

PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE TRAINING PROGRAM

Clinical Fellowship:
Department of Critical Care Medicine

*One year of post-certification clinical training in Academic
Paediatric Critical Care Medicine*

Sickkids

SickKids is the largest paediatric hospital in Canada. It is a 300-bed paediatric tertiary care centre and the regional paediatric trauma centre and referral centre for cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, neurosurgery, transplant and oncology for the province of Ontario and home to the Ontario Poison Centre. SickKids has over 16,000 inpatient admissions and approximately 7,000 surgical cases each year. Toronto is home to a multi-cultural population that provides the greatest diversity and complexity of patients in Canada, as well as the largest scope of clinical exposure to paediatric critical care medicine trainees.

Culture

The culture of SickKids is built upon values of excellence, compassion, integrity, collaboration, and innovation. SickKids is a phenomenal place to work because of its people (patients, family, volunteers, and staff). Beyond the many clinical, research, and environmental awards, SickKids is recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers (2020-2023), Greater Toronto's Top Employer list (2020-2023) and Forbes list of Canada's Best Employers (2020-2022). SickKids attracts the very best people to meet its mission and the culture is second to none.

Training Sites

The primary training site for our trainees is the Department of Critical Care Medicine at SickKids. A wide variety of elective rotation opportunities are available within SickKids and the IDCCM network. Trainees rotate between PICU, CCCU, and CCRT services. While on CCRT rotation trainees are involved in community hospital outreach and respond to code blue calls within the hospital.

In addition to providing hands-on care, the clinical service involves supervising the General Paediatrics, Paediatric Cardiology, Paediatric Anaesthesia and other subspecialty trainees who rotate through the department. There is an active organized teaching program involving both Critical Care staff and numerous experts in their various fields from within the hospital. Our trainees play an active role in day-to-day clinical conferences, multi-disciplinary rounds, in-situ simulation, and weekly meetings across the hospital.

Toronto

The city of Toronto's motto is 'Diversity Our Strength', and it is recognized as one of the world's most multi-cultural cities and a wonderful place to live and work. Toronto has an avid arts scene, 6 major league sports teams, amazing museums, beautiful parks and public spaces, and a vibrant night life. It is a major performing arts centre and home to dozens of annual festivals and cultural activities. The geographic location and public transit options makes Toronto an easy city to explore and explore from with proximity to two airports, and easy access to train and bus stations.

Our Department

We are a multi-disciplinary department with 21 staff intensivists. The department has a cardiac and a paediatric (medical-surgical) critical care unit totaling 42 beds. It is fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology including CRRT, MaRS, and ECMO including NovaLung, Berlin Heart© and Heartware©. We have approximately 2,400 admissions per year, of whom the majority receive mechanical ventilation and/or invasive hemodynamic support or monitoring. We have comprehensive and full-time, respiratory therapy, dietician, pharmacy, social work, physiotherapy and occupational therapy support.

International Network & Global Perspectives

The success of our program lies in the diversity of our faculty, the breadth of the educational opportunities provided by the rotations, and the international and global perspectives brought by our international trainees. Each training cycle has a cohort of 10-15 international fellows and approximately four Canadian matched-residents. Our core residents and fellows work and train together with the same clinical service responsibilities and they participate in the same educational and teaching activities. Our trainees benefit from a diversity of cultural perspectives, unique experiences and the variety of clinical approaches shared. The close working relationships, organized social activities, natural inclusivity and camaraderie leads to life-long friendships and ongoing professional relationships. We are proud of our alumni community which is composed of approximately 456 past trainees and faculty members from over 49 countries. This extensive network of clinicians is an invaluable resource for our faculty and trainees.

Selection Criteria

Physicians must have completed their base specialty training in either Paediatrics, Paediatric Anaesthesia or Paediatric Surgery and have some tertiary Paediatric Critical Care experience. In addition they must be eligible for an [educational license](#) from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Applicants must have mastery of written and oral communication in English before consideration will be given to their application. If English was not the language of instruction at your University of training, demonstration of proficiency in English is required. Currently both TSE and TOEFL are accepted.

Applications are reviewed by a Selection Committee formed by the Residency Program Committee composed of Paediatric Critical Care Training Program faculty and current trainee(s). Applicants who do not meet the eligibility requirements will not be considered further; those providing evidence of strong academic and clinical performance demonstrated through experience and notable referee statements in their application file will be prioritized for further consideration. Using a scaled applicant review form, eligible candidates will be

ranked based on the scores from their application review form.

Top-ranking candidates will be short-listed and offered an opportunity to interview and learn more about our program. Successful applicants will be able to demonstrate personal career goals that are in alignment with our program's objectives and they will effectively express how their related formative experiences are indicative of their ability to achieve these goals at the time of interviews.

Selection Committee members involved in the interview process will rank each candidate, weighing the interview, and general fit with the program equally. These rankings, together with the application file review scores, will be considered by the Residency Program Committee who together make the final recommendation on ranking. The Residency Program Committee reserves the right to adjust final rankings by consensus to address issues of program priority and diversity. The Program Director may review unsolicited information and decide what information requires investigation, and ultimately what information will be disclosed to the Residency Program Committee for further consideration.

