



University of British Columbia

Head & Neck Surgical Oncology and Microvascular Reconstruction Fellowship

BC
CAN
CER

Fellowship Director

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Fellowship Supervisors

Dr. Eitan Prisman
Dr. Scott Durham
Dr. Harman Parhar
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Training Sites

- Vancouver General Hospital
- St. Paul's Hospital
- UBC Hospital
- Mount Saint Joseph's Hospital

Program Duration

1–2 years, depending on career goals and academic focus:

- **12 months:** Clinical academic training in Head & Neck Surgical Oncology
- **24 months:**
 - 6–12 months of dedicated research (Virtual Surgical Planning, Clinical Trials, iSTAR, Terry Fox–funded programs, technology development, machine learning)
 - Followed by 12 months of intensive clinical training

Fellowship Mandate

The UBC Head & Neck Surgical Oncology Fellowship, established in 2015, has graduated 10 academic head and neck surgical oncologists. The program offers a 12–24 month intensive clinical and research experience designed to train future academic leaders in the surgical management of head and neck malignancies and complex microvascular reconstruction.

Training is delivered at tertiary and quaternary academic referral centres serving the province of British Columbia.



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Program Description

This fellowship provides a **comprehensive clinical, research, and academic experience** in Head & Neck Surgical Oncology. Fellows receive progressive operative responsibility and longitudinal patient care exposure within a high-volume academic practice.

Clinical Training

The clinical experience is both **ablative and reconstructive** in nature and includes:

- Comprehensive workup and management of patients with head and neck disorders
- Office-based procedures, including:
 - Management of mucosal and cutaneous lesions
 - Early-stage malignancies
 - Vocal cord injections
- Weekly **fellow-run clinics**
- High-volume operative exposure across all domains of head and neck oncology

Single Fellow Operative Volume per year

Fellowship Year	Free Flap	Ablation	Neck Dissection	TORS	Endocrine	Salivary
2022/23	124	150	174	49	80	40
2021/22	106	175	180	42	80	60
2020/21	132	166	208	28	62	55
2019/20	130	160	230	22	60	85
2018/19	92	180	150	15	88	120
2017/18	93	144	205	21	140	90

Single Fellow Free Flap Reconstruction Volume per year

Fellowship Year	Total	Forearm	ALT	Scapula	Fibula
2022/23	124	47	24	31	22
2021/22	106	46	20	21	18
2020/21	132	39	34	38	21
2019/20	130	57	23	20	30
2018/19	91	42	16	8	25
2017/18	93	30	18	16	29



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Research Training

Fellows are integrated into the **iSTAR Head & Neck Virtual Preoperative Planning Surgical Lab**, including:

- Virtual planning of all bony reconstructions
- Multidisciplinary cephalometric and computational modelling research

Research expectations include:

- Submission of at least **one REB application**
- Participation in ongoing clinical trials
- Completion and publication of **at least two research studies** as primary author
- Presentation at national and international meetings

A **research-first model (6–12 months)** is encouraged for fellows seeking to optimize academic productivity and integrate virtual surgical planning and clinical trials in their careers.

Academic Responsibilities

- Preparation and participation in **biweekly Head & Neck Tumor Boards**
- Maintenance of operative case logs and prospective clinical databases
- Formal and informal teaching of residents and medical students

Weekly Schedule

Clinical Fellow

- Head & Neck clinic: 1 day/week
- Fellow clinic: 1 day/week
- Operating room: 2–3 days/week
- Research: 0.5 day/week

Research Fellow

- Head & Neck clinic: 1 day/week
- Virtual surgical planning for all cases
- Transcervical ultrasound for TORS cases
- Clinical trials, data analysis, sawbone lab



Call Responsibilities

- On-call frequency: **1 in 6**
- Head & Neck oncology call
- Daily morning rounds on Head & Neck oncology patients

Eligibility Requirements

- Completion of an accredited **Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery residency**
- Successful completion of **TOEFL** (or equivalent, if required by CPSBC)
 - <https://www.toeflgoanywhere.org>
- Eligibility for medical licensure with the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia**
 - <https://www.cpsbc.ca>
- Interested candidates are encouraged to arrange a **site visit**

Additional Information

- **\$84,000/year** of funding, supplemented with call and additional clinics(Final remuneration structure tailored to educational and academic goals)
- **Two weeks of vacation**, in addition to statutory holidays, coordinated with staff availability

Graduate Outcomes

Graduates of the **UBC Head & Neck Surgical Oncology and Reconstruction Fellowship** have gone on to successful academic and clinical careers in **Canada, Europe, and the Middle East**. Alumni hold **university faculty appointments**, senior consultant roles, and **clinical leadership positions** at tertiary and quaternary referral centres. Many are actively involved in **multidisciplinary tumor programs, resident and fellow education, and scholarly research**, reflecting the fellowship's emphasis on academic excellence, complex oncologic care, and advanced reconstruction.

Graduate	Year	Current Position	Institution / Location
Joel Howlett	2024	Clinical Instructor; Staff Head & Neck Surgeon	University of British Columbia / Kelowna, BC, Canada
Cornelius Kürten	2023	Consultant ENT / Head & Neck Surgeon	University Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany
Sena Turkdogan	2022	Clinical Instructor; Staff Head & Neck Surgeon	University of British Columbia / Island Health, Victoria, BC, Canada



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Thomas Milner	2021	Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer; Consultant ENT Surgeon	University of Glasgow / Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, United Kingdom
Anat Bahat Dinur	2020	Senior ENT & Head & Neck Surgeon	Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel
Sally Nguyen	2019	Assistant Professor; Staff Otolaryngologist	University of Ottawa / The Ottawa Hospital, Ottawa, ON, Canada
Emmanuel D'heygere	2018	Consultant ENT / Head & Neck Surgeon	University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium
Yotam Shkedy	2017	Director, Head & Neck Surgery Unit	Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel
Callum Farris	2016	Consultant ENT & Facial Plastic Surgeon; Clinical Director	Academic and tertiary referral practice, Netherlands