

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

Principal Investigator

[Élie Haddad, M.D. PhD](#)

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Infectiology and Immunology
University of Montreal, CHU Sainte-Justine

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.



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- 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 to a PhD program or postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Montreal, and must meet the eligibility requirements in effect.

It should be noted that postdoctoral fellows do not have employee status at CHU Sainte-Justine, do not receive fringe benefits and are not eligible to receive employment insurance or retirement pension benefits from the Government of Canada. Only tax deductions will be deducted at source when the scholarship is paid.

The CHU Sainte-Justine has a minimum remuneration policy for all students, which is \$17,850 per year for PhD students and \$30,000 per year for postdoctoral students. The candidate will have to apply for external scholarships to obtain his or her nominative scholarship. It will also be able to apply to the CHU Sainte-Justine Foundation's internal scholarship program.

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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Pursue your [graduate or postdoctoral studies](#) at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center, and be one of the 360 students, fellows and interns who are helping to fast track the development of knowledge in the field of mother, child and adolescent health. Under the supervision of prominent scientists, especially in leukemia, rare pediatric diseases, genetics, perinatology, obesity, neuropsychology and cognition, scoliosis and rehabilitation, you will have the opportunity to work with multidisciplinary scientific teams and collaborators from all over the world.



[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.chusi.org