



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

# CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

Dr. Benoit  
**DUHAIME**  
Resident  
Critical Care Medicine **KCH**



## Welcome

Queen's University is proud to offer one of Canada's leading subspecialty programs in Critical Care Medicine. As a fully accredited program by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Queen's offers trainees a rigorous and intensive curriculum, while providing individuals the flexibility to tailor their experience to meet their academic and career goals. Fellowship at Queen's offers all the benefits of a tertiary academic center with world class research and education infrastructure. Moreover, the smaller program size fosters a close, supportive relationship between our faculty and trainees.

The subspecialty program at Queen's attracts stellar trainees from a wide variety of base specialties including Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine and General Surgery. This diversity of expertise is reflected both in our trainees and faculty. It is the blending of talent and sharing of knowledge that provides both breadth and depth to the program. Trainees are quickly integrated into our team of multi-disciplinary providers who share a

commitment to teaching and providing outstanding clinical care. Opportunities within our research program to lead and actively participate in clinical studies provide our trainees with a well rounded experience. Graduates of the program have gone on to become national and international leaders in Critical Care Medicine as clinicians, educators, researchers and administrators.

As Queen's University embraces the paradigm shift in medical education toward a competency-based curriculum, the innovative spirit of our faculty has driven our institution to play a leading role in the journey. Our commitment to our trainees is to continue to provide a highly rewarding, intense and comprehensive experience as they transition into a career in Critical Care Medicine. I encourage you to learn more about our program and invite you to contact me to discuss opportunities.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bridge, MD, FRCPC  
Program Director, Critical Care Medicine

## Program Structure

The Critical Care Program is generally a two-year program divided into 26 four-five week blocks. This includes thirteen blocks of general adult Critical Care with at least one block per year spent at our community partner, Lakeridge health. Further required rotations include one block of Toxicology and one block of Cardiac Surgery ICU. Ten blocks are available for electives and other recommended rotations, allowing residents to customize their training to suit their personal career goals. For some residents, Critical Care training may overlap with the final one or two years of base specialty training; for these trainees the program with generally span three years.

Recently, Queen's University has embarked on an innovative program that transitioned all training programs to a competency based curriculum as of July 2017. The competency-based curriculum has formalized an approach of graded responsibility and focus on practical acquisition of skills and knowledge that has long been a tenant of our training program. We feel this philosophy will continue to be one of the true strengths of the program as residents continue to achieve a high level of comfort in independent patient care, while enjoying close, collegial relationships with the attending staff.

The curriculum is divided into four phases of training. The "Transition to Discipline" is a short, early introduction to the speciality focused on ensuring comfort with basic concepts, procedures and roles



within the ICU. The “Foundations of Discipline” stage occurs in the first large block of rotations and is focused on the development of knowledge of physiology and key critical care concepts. During this stage, trainees supervise patient care by junior trainees with close supervision from attending staff. They assess all consults, admissions and discharges in close collaboration with attending staff.

During the “Core of Discipline” stage, trainees develop competence in advanced technical skills such as bronchoscopy and percutaneous tracheostomy insertion. They take a leadership role

in daily team rounds, and participate in the teaching program for junior learners. Supervision by attending physicians gradually evolves into a coaching relationship during this phase.

The final stage is “Transition to Practice” during which residents take on all the roles of an attending physician, including resource allocation and management decision-making. They will supervise and lead patient care in the ICU with the supervising attending physician always available to provide coaching, consultation and discussion.

### Critical Care

Time-Based System	PGY4 (13 Blocks) and PGY5 (13 Blocks)			
<b>CBME Stages of Training</b>	Transition to Discipline	Foundations of Discipline	Core of Discipline	Transition to Practice
<b>Proposed Number of Blocks</b>	2 blocks	8 blocks	12 blocks	4 blocks
<b>Focus of Stage</b>	Concentration on orientation	Focus on foundational skills required to move on to more advanced and speciality-specific competencies within the discipline	Training concentrates on the core competencies required for the particular discipline	The final phase of training where the resident will be required to demonstrate their ability to transition to autonomous practice

## Research

Research and scholarly activity have been long-identified strengths of the Critical Care Program at Queen's. There is a strong research infrastructure and expertise in the Program, with approximately \$1.5 million of annual operating grants and research support provided to Critical Care research projects.

