

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Specialty/Subspecialty

Oncologic Emergency Medicine Fellowship Program

Program ID: 503-19-45-60

TMB Approval Period: June 2022-June, 2027

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Program Website-

<https://www.mdanderson.org/education-training/clinical-research-training/graduate-medical-education/residencies-fellowships/oncologic-emergency-medicine.html>

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Program Director

Monica Wattana, MD

INTRODUCTION

History

In 2010, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center created the first academic department of emergency medicine within a comprehensive cancer center. The Department of Emergency Medicine's mission is to provide efficient and timely care of the highest quality to those with cancer and to uphold MD Anderson's core values of caring, integrity and discovery. Knox H. Todd, MD, MPH, founding chair of the department, led a dedicated group of physicians and researchers in promoting the development of oncologic emergency medicine as a distinct discipline. Currently, under the direction of Kumar Alagappan, MD, the Department of Emergency Medicine includes seventeen faculty members with two faculty members focusing more than 50% of their efforts toward research.

The Oncologic Emergency Medicine fellowship was established and approved in 2011, TMB 503-19-45-60, to provide training and insight into the emergency treatment of cancer patients beyond that provided by existing residency training programs in emergency medicine. The program was originally approved as a 1 year fellowship for 2 trainees per year and in June 2015 received TMB approval for the addition of an optional 2nd year. 20 fellows have completed the program since inception.

The Emergency Center at MDACC, one of the largest cancer research repositories in the world, treats more than 26,000 patients annually with more than 95% having a cancer diagnosis. As such, the institution provides a rich environment for oncology education and research and provides a gateway to a unique perspective into the treatment and research of oncologic emergencies.

Duration

The Oncologic Emergency Medicine fellowship training is twelve months in duration with the option of an additional twelve months of focused research training should the fellow choose this path.

Prerequisite Training/Selection Criteria

Applicants must hold either a MD/DO degree or foreign equivalent along with a valid certificate from Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). The J1 visa is the required visa. The applicant also must have a USMLE Step I and USMLE Step II CK, FLEX, SPEX, or COMPLEX exam transcript as part of a minimum list of documents. Must have passed each step within 3 attempts.

Application Requirements:

- Completed online application form
- Personal statement
- Curriculum vitae
- Official Medical School Transcripts
- Three letters of recommendation (One letter from Residency Program Director, two letters from an attending physician and/or teaching faculty)
- Letter of Good Standing from current clinical training program indicating expected completion date
- Certificates from all completed internship, residency, or fellowship training programs
- A copy of current ECFMG certificate, if medical school was completed outside of the United States

An accredited residency program in Emergency Medicine or Internal Medicine is preferred, although other training backgrounds will be considered.

Competitive candidates will be invited for personal interviews.

Goals and Objectives for Training

The fellowship program is a 12-24 month program with core training objectives in clinical, administration, education and research, and professional development. The program concentrates on cancer-related emergencies, with a particular emphasis on pain and symptom management, as well as palliative aspects of emergency department cancer care. The main goal of the program will be to facilitate expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of conditions that are specific to cancer patients presenting to the emergency department.

Year 1: At the completion of the first year of training, the fellow is expected to be knowledgeable about appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to cancer patients who present to the emergency department for acute care. As a result of this training, the fellow will be recognized as an expert in the emerging discipline of oncologic emergency medicine.

Year 2: Under an optional second year training, fellows will work with a designated mentor. This mentor will aid the fellow in developing a research protocol, interpret data, and create manuscripts for publication. Clinical care of patients will continue during this year, as allowed by the fellow's scholarly activities.

Program Certifications

The Oncologic Emergency Medicine program is approved by the MD Anderson Graduate Medical Education Committee and the Texas Medical Board. This program is a non-ACGME accredited program but adheres to the ACGME guidelines.

RESOURCES

Teaching Staff

Fellows will participate in clinical activities of the Emergency Center under faculty supervision.

- Kumar Alagappan, MD, Professor and Department Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Tareg Bey, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Patricia Brock, MD, Executive Medical Director, Inpatient and Hospital Operations, Professor, and Deputy Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Kathryn Burk, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor and Wellness/Patient Experience Lead- Department of Emergency Medicine
- Brian Cameron, MD, Assistant Professor and Onco EM Education Lead- Department of Emergency Medicine
- Patrick Chaftari, MD, Associate Professor, Medical Director of the CDU, Dept. of Emergency Medicine
- Maria T. Cruz Carreras, MD, Associate Professor and Patient Experience Officer, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Ahmed Elsayem, MD, Professor, Goals of Care and Onco EM Palliative Care Lead- Department of Emergency Medicine
- Hugh Feuer, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Maria Gaeta, MD, Assistant Professor, and Quality Officer, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Carmen Gonzalez, MD, Professor and Chief Safety Officer, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Guido Hita, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Besim Hoxha, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Kalen Jacobson, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Pavitra Krishnamani, MD, Instructor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Danna M. Markides, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Jeffery Merlin, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Cielito Reyes Gibby, PhD, Professor-Tenure and Onco EM Research Lead- Department of Emergency Medicine and Biostatics

- Jonathan Rowland, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Marcelo Sandoval, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Justin Samways, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- John Stroh, MD, Associate Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Jayne Viets-Upchurch, Assistant Professor and Wellness Lead- Department of Emergency Medicine
- Trien Vu, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Monica Wattana, Associate Professor and Fellowship/Residency Program Director- Department of Emergency Medicine
- Adriana Wechsler, MD, Assistant Professor, and Quality Officer, Department of Emergency Medicine
- Sai-Ching Yeung, MD, PhD, Professor-Tenure, Director of Research- Department of Emergency Medicine

Facilities

The Department of Emergency Medicine occupies a 5,000 square foot office space on the 13th floor of the T. Boone Pickens Academic Tower in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Clinical rotation will be held in the Emergency Center located on the 2nd floor of the MD Anderson Cancer Center Main Hospital Building, P2.2942.

