

University of British Columbia - Vancouver General Hospital
Advanced Rhinology & Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery Fellowship

Fellowship Position Description

Vancouver General Hospital
UBC Division of Otolaryngology

Fellowship Director: Dr Arif Janjua
Number of positions: One annually

Eligibility:

The eligible candidate must have sufficient knowledge and technical skills to manage all routine Otolaryngology patients without supervision. The fellowship position requires the applicant to have completed residency training in Otolaryngology and to have successfully passed (or at minimum, be eligible to write) licensing examinations in their country of origin. The fellowship is open to Canadian Otolaryngologists, as well as non-Canadian trained Otolaryngologists who are able to obtain an educational Visa for Canada and an educational medical license for the province of British Columbia.

Objectives And Training

Clinical

The VGH Rhinology, Endoscopic Sinus and Skull Base Surgery Fellowship Program at the University of British Columbia (UBC) offers a one-year clinical experience in the comprehensive medical and surgical care of patients with all types of Rhinologic, Sino-nasal and Skull Base disorders.

The Rhinology & Skull Base Surgery unit at the Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) receives tertiary referrals for and manages a large array of nasal, sinus and skull base pathologies. Dr Janjua performs a significant volume of nasal, sinus and skull base surgeries annually (see below). The skull base procedures are done in conjunction with the Neurosurgeons at VGH.

A wide range of endoscopic, and selected open procedures, are performed for the management of chronic rhinosinusitis, benign & malignant sino-nasal tumours, anterior cranial base pathologies (i.e. CSF leak repairs, meningoencephaloceles), as well as a variety of skull base tumours. The majority of the endoscopic skull base cases are Pittsburgh classification level 1-3 in difficulty, with some level 4 cases. The fellow will also have some opportunity for exposure to endoscopic-assisted and/or open skull base resections and reconstructions.

The fellow will be actively involved in: the supervision and teaching of residents within the UBC Division of Otolaryngology, medical students rotating in Otolaryngology, the management of Rhinology and Skull

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Base Surgery in-patients on the hospital wards (in conjunction with Otolaryngology residents) and coverage of emergency room and in-patient consultations for patients with Rhinology disorders.

The residents have priority on surgical cases that are not designated as 'sub-specialty' in nature. The fellow has priority on surgical cases that are beyond the scope of a General Otolaryngologist. Owing to Dr. Janjua's operative volume, the fellow is expected to have significant opportunity for hands-on surgical exposure. The level of practical involvement will be commensurate with initial level of training and skill progression during fellowship training. The impact on and by resident trainees is intended to be additive to the training experience, via the creation of a positive environment centred on teaching and learning for both parties. Fellow supervision of residents is expected, and mutually beneficial, as it is integral to fulfilling the training goals for a future surgical educator.

Case Mix:

- Approximately 250-300 endoscopic sino-nasal cases per year, including:
 - Approximately 200 image-guided Endoscopic Sinus Surgeries,
 - Approximately 30-40 sino-nasal tumour resections,
 - Approximately 50-60 skull base approaches, including approximately 40 pituitary surgeries and approximately 20 expanded endoscopic approaches to the skull base.
- Case Logs of the previous fellows are available upon request

Research

The fellow is expected to play an active part in clinical rhinology research during their time at UBC. Part of their training will include improvement in skills related to critical appraisal of the literature, research design, manuscript completion and application of evidence-based decision-making to patient management decisions.

Numerous clinical projects are on-going. Fellows will be expected to develop a research plan within the first 2 months of their fellowship. Fellows are expected to contribute to the rhinology literature during their fellowship by undertaking and completing a minimum of 3 clinical research projects published in an international peer-reviewed journal and/or presented at an Otolaryngology meeting.

Fellows are expected to present a research topic at the UBC Otolaryngology Division's P.J. Doyle Annual Research Day and submit research for presentation at the Canadian National ENT Meeting and/or an International Rhinology or Skull Base Surgery Meeting (i.e. ARS/ERS/NASBS).

Any presentations or publications arising out of their fellowship will specifically acknowledge their position as a "Fellow, Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, University of British Columbia".

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A second dedicated research year is possible as part of the fellowship – arrangements may be made on a case by case basis.

Academic Activity

Rhinology Clinical Fellows are expected to participate fully in the academic activity at VGH, SPH and UBC. The fellow is expected to give one Grand Rounds presentation during the year to the entire UBC Division of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery. Additionally, they will present at City-wide Rhinology rounds, which occur once per month. Fellows will be involved in formal Rhinology lectures held in conjunction with the UBC Resident Educational Curriculum, and are also expected to give informal teaching seminars for residents.

