UBC Women's Heart Health Fellowship

The UBC Women's Heart Health Fellowship is a comprehensive 12-month clinical and academic training program designed to prepare cardiologists for specialized practice in providing gender-specific cardiovascular care to women at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH) and St. Paul's Hospital (SPH), with clinical experiences at BC Women's Hospital. The fellowship provides advanced training in the assessment, diagnosis, management, research, and prevention of cardiovascular disease in women across the lifespan.

The program incorporates CanMEDS principles throughout training.

This fellowship is affiliated with the UBC Division of Adult Cardiology.

Program Overview

The fellowship offers a structured curriculum integrating women's heart health clinic, cardio-obstetrics clinic, subspecialty clinics, multimodality cardiac imaging, invasive and non-invasive coronary function testing, multidisciplinary case discussions, and scholarly activities.

The program's overarching goal is to develop the knowledge and skills to provide comprehensive cardiovascular care to women of all ages and to become an expert consultant in the management of these patients. Fellows gain experience in:

- Sex differences in cardiovascular disease presentation, pathophysiology, and treatment response
- Traditional and sex-specific cardiovascular risk factors, including adverse pregnancy outcomes, premature menopause, and systemic inflammatory disorders
- Angina with non-obstructive coronary arteries (ANOCA), myocardial infarction with non-obstructive coronary arteries (MINOCA), spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD), and stress cardiomyopathy
- Interpretation of invasive and non-invasive coronary physiology (coronary function testing)
- Pre-conception counselling and the management of cardiovascular disease during and after pregnancy, including female adult congenital heart disease
- Cardiovascular prevention across pregnancy, the menopause transition, and hormone therapy
- Vascular disorders with a predilection for women, such as fibromuscular dysplasia
- Multidisciplinary care and shared decision-making with obstetrics and gynecology, maternal fetal medicine, cardio-obstetrics, and vascular medicine

Eligibility

Applicants must be certified, or eligible for certification, in Adult Cardiology or Internal Medicine through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada or possess equivalent specialist qualifications from their country of training. In accordance with UBC Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) requirements, clinical fellows must have completed all specialty training and examination requirements necessary to be recognized as a specialist in their home jurisdiction.

Training Environment

The fellowship is delivered through the UBC Division of Cardiology at Vancouver General Hospital and St. Paul's Hospital, with additional clinical experiences at BC Women's Hospital. Fellows are expected to attend and be actively involved in patient management at the following core clinics:

- Vancouver General Hospital Leslie Diamond Women's Heart Health Clinic
- Vancouver General Hospital Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection (SCAD) clinic
- Women's Heart Health Clinic at BC Women's Hospital
- St. Paul's Hospital cardio-obstetrics clinic

Fellows also attend and participate, as appropriate, in:

- BC Women's Complex Menopause clinic
- St. Paul's Hospital Vascular Medicine clinic
- Cardiac imaging rotations (echocardiography, cardiac MRI, cardiac CT angiography, and PET)
- The cardiac catheterization laboratory during invasive coronary function testing procedures

Educational Curriculum

The Program Director oversees the fellowship curriculum, monitors trainee progress through regular assessments and provides quarterly feedback to the fellow. Fellows actively participate in:

- Monthly Women's Heart Health Journal Club, led by the fellow using standardized appraisal frameworks
- Monthly MINOCA case review rounds, prepared and led by the fellow
- Didactic teaching sessions (2 hours per month) on key topics, delivered by Division of Cardiology faculty
- Weekly Cardiology Grand Rounds
- Cardiac catheterization laboratory case conferences
- Cardio-obstetric case rounds, where feasible
- Inpatient consultations
- Guided independent learning, including an individualized education plan with defined learning goals set at the start of the fellowship

Relevant literature, including landmark studies, current guidelines, and review articles, is provided before each new clinical experience, and clear learning objectives are identified in advance.

Evaluation incorporates feedback from faculty members, allied health professionals, and clinical supervisors, with ongoing emphasis on clinical competence, professionalism, communication skills, and academic development.

Planned Rotations

The 12-month fellowship has longitudinal clinics occurring weekly, with subspecialty clinics / rotations occurring bi-weekly. The monthly journal club, clinical rounds, and didactic sessions continue longitudinally alongside every rotation.

Timing for journal club and WHHC case rounds to be determined.

Sample Weekly Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Cath Lab Case Conference		Cardiology Conference	
AM	WHH Clinic	BCWH	SCAD Clinic	Cardiac OB	Cath Lab: Invasive CFT
Noon					
PM	WHH Clinic	Subspecialty Rotation*	SCAD Clinic	Cardiac OB	Research/Admin

n.b. Clinic schedules are subject to change from week to week.

* Subspecialty rotations include Cardiac imaging (CMR, PET), cardiac rehab, vascular medicine

Research and Scholarship

Research is a core component of the fellowship. Fellows are expected to complete a research project relevant to women's heart health under the supervision of a mentor approved by the Program Director.

This research focus reflects the program's mission to advance knowledge of cardiovascular disease in women and to close gaps in evidence, diagnosis, and care.

Competency-Based Training

Training objectives are structured according to the CanMEDS framework of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Appointment and Evaluation

A three-month probationary period applies at the start of training. Continuation beyond this period depends on satisfactory performance, availability of funding, and compliance with University of British Columbia policies and agreements. Reappointment remains at the discretion of the University and is based on performance evaluations, available resources, and professional conduct.

The Program Director seeks regular evaluations from program faculty and allied health staff regarding each fellow's clinical skills, knowledge, and professionalism. The Program Director meets with fellows monthly to discuss progress and areas for improvement, provides quarterly feedback, and ensures compliance with relevant University policies.

Application Information

Prospective applicants must follow UBC PGME Clinical Fellowship application procedures, including submission of the required training plan, training agreement, credential verification documents, and licensing requirements. Please visit the UBC PGME website to review general guidelines: postgrad.med.ubc.ca/prospective-trainees/postgraduate-fellows

The program requires a cover letter, a current curriculum vitae, and 3 reference letters submitted directly to Dr. Cathevine Yang and addressed to the selection committee.

The application timeline for the July 1, 2027, start is:

1. October 1, 2026: Application opens
2. January 1, 2027: Application deadline
3. January 2027: Interviews
4. January 30, 2027: Position Offered
5. July 1, 2027: Fellowship begins

International Medical Graduates: Please submit application by November 1, 2026.

The UBC Women's Heart Health Fellowship offers a unique opportunity for cardiologists to develop advanced expertise in the cardiovascular care of women through integrated clinical training, multidisciplinary collaboration, scholarly activity, and leadership development. Graduates emerge prepared to serve as expert consultants in women's heart health, providing specialized care across pregnancy, the menopause transition, and all stages of a woman's life.