The department's dedicated lab space occupies 493 square feet in the Institute of Bioscience and Technology building, accessible by shuttle service, which includes tissue culture and equipment rooms.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (BASIC CURRICULUM)

The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center Oncologic Emergency Medicine Fellowship will play a leadership role in the development of highly qualified emergency physicians who will become a significant resource for cancer care worldwide. This one-year (with optional second year) fellowship attracts outstanding applicants who will contribute to this emerging field of oncologic emergency medicine. The training program will provide opportunities that extend beyond classical emergency medicine residency training and will offer applicants the ability to obtain further knowledge and expertise in related fields of research. Our focus is on the discovery and application of time-critical diagnostics, decision-making and treatments that saves lives, reduces disability and restores health among persons with cancer.

Year 1

Fellows completing the program must be capable of meeting the educational objectives listed below:

- Be able to competently, evaluate and treat oncology patients efficiently who present to the emergency department with a wide variety of cancer-related conditions.
- Understand the side-effect profiles of many commonly used oncologic agents.
- Master the skill of pain control in patients with acute/chronic pain.
- Master the skill required to palliate many of the symptoms commonly experienced by the oncology patient.
- Interpret the most common radiology, CT, MRI, and PET findings encountered with cancer patients who present to the ER.
- Manage complex hematological problems encountered with acutely ill oncology patients.
- Understand the treatment of neutropenic fever.

- Understand the current treatment modalities for most commonly treated cancers.
- Understand the common complications of radiation therapy and the treatment of such complications.
- Awareness, knowledge, and use of ultrasound techniques used to diagnose common ailments of the cancer patient.
- Understand the necessity of thoracentesis, paracentesis, and airway management of patients with cancer.
- Participate in a scholarly activity project as defined by the program director.
- Participate in a quality improvement project

Year 2

An optional one-year fellowship extension will be offered and will include a clinical tract as well as the opportunity to pursue a research project. The second year will allow the fellow to further enhance his/her clinical decision making in the field of oncologic emergency medicine as well as obtain experience that will enhance a fellow's academic capabilities in a variety of research areas.

Clinical and Research Components

Clinical training will include rotations in the emergency center and will continue growth in emergency medicine knowledge and skills. The clinical competencies for the second year enable the fellow to become proficient in his/her clinical decisions specific to oncologic emergency medicine. Additionally, the fellow will have the option to possibly focus in a specific clinical area such as symptom management, pain, palliative care, or other related areas in emergency medicine.

Should the optional second year of research training be chosen, the fellow will be expected to have identified a research mentor, selected a topic area, prepared an approvable research proposal, and over the course of the second year, complete pilot data collection, prepare abstracts for submissions to national meetings, and submit manuscripts of publishable quality. The research rationale, methodology and study design of the scholarly activity will be developed by the fellow under the guidance of the mentoring faculty who will provide close supervision of the fellow's project.

Trainee's supervisory and patient care responsibilities

The trainee must be supervised by a faculty member on all cases that he/she sees in the emergency department. All of their notes must be attested by an attending physician.

Didactic Sessions

- **Emergency Medicine Didactic Conference** – Fellows attend weekly didactic presentations by the faculty on a combination of core curriculum and didactic topics. Wednesday 1:30 pm-3 pm.
- **Regularly Scheduled Series (RSS)** is the second Wednesday afternoon each month. These topics will be from faculty from MDACC and their respective specialties. There is 1.5 hours of category 1 CME credit for this series. Wednesday 1:30pm-3:00pm.
- **Emergency Medicine Faculty meetings** – Monthly meetings include a presentation of topical importance. Second Wednesday of each month 10 am-12:00 pm.

- **Internal Medicine and Cancer Survivorship Grand Rounds** – Weekly conference. Speakers from MDACC and external, covering a variety of clinical, clinical research, and translational research specific to internal medicine care for patients with cancer. Friday at 8 am – 9 am.
- **GME Core Curriculum Lecture Series** – Online Sessions; 1st Year fellow must complete 14 Presentations.
- **GME Competency Lecture Series** – Monthly on 1st Monday of month. 5:00 pm; Must attend 6 out of 8 sessions per year.

SUPERVISION AND EVALUATION

Oncologic Emergency Medicine fellows will practice under the direct supervision of faculty attending at all times and are aligned with mentors. The Program Director will assess trainee performance by the following:

- Ongoing discussion with the mentor/supervisor.
- Bi-annual evaluations
- Faculty observation and feedback
- Bi-annual program evaluation of curriculum

The Program Director will utilize these criteria in order to advance the clinical responsibility of the fellow as deemed appropriate.

During clinical rotations, fellows will have their clinic skills and decision making reviewed by the supervising attending. Informal criticism or commendation will be relayed to the program director as needed. This information will be compiled and incorporated into the evaluations of the fellows.

The primary feedback mechanism for the department will be the Emergency Medicine Fellowship Program Evaluation, a formal on-line evaluation form.

This information will then be employed to further enhance the education experience for both the fellows and faculty members of the department. In this way, the fellow will contribute not only to his/her learning experience, but also to future trainees and will facilitate growth of the program.



Monica Wattana, MD
Program Director

11/17/2023

Date