Mentors

- Dr Arif Janjua (Principal supervisor)
- Dr. Peter Gooderham (Neurosurgery)
- Dr. Vivian Yin (Ophthalmology)

Locations

- Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) – Ambulatory clinic, hospital inpatient, on-call and Operative
- St Paul’s Hospital (SPH) - Hospital inpatient, on-call and Operative
- University of British Columbia Hospital (UBCH) – Operative and on-call
- Mount St. Joseph’s Hospital - Operative
- Still Creek Surgical Centre - Operative

Course Structure

The course structure will vary from week to week, depending on Dr Janjua’s operating room allocations (which are set in three month blocks). Generally, the fellowship will include:

- Approximately 2-3 days per week in the operating room, assisting Dr Janjua
- 1-2 days per week with Dr Janjua in the VGH ENT clinic
- At least 1-2 independent ‘fellow clinic’ days per week in the VGH ENT clinic
- Teaching & supervision of ENT residents in an educational ‘urgent access’ half day clinic, approximately 2 times per month
- During the academic year, active participation in:
 - Monthly UBC Rhinology Rounds – Fellow expected to present monthly
 - Weekly Otolaryngology Grand Rounds – Fellow expected to present one session during the academic year
 - Bi-weekly research meetings

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Financial Arrangements for Fellows

No formal university funding exists for the fellowship position. If applicants do not have funding from an external source, they are still encouraged to apply. Strong support will be provided to successful candidates to seek funding from external sources. Ultimately, Dr. Janjua will personally ensure that the successful fellow receives no less than \$80,000 CDN per year (including benefits), to offset living expenses in Vancouver.

Duration of fellowship:

The duration of the fellowship is for a minimum of 13 months, with a usual start date of September 1st. It is important to allow sufficient time to obtain the appropriate medical registration prior to that time. The expectation is that there is an overlap with the outgoing fellow to allow for handover and in-person training. This routinely occurs during September.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted via the SF match (www.sfmatch.org) or to Dr. Janjua, and include the following:

- An updated curriculum vitae.
- A personal letter outlining the candidates interest in the fellowship, as well as future plans upon completion of the fellowship
- Surgical Case Log – preferably identifying case volumes and the level of involvement of the fellow (i.e. primary surgeon vs assistant). Logs signed off by a training supervisor are preferred.
- Three references (with their contact information) – please arrange for letters to be sent directly to Dr. Janjua (mailing address and email below). One letter must be from a current or recent training supervisor. A letter from a prospective division/department head interested in hiring the candidate as a tertiary Rhinologist, after successful completion of fellowship, is additionally encouraged.
- A copy of any relevant rhinology publications, of which the applicant was the first author (i.e. was responsible for writing the majority of the manuscript).

Routinely, decisions about the fellowship position are made approximately 1.5 years in advance (i.e. May 2025 for a September 2026 start date). This is to allow adequate time for BC licensure and for strong support in applications to external funding sources.

Applicants are encouraged to visit Vancouver and tour the Rhinology unit at any time during the year. Applicants can contact Dr. Janjua about suitable timings. Completion of elective resident rotations are also encouraged and can be organized via the UBC residency training program administrative assistant. Visiting physicians must apply to the BC College of Physicians and Surgeons (www.cpsbc.ca) for

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privileges in order to observe/assist Dr. Janjua in the ambulatory clinics and operating rooms (in any capacity). For those physicians who hold medical degrees from a country in which the first and native language (as well as the language of instruction and patient contact) is not English, completion of the TOEFL examination is mandatory for elective/observership licensing. The licensing process takes at least 6-8 weeks. Although not mandatory, in person visits provide an improved opportunity for discussion about the applicant's interest and suitability for the fellowship position. As an alternative, arrangements for an in-person meeting can be arranged at the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology Annual Meeting and/or international Rhinology/Skull Base Surgery meeting that Dr. Janjua is attending throughout the year (i.e. ARS, NASBS)

To submit your application or for further information, please contact:

Dr. Arif Janjua, MD FRCS(C)
Division of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery
Diamond Health Care Centre
Vancouver General Hospital
2775 Laurel St - 4th floor, ENT clinic
Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V5Z 1M9
Phone: 604-875-8296
Fax: 604-875-8297
Email: arif.janjua@ubc.ca