

Dalhousie University

Pediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Program Description

The Pediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Program at Dalhousie University is a 2- year Royal College Accredited fellowship. The overall goal of our program is to train well-rounded, broad-based specialists in pediatric clinical immunology and allergy. Our program provides a dynamic integrated community and hospital-based training in clinical immunology and allergy. Trainees will develop a wide range of skills to manage common problems seen as a clinical immunologist and allergist, including oral food immunotherapy, and the ability to recognize and treat a wide variety of diseases.

As of July 1, 2021, our program has implemented specialty-specific Competency by Design (CBD) curriculum, a novel form of medical education known as Competency Based Medical Education (CBME), as per the Royal College. This includes 4 phases of training: Transition to Discipline (3 months), Foundations of Discipline (5 months), Core of Discipline (13 ,months) and Transition to Discipline (5 months). The two-year program for subspecialty residents with consist of the following rotations:

Year 1

- 10 months of pediatric clinical immunology and allergy (5 months of each)
- 1 month adult allergy and clinical immunology
- 1 month elective or selective rotation: respirology, or other specialty (ENT, Dermatology)
- 1 month research

Year 2

- 10 months pediatric clinical immunology and allergy (5 months of each)
- 2 month electives/research
- 1 month adult allergy and clinical immunology

Our training sites consist of IWK Health Centre (Children’s Hospital) that includes inpatient and outpatient allergy and immunology patients, as well as Halifax Asthma and Allergy Associates (Community-based clinic with 6 allergists/immunologists). The Pediatric Clinical Immunology and Allergy Program at Dalhousie University offers complete training at our sites in Halifax. There would be elective opportunities out of province should the subspecialty resident wish.

In Pediatric Allergy, residents will see a broad spectrum of common and rare diseases in both community and inpatient settings. In our clinics, they will learn treatment and management of allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, atopic dermatitis, food allergy, venom allergy, drug allergy, and asthma. The Dalhousie program is also well known for training residents in oral food immunotherapy, as well as sublingual and subcutaneous immunotherapy. Residents will learn first-hand about oral food challenges, skin testing and administration of immunotherapy.

In Pediatric Immunology, Trainees will learn the practice of pediatric clinical immunology according to best practices and most up-to-date knowledge in the field. This will include a systematic approach to investigating patients and become familiar with and learn to interpret functional immunology laboratory tests, flow cytometry and results of the currently used newborn screening tests for Severe Combined Immune Deficiencies (SCID). Genetic analysis related to mutations which may cause serious immune dysfunctions are regularly utilized and interpretation of these results will be learned. There are two busy immunology clinics every week, in addition to an average of 3-4 new inpatient consultations and follow up on the wards and PICU/NICU. Trainees are directly supervised by Division of Immunology physicians, two full-time and two part-time, who share their teaching and clinical experience. This curriculum combines fundamental immunology education with a major research component, as well as research training in clinical and translational immunology.