Fellowship Training Program: Detailed Description

The Division offers a mentored, 3-year training program in hematology and medical oncology leading to dual-board eligibility.

Year 1: Clinical Training

The goal of the first year of the training program is to provide a creative clinical environment for the fellow to develop skills and experience in the comprehensive care of cancer patients and in the diagnosis and management of hematologic diseases. The fellow will rotate on a monthly basis to clinical services at the University of Minnesota, HCMC, Regions Hospital, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Each fellow will be assigned a longitudinal clinic at either the VAMC or the University of Minnesota.

Year 2-3: Academic Research and Clinical Training Tracks

First year (01) fellows may request either the Academic Research Track or the Clinical Track for their second (02) and third (03) years of training. The tracks differ by career goals and emphasis on research and clinical training. All fellows will identify at least three mentors to serve as a Career Development Committee to assist them in developing a Career Development Plan to support their goals.

The Career Development Plan will be reviewed by the Fellowship Committee meeting. For the first year fellow entering training year 02, a final decision on training pathway assignment will be made by the Committee with mentors and fellow input. For the second year fellow entering training year 03, assignments will be based on the fellow’s progress in reaching required milestones.

Academic Research Track

For fellows planning an academic research career in which the majority of time is spent in research, this track focuses on research training in clinical/population science research or laboratory/translational research. Fellows considering this track will typically have prior research experience.

This track consists of 18 months of dedicated research training (9 in fellowship year 02; 9 in year 03) and 18 months of clinical training (12 in fellowship year 01; 3 in year 02; 3 in year 03).

For those planning a career in clinical/population outcomes research, learning applicable basic research techniques is encouraged. Likewise, for a trainee planning a laboratory/translational research-based career, exposure to early clinical trial design is recommended.

Graduate coursework may be incorporated depending on funding.

Trainees are expected to present their work at division conferences and national meetings, publish their results, and seek independent research funding.
A fourth training year composed of 12 months of research training is strongly encouraged but is contingent upon performance and obtaining funding.

Required milestones by the end of fellowship year 02 include the following:
- Submit one abstract to and attend a national scientific meeting
- Present a poster at the annual Department of Medicine Research Day
- Complete 3 months of clinical training in areas related to research interests

Required milestones by the end of fellowship year 03 include the following:
- Submit one abstract to and attend an national scientific meeting.
- Present a poster at the annual Department of Medicine Research Day.
- Write and submit two manuscripts for publication.
- Write and submit a career development grant. Depending on circumstances this may be an application for a K award, an NRSA, or a Foundation Grant. Mentors will help guide these efforts. The final versions will be read and critiqued by the trainee’s SOC as well as the Steering Committee. As stated previously, a fourth training year composed of 12 months of research training is strongly encouraged but is contingent upon performance and obtaining funding.
- Complete 3 months of clinical training in areas related to research interests

Clinical Track

For trainees planning a career with the majority of time spent in clinical care of patients, either in an academic/academic-affiliated setting or in private practice, this track focuses on developing the clinical skills of the trainee through a broad exposure to non-malignant hematology, hematologic malignancies and medical oncology and its related fields. This training will also include training on enrolling and caring for patients on clinical trials and the completion of a scholarly activity or research project. Clinical training will be individualized to each trainee’s goals and interests.

In addition to the 12 months of clinical training in year 01, clinical training will encompass the majority of training time in years 02 and 03 with a choice of multiple elective rotations and ambulatory experiences.

Each trainee must complete a scholarly or research project. Up to 3 months may be spent on the project in year 02 (an additional 3 months may be requested in year 03 depending upon progress and career plans). Examples include case reports, reviews, quality improvement projects, curriculum development, enhancing skills through workshops and clinical/outcomes research projects that are feasible for the allotted time.

Trainees are expected to present their project/research at division conferences. Presentations at national meetings and publishing project/research results are desirable but not required.

Required milestones by the end of fellowship year 02 include the following:
- Complete 9-12 months of clinical training in the in-patient and out-patient settings in non-
malignant hematology, hematologic malignancies and medical oncology and its related fields.

- Attend an annual meeting (regional or national) in an area of interest to meet career goals.
- Present scholarly project/research project at a Division conference.

Required milestones by the end of fellowship year 02 include the following:

- Complete 9-12 months of clinical training in the in-patient and out-patient settings in non-malignant hematology, hematologic malignancies and medical oncology and its related fields.
- Attend an annual meeting (regional or national) in an area of interest to meet career goals.
- If additional time has been spent in the conduct of a scholarly project/research project, the results will be presented at a Division conference and at Department of Medicine Research Day; submitting an abstract and presenting at a national meeting and publishing project/research results is desirable but not required.

**Career Development Committee**

Each fellow will identify a primary mentor from the senior faculty (the mentor may be from the Division of HOT or any Department on campus) as well as 2 additional faculty members to serve as secondary mentors on his/her Career Development Committee. If the primary mentor is not a member of the fellowship program faculty, then at least 1 of the additional faculty members must be part of the fellowship program. *The fellow is responsible for arranging Committee meetings on a quarterly basis to review progress and obtain feedback on career plans, research and scholarly projects.*