

# Fellowship in Medical Oncology

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## Introduction:

The Tata Medical Center is a state of the art, philanthropic, comprehensive cancer centre which aims to provide high standards of quality assured care. The various departments of the centre work closely in a multidisciplinary manner, thereby ensuring standardised care to the patients. The hospital aims to provide unique training opportunities to young clinicians keen to obtain enriching experience in clinical service and research. The Fellowship programmes have been designed in a manner, which would not only help enhance their knowledge, but also develop a holistic, compassionate approach to combat cancer.

Our mission is to develop compassionate knowledgeable physicians who would be leaders in cancer medicine. This mission will be accomplished through comprehensive education and training in both clinical and community-based practice, laboratory services, and research, clinical, translational and basic science.

## Fellowship Objectives:

- Provide a well-rounded educational experience for clinical training in medical oncology, with comprehensive understanding of oncologic principles and treatment techniques.
- Provide an environment that promotes the development of expertise in hematology and oncology, with exposure to all the necessary details required for the management of all malignancies. Such training will include the understanding of the etiopathogenesis, clinical features, necessary investigations, and development of a management plan for each disease site.
- Foster a multidisciplinary approach to cancer care through participation in disease site oriented combined clinics with highly specialized medical oncologists, surgical oncologists, pathologists and radiologists and other allied sciences.
- Introduce and promote clinical research through retrospective and prospective evaluations of patients treated at Tata Medical Center.
- Provide a background in the fundamentals of laboratory research and the opportunity to participate in a laboratory-based, translational project.

## No of Fellowship Positions:

Three every year

## Fellowship Duration:

Two years in a full-time program

## Eligibility criteria:

REQUIREMENTS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Qualifications and Training	Valid Registration with the Indian Medical council.  MD in medicine or paediatrics or Equivalent.	Worked for more than 1 year in structured training programmes following a Masters Degree. DM candidates willing to gain further training may apply to enhance sub-site specialisation
Research	Evidence of understanding of research methodology.  Interest in clinical audit and in participating in clinical trials	Evidence of participation in clinical research.  Publications in related speciality
Specific service interests	Sound understanding of basic specialist techniques like chemotherapy planning, management of chemo toxicities etc.  Familiarity with the principles of advanced techniques in sub-speciality areas.	Experience of working in reputed busy oncology centres
Interpersonal skills	Appropriate communication skills with patients and colleagues. Ability to work within a multidisciplinary team	

Only shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview process. Before interview candidates should present before panel regarding themselves, their views, expectations from program and how will they contribute to society after fellowship completion. Afterwards candidates will be interviewed by panel of experts on basics of oncology.

## Clinical Responsibilities

Inpatient Responsibilities - Fellows will care for inpatients or daycare patients during their rotation. All major diagnostic and therapeutic decisions are made by the fellow in consultation with members of the senior staff. Trainees will acquire experience in treating a wide variety of neoplastic disease and in

dealing with the entire spectrum of medical complications of cancer and its therapy.

**Outpatient Responsibilities** - The outpatient clinic in the TMC will provide ambulatory care, based on evidenced based hospital protocol, to patients with neoplastic diseases. Fellows will be responsible for to carry out supervised services starting from initial screening, diagnosis, treatment and follow up of new patients and patients already registered with the hospital. Clinics will be organized in a disease-specific fashion, and fellows will be required to attend clinics as stipulated in their rotation details.

## Academic responsibilities

**Rounds and conferences:** Lectures, clinical conferences, research seminars, teaching rounds, and joint conferences relevant to clinical oncology and cancer research will be offered throughout the fellowship program. In addition to multidisciplinary clinical conferences, walk rounds, and a variety of disease-specific multidisciplinary meetings, there will be pathology teaching, oncoradiology sessions and journal clubs.

**AUDIT AND RESEARCH:** The Faculty aspires to have a strong commitment to research and Fellows would be encouraged to pursue/participate in basic science, translational and clinical research. They would be expected to perform regular audits on various issues pertaining to patient care.

## Expected Rotations/Work Schema:

During fellowship the candidate will spend their duty hours effectively spaced out between inpatient and outpatient care. The fellowship program will emphasize on the evidence based approach to the diagnosis and treatment of cancer in the context of internal medicine. The Fellow will participate in the evaluation and management of patients with solid tumors. Fellows spend some time in the Haematology unit to understand the principles of managing haematological malignancies. Training in clinical diagnostic procedures such as bone marrow examination, liver biopsy, lumbar puncture, intrathecal chemotherapy and pericardiocentesis etc will be emphasized. There will be close collaboration with related clinical units in TMC such as radiation oncology and surgery.

## Opportunities for career advancement:

The planned and organized fellowship training for 2 years is expected to provide the trainee several advantages in career advancement:

1. Provide comprehensive training in the clinical aspects of modern medical oncology in an organized and evidence based practice setting.
2. Opportunities for academic learning through regular departmental seminars, journal clubs and teaching series. Attendance in CME, conferences and symposia will be encouraged.
3. One or more research projects for each fellow will provide them an opportunity to gain experience in clinical research and publishing.
4. In order to introduce the trainee to different treatment philosophies, patterns of workflow and cultural variables, the Fellowship would include a two-month out of centre placement in a

# Tata Medical Center Fellowship Program



nationally/internationally acclaimed centre of excellence.

## **Evaluation:**

The Fellows will be expected to have a pre-rotation meeting with the tutor, wherein goals and expectations are clearly discussed. During the training program, they will be evaluated by a novel 360<sup>0</sup> assessment tool which has been developed in-house. It is envisaged that such structured strategies will fructify the training aspirations of a young Fellow.