All residents are provided with one week per block of ICU to dedicate towards independent scholarly activity, which may take the form of a clinical research, education, or a quality assurance project. Faculty play an important role in this process, helping residents to establish and complete their scholarly project. Residents receive funding to attend a national or international meeting at which their research is presented.

Critical Care Trainees who wish to pursue a long-term career as a Clinician Scientist may also be eligible to enrol in an advanced academic degree in conjunction with their clinical CCM training, through the Queen's Clinician Investigator Program ([meds.queensu.ca/education/cip](https://meds.queensu.ca/education/cip))

## Educational Activities

Residents are excused from clinical responsibilities for one afternoon per week. During these academic half-days, facilitated by faculty members, trainees examine a range of Critical Care topics in-depth, and gain a familiarity with the evidence base behind Critical Care practice. Some half-days are spent in the patient simulation laboratory, where trainees have the opportunity to enhance their Crisis Resource Management skills. Practice written exams also help residents to consolidate their knowledge base. During the academic year, trainees also attend and present at weekly Critical Care Grand Rounds, Morbidity and Mortality reviews, and at monthly Journal Club.

Critical Care trainees at Queen's are provided with a number of resources during their training, including a copy of a recent textbook of critical care and a subscription to "Up-To-Date". Funding is provided for each trainee to attend ACES, ATLS, and ACLS courses, in addition to an annual allowance of \$2000 to attend national or international Critical Care conferences.

## Training Sites

**Kingston General Hospital (KGH)** is southeastern Ontario's leading centre for complex-acute and specialty care, and is home to the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario. An accredited Level 1 Trauma Centre, KGH is also the major referral centre for injured patients in the region, and is home to the regional Stroke and Primary Cardiac Revascularization programs. KGH serves almost 500,000 people through its Kingston facility and 24 regional affiliate and satellite sites. It was ranked in 2011 as one of Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals by Research Infosource. The intensivist-directed 33 bed ICU at KGH is located in a new, modern space. In addition, the hospital has a 14-bed Cardiac Sciences Unit and an 18-bed open-medical-model "stepdown" ICU.

**Lakeridge Health** is a large community hospital corporation serving approximately 600,000 people in the Durham Region at its 5 hospitals in Bowmanville, Oshawa, Ajax Pickering, Port Perry and Whitby. A regional education hub affiliated with Queen's University, Lakeridge Health, Oshawa, has a 25-bed Critical Care Unit and active clinical teaching unit. It is the regional high-volume thoracic surgery center and stroke centre. Lakeridge provides our trainees with unique opportunities and clinical exposures including exposure to transport medicine.



## How to Apply

Application to the two-year subspecialty program in Critical Care at Queen's is coordinated through the Medicine Subspecialty Match (MSM) offered by the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS). Applicants to the match must generally be in their final year of Canadian residency training in Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Cardiac Surgery, or General Surgery, or must be in their third year of a Core Internal Medicine residency. For complete details on eligibility and on applying to the Queen's CCM Program through the MSM, visit [carms.ca](https://carms.ca).

Candidates wishing to apply for CCM training overlapping with their base specialty training in Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine or General Surgery must have completed at least three years of residency prior to entry into Critical Care. Overlap training is usually restricted to trainees from Queen's University residency programs, but applicants from other centres may be considered in some circumstances. Overlap training requires the consent

and recommendation of the base specialty training program director, and interested applicants should contact the Critical Care program director directly to discuss application requirements and procedures.

Entrance to Critical Care training from other specialty programs is possible, but must follow completion of primary specialty training and candidates must meet the eligibility requirements set by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Specialty Committee in Critical Care. Such applications are considered on a case-by-case basis, and generally require significant advance planning on the part of the trainee to ensure that entrance requirements are met during base specialty training.

International physicians wishing to pursue Critical Care training at Queen's University must be fully sponsored and funded for such training by their home government. Interested applicants should contact the Queen's University Postgraduate Medical Education office for information on eligibility and application procedures.



SCHOOL OF  
**Medicine**

**CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE**

Kingston General Hospital

76 Stuart Street

Kingston, Ontario K7L 2V7

613-549-6666 ext 6337

[criticalcare.queensu.ca](http://criticalcare.queensu.ca)