care environment.

5

Scholarship, education, and quality improvement

Advance the field through teaching trainees and health care professionals, critically appraising CL literature, conducting or collaborating in a scholarly project, and contributing to the continuous improvement of mental health integration in medical settings.

Clinical Rotations

Fellows rotate through a carefully sequenced set of inpatient and outpatient experiences across both LHSC sites over the 12-month fellowship year.

Rotation	Duration	Key clinical areas
Inpatient CL – University Hospital	4 months	Transplant psychiatry, critical care, neuropsychiatry, Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU)
Inpatient CL – Victoria Hospital	4 months	Trauma surgery, orthopaedic surgery, general surgery, gynecologic oncology (GO), critical care, oncology, palliative care
Geriatric Psychiatry Inpatient CL	2 months	Patients 65 years and older across both UH and VH sites
Outpatient & Elective Rotations	2 months	Mandatory: psycho-oncology (2 days/week), neuropsychiatry — FND & TBI (1 day/week). Elective: chronic pain, sleep medicine, addiction medicine, palliative care, others by arrangement

Longitudinal Outpatient CL Clinic — One Full Day Per Week

Throughout the entire fellowship year, fellows dedicate one full day per week to an outpatient general consultation-liaison clinic. This continuity experience provides longitudinal psychiatric care to patients referred by the inpatient CL team, under the direct supervision of a staff physician. It is designed to develop sustained therapeutic relationships and skills in ongoing psychiatric management of medically complex patients.

Clinical Sites

Both sites are part of London Health Sciences Centre, one of Canada's largest acute care teaching hospitals. Together they offer a rich and diverse range of medical-psychiatric presentations.

University Hospital (UH) University Hospital is LHSC's tertiary and quaternary care facility, serving as a regional referral centre for complex medical and surgical cases. It is home to specialized programs in transplantation, neurosciences, and cardiac surgery. Key clinical populations: • Transplant psychiatry — including psychosocial suitability assessments for organ transplantation, LVAD insertion, and bariatric surgery • Neuropsychiatry consultations across neurology and neurosurgery • Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) • Critical care and cardiac units	Victoria Hospital (VH) Victoria Hospital is LHSC's largest site and the regional trauma centre for Southwestern Ontario. It is a major hub for oncology, obstetrics, and surgical care. Key clinical populations: • Trauma surgery — including TBI, spinal cord injury, and amputation rehabilitation • Orthopaedic surgery • General and abdominal surgery • Gynecologic oncology (GO) • Medical and surgical oncology • Critical care • Oncology and palliative care
---	---

Outpatient & Elective Rotations

The two outpatient months combine required subspecialty experiences with elective time tailored to individual career interests. All outpatient clinics run once a week for a full day.

Mandatory Clinics

- Psycho-oncology clinic — 2 days per week
- Neuropsychiatry clinic — 1 day per week (Functional Neurological Disorder [FND] & Traumatic Brain Injury [TBI])

Elective Options (examples)

- Chronic pain
- Sleep medicine
- Inpatient addiction medicine
- Palliative care
- Other electives available by arrangement with the fellowship director

Academic Requirements

Clinical work is supplemented by didactic seminars and multidisciplinary educational experiences. Fellows are active contributors to the academic life of the program.

Teaching & Education

- Present at a minimum of one journal club during the year; attend all CL journal clubs (approximately 9–10 per year)
- Attend weekly Educational Rounds — Tuesday mornings, 8:00–9:00 am — and daily clinical rounds
- Lead one teaching session on CL psychiatry for PGY-4 residents
- Deliver one Continuing Professional Development (CPD) session on a specific CL topic

Scholarly Project — Evidence of Achievement

Fellows must complete one Evidence of Achievement (EoA) project during the fellowship year.

Approximately 2 hours of protected time per week for 3 months is provided. Acceptable formats include:

- Abstract accepted for presentation at a national or international conference
- Completed manuscript submitted for peer review
- Research proposal or grant application
- Learning module, curriculum, or other educational innovation
- Completed quality improvement (QI) project
- Contribution to a clinical practice guideline

Program Details

Schedule & Time Off

Clinical hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

On-call: None — no weekends or after-hours call

Vacation: 4 weeks, to be arranged with the fellowship director

Location: London Health Sciences Centre — University Hospital & Victoria Hospital, London, Ontario

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit the following documents directly to the Fellowship Director. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.

1. Current curriculum vitae (CV)
2. Copy of medical degree — with certified English translation if the original is in another language
3. Copy of specialty certification — with certified English translation if applicable

4. Three letters of reference from physicians familiar with your clinical and academic work
5. Letter of intent describing your interest in consultation-liaison psychiatry and your goals for the fellowship

Submit all application materials by email to:

juan.borda@lhsc.on.ca

Fellowship Director

JB

Juan Pablo Borda, M.D., MSc

Interim Fellowship Director · Assistant Professor

Consultation-Liaison Psychiatrist & Psycho-Oncologist, LHSC

Email: juan.borda@lhsc.on.ca

Phone: 519-685-8500 ext. 76841

Location: London Health Sciences Centre, London, Ontario

Full faculty profile: [Dr. Borda at Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry](#)