Education Program Curriculum

Key features of our education program include:

1. **Daily bedside teaching/practical 'hands-on' teaching.**
2. **Daily (sit-down) Education Rounds:** Case presentation/discussion, radiology rounds, and inter-professional practice rounds.
3. **Academic Half-Day:** Protected teaching time usually on Tuesday afternoons. In addition to teaching on topics across the critical care medicine competency requirements, we teach the following topics through longitudinal curricula: Wellness, Train the Teacher, Mechanical Ventilation, Bioethics, Bronchoscopy, POCUS and US Guided Procedures, Clinical Epidemiology, ECLS (*and ECMO Training Days*), Technical skills "Boot Camp".
4. **Simulation Training:** The Learning Institute at SickKids has an active Simulation Program, accredited by the RCPSC. Simulation is incorporated into the Academic Half Day series with days dedicated to many scenarios and through our Immersive Reality Program, which runs multidisciplinary in-situ simulations and debriefing sessions to provide both technical and non-technical skills training. Trainees interested in simulation have the opportunity to complete facilitator and debriefing training and earn their Associate Simulation Instructor status with the Learning Institute by facilitating simulation sessions within the department.
5. **TACTICS (Training and Assessment of Clinicians in Teams in Intensive Care through Simulation):** The department organizes and hosts a Paediatric Critical Care National Simulation and Assessment day as part of the CCCF pre-conference series. Trainees are sponsored by the department to attend and are debriefed and assessed by Canada-wide faculty.
6. **IDCCM Rounds:** National and international guest speakers who are leaders in the field of critical care and clinical research are invited as Visiting Professors to present topics of interest to faculty and trainees. These rounds are also an opportunity for trainees to meet their colleagues in the adult critical care medicine program. Trainees can present research ideas/questions and receive constructive feedback from experts in an informal setting.
7. **IDCCM Visiting Professors:** Our department hosts a lunch-time seminar exclusively for paediatric critical care medicine trainees to meet and discuss ideas with the invited guests. The small setting provides an ideal opportunity for learning and networking.
8. **Journal Club:** These sessions provide an opportunity to critically evaluate scientific literature relevant to Critical Care Medicine on a monthly basis. Each session is supervised by a faculty member and facilitated by an expert in Clinical Epidemiology/Methodology. Many of our intensivists have an MSc or PhD in clinical epidemiology.
9. **Discovery Rounds:** Consist of presentations of current or future research taking place within the department and sessions facilitated by invited guest speakers. Each trainee will have the opportunity to present their scholarly project for discussion and feedback.
10. **Scholarly Oversight Committee (SOC):** Trainees complete one scholarly project in the area of basic science, translational or clinical research, education, ethics, or quality and safety under the supervision of a CCM faculty member. A scholarly oversight committee is in place to help trainees be successful in their scholarly activity endeavors.
11. **Teacher Training:** Trainees interested in a career in clinical education are supported to participate in the Stepping Stones Program through the Centre of Faculty Development at the University of Toronto as part of their scholarly activity requirement. Additionally, Trainees are trained to learn skills and attitudes necessary to teach through our series of "Train the Teacher" workshops. These skills are then used to teach the inter-professional team (CCRT rotation) as well as the pediatric residents through a Resident Teaching series and the Code Blue Boot Camps. Trainees can also participate in outreach programs with our community hospitals.
12. **Critical Care Canada Forum (CCCF):** This is Canada's largest annual scientific meeting dedicated to critical care medicine, and has recently been adopted as the national specialty professional meeting. Trainees are sponsored by the department to attend and participate in this conference annually. A highlight each year is the annual Fellows' Day (audience restricted to trainees) in which the top conference speakers are invited to speak solely to the trainees.
13. **IDCCM Research Day:** Each year in June trainees present a poster competition and research day celebrating the scholarly achievements of the IDCCM community.

Mentorship

Our faculty are exceptional mentors who guide trainees within a structured mentorship program and in informal coaching roles. Our formalized mentorship program ensures that each trainee has a trusted advisor and advocate as they progress through each stage of the program. During regular check-in meetings, trainees review their training file and work with their mentor to develop a personal learning plan and discuss continuing professional development and career goals. Faculty mentors help their trainees to connect with colleagues across the University of Toronto and SickKids networks to supervise their chosen scholarly path and choose elective rotations in line with their goals and training needs. Our mentorship thrives because our trainees have easy access and exposure to our faculty who are invested in their growth and themselves have a broad variety of interests, experience and expertise to share.

Academic Cycle

The Paediatric Critical Care Medicine Training Program runs during the academic year from July 1st – June 30th. Periodic accommodations can be made for January start dates.

Trainees may apply to be reappointed for a second year of training at the end of their first quarter. Considerations will be made for trainees who have passed [Pre-Entry Assessment Program \(PEAP\)](#) evaluation, are meeting program expectations and have provided clearly defined learning objectives for their second year.

Online Application Process

Visit the department website for access to the application portal (open from February 1st to May 1st).

When submitting your application you must supply an updated copy of your curriculum vitae, medical degree, specialty certification, and the names and contact information of three referees who we should expect to receive reference letters as part of your application.

All foreign documents must be translated to English

By a Certified translator with a seal and stamp of approval to be accepted.

Application Timeline

Online Application Portal

February 1st to May 1st

Applications are accepted for the following July academic year.

Application Reviews

May to June

Selection Committee reviews applications and short-lists candidates for interview.

Selections & Appointment

July to September

Short-listed candidates are interviewed, final selections are made, offer letters are sent out to successful candidates and appointment process begins.



Contact Us

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