



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

# NEPHROLOGY

Department  
of Medicine



## Overview

Nephrology is the subspecialty of Internal Medicine that is primarily concerned with diseases of the kidney. The Nephrology program at Queen's University is a two-year residency program that prepares its trainees for independent practice as consultant nephrologists. Residents graduate with in-depth and demonstrable skills in all aspects of nephrology (also known as renal medicine), and a working knowledge of the basic and applied sciences relevant to kidney disease and treatment.

## Curriculum

The curriculum is offered over thirteen four-week blocks each year. In the first year of the program, residents are provided with a broad range of experience in the various aspects of general nephrology. The year includes Ambulatory Clinic rotations covering peritoneal dialysis, transplantation, and chronic kidney disease, in addition to Hemodialysis and ward/consult rotations.

The ward and consult rotations in the first year offer experience in acute management of nephrology patients, emergency care and emergency procedures



Sassan Ghazan-Shahi, MD  
Resident, Adult Nephrology

such as biopsy, plasma exchange, dialysis initiation (peritoneal, hemodialysis, or continuous hemo-dialysis) and placement of hemodialysis catheters, both permanent and temporary. Residents function at a junior consultant level, but receive considerable one-on-one interaction with the faculty. They are expected to see all patients first, or review patients seen by ward residents first, and then present their management plan to faculty.

A longitudinal general nephrology clinic runs continuously throughout the year and enables

residents to make all clinical decisions on patients they see, with input from staff. They are also responsible for on-going follow up. Residents function at a junior consultant level, and receive considerable one-on-one interaction with the faculty.

In the second year of the program, residents consolidate their skills in general nephrology. They also pursue a variety of subspecialty experiences designed to allow a more in-depth exploration of special areas of nephrology and the associated services that are utilized in nephrology practice.

### EXAMPLE BLOCK SCHEDULE

Block	PGY4 Rotations	
1	Ward/Consults	Resident Clinic
2	Ward/Consults	
3	Ambulatory (CKD, Transplant, PD)	
4	Ambulatory (GN, Transplant)	
5	Hemodialysis	
6	Ambulatory (CKD, PD)	
7	Research	
8	Hemodialysis	
9	Ward/Consults	
10	Ambulatory (GN, Transplant)	
11	Ambulatory (CKD, PD)	
12	Ward/Consults	
13	Research	

Block	PGY5 Rotations	
1	Ambulatory (GN, Transplant)	Resident Clinic
2	Ambulatory (CKD, PD)	
3	Ambulatory (GN, Transplant)	
4	Hemodialysis	
5	Ward/Consults	
6	Elective ( <i>Renal Transplantation</i> )	
7	Research	
8	Ward/Consults	
9	Elective ( <i>ICU</i> )	
10	Hemodialysis	
11	Elective ( <i>IVR</i> )	
12	Ward/Consults (Junior Attending)	
13	Hemodialysis (Junior Attending)	



Residents attend compulsory teaching sessions in Renal Pathology, in addition to further ambulatory clinics and ward/consult rotations. There is an increased level of responsibility and residents function as Junior Attendings.

The curriculum in the second year is deliberately flexible so that residents can pursue areas of specific interest and enhance their future career opportunities.

## Conferences

All Nephrology residents are provided with generous funding to attend the annual meetings of the Canadian Society of Nephrology and the American Society of Nephrology. 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

Residents who wish to pursue research are strongly supported by the Division, and a research project is a mandatory component of the program. At the beginning of training, residents are informed of the Divisional members who perform research, either clinical or basic science, by the Nephrology Research Director. The Division is fortunate to have many of its faculty members participating in independent or collaborative research. Protected time is a priority, and each resident has protected research blocks in each year of training. There are also a number of trained epidemiologists in the Division, so residents gain valuable expertise in critical appraisal and interpretation of medical literature.

Karen Yeates, MD, MPH, FRCPC  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Medicine  
Division of Nephrology

## Educational Activities

All residents attend weekly academic half-days. These generally include presentations by faculty members, and residents also present on a regular basis.

Nephrology Grand Rounds provide opportunities for cases to be presented. During Pathology Rounds, residents attempt to interpret renal biopsy findings followed by discussions of case histories and relevant management issues. There are Biopsy Pathology review sessions once a month with our Nephropathologist for residents. The Division has been very successful in attracting both national and international nephrologists to speak at our rounds and speakers will often host separate teaching sessions for residents. A bi-weekly Journal Club provides an opportunity for articles to be presented, critiqued, and discussed.

M. Khaled Shamseddin, MD, FRCPC  
Program Director  
Adult Nephrology



## Training Sites

The Division of Nephrology is based at Kingston General Hospital (KGH), southeastern Ontario's leading center 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 Info source.

There is an extremely broad patient base at KGH, and the volume of clinical material enables residents to learn all aspects of adult nephrology. Facilities and teaching are excellent, especially in dialysis.

Residents are able to participate in a variety of community and rural experiences. CKD clinics occur in smaller communities like Belleville and Picton, and all residents are given the opportunity to travel to Moose Factory to deliver nephrology care for aboriginal populations in the James Bay region. Nephrology residents have also had the opportunity to undertake international electives in locations as such as Tanzania and Australia.

## Learning Environment

The smaller size of Nephrology at Queen's is an asset to residents choosing to train here. The philosophy of our program is that residents are here to learn and not to provide service. Faculty members do not rely on residents for clinical work and we are able to provide an excellent education/service ratio. Our size also enables residents to have hands-on experience at any time and prevents competition amongst trainees for procedural skills.

## Why Nephrology at Queen's?

**Nbml** Our smaller size promotes collegiality and creates a positive work environment in which resident concerns are listened to and addressed.

**Education/service ratio:** residents are here first and foremost to learn and the program maintains a dedicated focus on teaching, education, and research.

**Research:** excellent clinical and basic science research opportunities are available for all residents.

**Patients:** an extremely broad patient base provides ample opportunity for learning

**Teaching:** there is a comprehensive teaching program with dedicated academic half-days and visiting professor lectures



# Medicine

## ADULT NEPHROLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM

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