

Cancer Immunotherapy – PhD or Postdoctoral internship CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center

Principal Investigator

Élie Haddad, M.D. PhD,
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Starting date

Immediate

Project

“Cell engineering with synthetic specific promoters for
chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) and gene therapy”

Research laboratories presentation

Élie Haddad’s laboratory is studying various aspects of the human immune system, spanning from stem cells to cancer immunotherapy, in both fundamental and translational research. The project will be conducted in a multidisciplinary environment, involving oncologists and immunologists. The CHU Sainte-Justine will be the administrative center.

Research project description

A PH.D student/Post-Doctoral position is currently open in the lab. Recently, our laboratory has developed proprietary synthetic promoters that allows the restricted expression of a transgene in a specific and chosen subpopulation of the immune system. The proposed research project aims at using those specific synthetic promoter(s) in order to develop new cell-based immunotherapies to treat leukemia and/or solid tumors. The project will focus on stem cell genomic modifications to induce chimeric antigen receptors (CAR) expression, to target tumor cells. We aim at designing and modifying CAR constructs to increase their efficacy and/or specificity. This project combines cutting-edge technology in molecular biology (gene edition, viral production, cellular engineering and CAR constructs), cellular biology and the humanized mouse technology. The student will be assigned a research project that will allow him to apply a translational research approach. He will have the opportunity drive a project from the conceptual design to the pre-clinical assays in animal models. The candidate will benefit from the complementary expertise of a multidisciplinary team and of a rich research environment. In addition, he will benefit from cutting-edge methods and technologies in the field.

Candidates must have:

- Hold an appropriate degree for the targeted level (MSc for PhD; PhD or M.Sc. with a MD degree without the right to practice for post-doctoral fellowship) and excellent academic record;
- Demonstrate motivation and autonomy to bring this project to term;
- Possess a strong knowledge in immunology and experimental techniques (eg. Flow cytometry, molecular biology);
- Have experience with the handling of laboratory animals;
- Have good communication and organization skills;
- Established publication records
- Speak and write in English.

- Although University of Montreal and the CHU Sainte-Justine are french-speaking institution, it is not required that the candidate speaks and/or understand French.

Conditions of internship

The student must apply for admission at the University of Montreal as a PhD or a postdoctoral fellow and will comply with all applicable eligibility conditions. Because the recipient is a trainee and not an employee of the CHU Sainte-Justine or Université de Montréal, the recipient is not entitled to employment benefits. For post-doctoral fellow, deductions for Canadian income tax will be made from twice monthly stipend, but the stipend is no subject to source deductions for Employment Insurance or Canada Pension Plan. All students at the CHU Sainte-Justine receive a stipend from their Principal investigator research funds (according to the minimum amount required at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center). The candidate should apply for external scholarship awards. The candidate will also have access to the internal fellowship program of the Sainte-Justine UHC Foundation.

The duration of research development is conditional:

- On the availability of research funds;
- To the project's progress;
- Eligibility of the intern to renew its status as postdoctoral fellow at the university.

Submit your application

Interested candidates are invited to submit their application by email to Dr **Élie Haddad** at: labo.haddad@gmail.com, including:

- ✓ CV showing scientific activity, academic background and research experience
- ✓ Cover letter
- ✓ Transcripts
- ✓ References



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[Our students talk about their experience](#)

About the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center

CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center is a leading mother-child research institution affiliated with Université de Montréal. It brings together more than 200 research investigators, including over 90 clinician-scientists, as well as 360 graduate and postgraduate students focused on finding innovative prevention means, faster and less invasive treatments, as well as personalized approaches to medicine. The Center is part of CHU Sainte-Justine, which is the largest mother-child center in Canada and second most important pediatric center in North America. More on research.chusj.org

