



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

# HEMATOLOGY

Department  
of Medicine

## Overview

The Hematology program at Queen's University is a rigorous two-year residency program focusing on the nature, function, and diseases of the blood. It is an intellectually stimulating specialty offering an ideal combination of clinical medicine, pathology, and the use of sophisticated technology to make specific diagnoses and treat illnesses.

Our residents graduate as highly-regarded specialists and go on practice in a wide variety of settings including academic health science centres, community hospitals, and private clinics.

The curriculum is offered over thirteen four-week blocks each year. In the first year of the program, residents split their time between clinical hematology

(clinics, ward, and consults) and hematopathology. A research block is also provided. The second year includes further rotations in clinical hematology and hematopathology, in addition to rotations in Pediatric Hematology, Community Hematology, Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation, and three elective blocks.

A weekly half-day resident clinic runs continuously across both years concurrent with other rotations. Residents see patients who are followed longitudinally, in addition to following-up with discharged inpatients seen by other residents on the Consult or Ward service. Like all other Kingston rotations, it is based at Kingston General Hospital (KGH) and is easily integrated into the weekly routine.



Curriculum

| Block | PGY4 Rotations  |                 |
|-------|---|-----------------|
| 1     | Hematology Ward   | Resident Clinic |
| 2     |   |                 |
| 3     | Clinics   |                 |
| 4     |   |                 |
| 5     | Selective   |                 |
| 6     | Lab: Morphology, Flow Cytometry, Hemostasis/Transfusion |                 |
| 7     |   |                 |
| 8     |   |                 |
| 9     |   |                 |
| 10    | Elective  |                 |
| 11    | Research  |                 |
| 12    | Inpatient Consults                                      |                 |
| 13    |   |                 |

| Block | PGY5 Rotations                       |                 |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1     | Elective                             | Resident Clinic |
| 2     |                                      |                 |
| 3     | Community Hematology                 |                 |
| 4     | Pediatric Hematology                 |                 |
| 5     | Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation |                 |
| 6     |                                      |                 |
| 7     | Junior Attending                     |                 |
| 8     |                                      |                 |
| 9     | Consults                             |                 |
| 10    | Clinics                              |                 |
| 11    | Ward                                 |                 |
| 12    | Lab Morphology/Consolidation         |                 |
| 13    |                                      |                 |

*Please note: the order of rotations may vary.*

## Conferences

All Hematology residents are provided with full funding to attend the annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) and the National Hematology Resident Retreat. If a resident is presenting at another conference, additional funding may also be available. Locally, our residents attend the Queen's Conference on Academic Residency Education (QCARE) for senior residents. It includes workshops on practice management and a mock trial involving physician negligence and liability.

## Research

Research is a major strength of our program and we recognize that scholarly activity is an important means for residents to advance their career goals. Residents are provided with a protected research block in their first year, in addition to a further two blocks of electives in the second year that can also be used for research purposes. After meeting with both the Research Director and Program Director, residents will initiate a research project and will be expected to present at a local, national, or international research forum. Regular teaching sessions in research methodology, epidemiology, and biostatistics are provided, and residents may also apply for admission to the RCPSC-accredited Clinician Investigator Program at Queen's.

The Division of Hematology at Queen's is a leading centre for hemostasis research. The Molecular Hemostasis Laboratory utilizes a variety of experimental approaches to understand the molecular basis of blood coagulation and develops strategies to translate this knowledge into clinical benefits. Its Principal Investigators were winners of the National Hemophilia Foundation's 'Researchers of the Year Award of Excellence' in 2011.





## Educational Activities

All residents attend weekly academic half-days. These generally include pathology and clinical presentations by faculty members, and residents also present on a monthly basis. There are weekly rounds during which residents present cases, and a bi-weekly Journal Club provides an opportunity for articles to be presented, critiqued, and discussed. Other educational activities include Hematology

and Hematopathology case seminars, Lymphoma histology and conferences, monthly Transfusion rounds presented via video conference from Toronto, and an epidemiology series of informal sessions on clinical trials methodology and critical appraisal. Each spring, there is a mock Royal College-style examination at Queen's consisting of a morphology exam and oral exam.



## Training Sites

The Division of Hematology is based at Kingston General Hospital (KGH), southeastern Ontario's leading centre for complex-acute and specialty care and home to the Cancer Centre of Southeastern Ontario. KGH serves almost 500,000 people through its Kingston facility and 24 regional affiliate and satellite sites. KGH was ranked in 2011 as one of Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals by Research Infosource.

In addition to their Kingston experience, residents complete mandatory rotations in different centres. Two rotations in Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation occur at either Ottawa General Hospital or Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, or at another suitable centre if required. The rotation in Pediatric Hematology occurs at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Residents also complete a Community Hematology rotation in Kitchener, providing them with a unique opportunity to manage acute myeloid leukemia in a community hospital and further developing resident hematology consultancy skills.

## Learning Environment

One of the best features of Hematology at Queen's is the learning environment. The core teaching faculty of our program is a small group of friendly Hematologists and Hematopathologists who work extremely well together. Residents and faculty get to know each other well, and the resulting relationship is more collegial than hierarchical. The Hematopathologists also provide excellent one-on-one teaching at the microscope in the laboratory.

Training in our program is further enhanced by our location in Kingston. In addition to a full academic curriculum, there is plenty of patient volume. As there are only a few community hematologists in the area, residents see a full spectrum of referrals from common primary care hematologic problems to more complex tertiary care problems. Residents are based at KGH when they are in Kingston and do not miss any learning opportunities as all tertiary care hematology cases come to KGH. The hospital covers all aspects of Adult Hematology with the exception of allogeneic transplant. This, along with Pediatric Hematology, is done in Toronto or Ottawa.

## Why Hematology at Queen's?

**Learning Environment:** Collegiality, not hierarchy. Residents are an integral part of the Division and everyone benefits from the resulting positive environment.

**Faculty:** Award-winning Hematologists and Hematopathologists who are dedicated to the success of their residents.

**Research:** A strong research environment, especially in the areas of hemostasis and research methodology

**Resident Clinic:** New patient consults and longitudinal follow-up is easily integrated into the schedule.

**Kingston:** Good patient volume, all of which is directed to KGH meaning that there are no missed learning opportunities.

**Community Hematology:** This highly successful rotation in Kitchener hones consultancy skills and is valuable whether a community or academic practice is pursued after residency.





# Medicine

## DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY

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