

CRITICAL CARE ULTRASOUND FELLOWSHIP

Program Description

Goals

The Critical Care Ultrasound fellowship at Western University is designed to train leaders in Critical Care Ultrasound with advanced knowledge and skills in ultrasound, experience in ultrasound education, research, and administration. Program graduates will be prepared to move forward to lead Critical Care Ultrasound programs of their own at academic (or community) ICU programs.

Program Description

The main components of the fellowship are:

1. Develop expertise in a range of critical care ultrasound applications, inclusive of and extending beyond the defined ACCP/SRLF indications.¹ Training will take place primarily in ICU environments with core ultrasound faculty. Opportunities for inter-disciplinary collaboration with Emergency Medicine (trauma, organ specific ultrasound: gallbladder, kidney, MSK etc) are available.
2. Achieve preparedness for a National Board of Echocardiography's Exam of Special Competence in Critical Care Echocardiography (CCEeXAM).
3. Gain significant experience in Critical Care Ultrasound education, including ultrasound course design, development of innovative, online teaching materials, organization of resident ultrasound conferences, bedside instruction of ultrasound trainees (residents, medical students and faculty), and participation in journal club and weekly ultrasound QA meetings
4. Become actively integrated in Critical Care Ultrasound administration and develop knowledge and skills to lead a successful Critical Care Ultrasound program, including quality assurance, credentialing and billing
5. Completion of a an original scholarly project suitable for presentation and publication, under the mentorship a critical care faculty

Academic Requirements

1. Develop a large portfolio of clinically oriented, critical care ultrasound exams in all core applications including: transthoracic and transesophageal echo, lung and pleural ultrasound, abdominal ultrasound, procedural ultrasound (para/thoracentesis, vascular access), deep venous thrombosis, goal-directed transcranial Doppler, biliary ultrasound and renal ultrasound.
2. Lead ultrasound trainees in weekly scanning shifts in the ICU

3. Perform routine and timely quality assurance on ultrasound exams performed by ultrasound trainees in the ICU.
4. Complete an original scholarly project suitable for publication
5. Attend at least one national or international Critical Care Ultrasound related meeting or portion thereof (e.g. CHEST, CCCF, ESICM, ATS, AIUM)

Clinical Requirements

Fellows with their own funding will have no mandatory clinical requirements but will remain clinically active through their ultrasound contributions to the ICU and other clinical areas. Fellows frequently become integrated in to the ICU care environment such that they assume some general clinical leadership and may contribute to general care decisions and/or procedures.

Duration of Fellowship

The duration of the fellowship will vary by applicant but will not be less than 6 months or more than 1 year.

Factors that may influence the duration of the fellowship are:

- concomitant academic pursuits (e.g. masters degree) that support need for longer duration
- eventual career plans (academic vs community)
- concomitant clinical pursuits (e.g. part time faculty work to self-fund)

6 month commitments may, in some circumstances, be carried out by 2 separate 3 month increments.

Area of Focus

All fellows will be trained to be competent in the broad 3 pillars of CCUS leadership: Clinical provision of CCUS, the training of others in CCUS and the administrative elements of a CCUS program.

Beyond this, fellows are expected to choose (and will naturally demonstrate) some areas of concentration within this broad framework. Some examples would include but not be limited to: research, curriculum design, social media engagement, digital education strategies, course design, outreach to other specialties, website enhancement etc.

Prerequisites

All applicants must be either currently enrolled or have completed fellowship training in critical care medicine. Case by case consideration for those not trained in critical care medicine will be given if sufficient experience working in an ICU environment can be demonstrated.

Salary

This is an **unfunded** fellowship at the present time. For those pursuing during a critical care fellowship, resident salary serves as funding. For those out of fellowship or on staff, common sources of funding

include clinical moonlighting at local or regional hospitals. There is also a Royal College fellowship available that may help (click [here](#))

Start Date

In most cases, fellowship starts at the beginning of the academic year but start dates are flexible.

Number of Positions

Depending on areas of focus and duration of fellowship, our program is able and willing to accommodate up to 3 fellows at any given time.

How to Apply

Contact the program director directly by email with a letter of interest that articulates your reasons for applying and your goals that you hope the fellowship to help you achieve, reference letter and a copy of your CV.

Fellowship Director

Robert Arntfield, MD

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