



**Alberta General Practitioner in Oncology
Focused Training Program
University of Calgary
2020-2021**

Background

Family physicians play an important role in the care of cancer patients in Alberta. In addition to seeing cancer patients in their primary care clinics, some family physicians act as clinical associates in urban cancer centre clinics, supervise chemotherapy in community cancer centres, run supportive care survivorship clinics and help care for cancer inpatients admitted to hospital. In the past, few general practitioners in oncology (GPO) have had formal training. Recently, a number of third year enhanced skills programs and continuing medical education programs in cancer care for family physicians have been developed at several other Canadian universities.

Program Objectives

The overall goal of this program is to improve the cancer-related education of family physicians and provide them with the necessary skills to proficiently function as members of the cancer care team. Such physicians may go on to work in an urban hospital setting or oncology clinic, or may provide cancer services to patients in rural communities which are areas that generally lack oncologists. This program would also be appropriate for practicing family physicians who want to enhance their knowledge of cancer management and act as a primary care physician with special interest in oncology in their community.

Program Outline

The duration of the program is six (6) months. In certain particular situations a shorter period of training (minimum three (3) months) may be sufficient depending on the individual's learning objectives and clinical experience. Training will start with 2 weeks of didactic teaching during the first two weeks of July each year. Clinical learning will take place over 24 weeks (6 month program). This can be

done consecutively or intermittently in 2-4 week blocks over a period not exceeding 12 months. The clinical learning will primarily occur at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. This will include outpatient clinics involved in the delivery of systemic therapy for common cancers, as well as clinics in radiation oncology and pain and symptom management. Learners may also choose to gain experience caring for cancer inpatients and working on a palliative care unit. Attendance at all educational and clinical tumour board rounds related to the clinical focus of each rotation is expected.

The rotation schedules will be customized and allow learners to focus their experience in a way that prepares them for work in a particular environment. There will also be an opportunity to complete a limited number of rotations at community cancer centres in Alberta.

Preference will be given to candidates that plan to practice in remote communities and/or in a cancer care centre. We would welcome applications from both family medicine residents finishing their training as well as practicing family physicians.

Program Director

The Program Director, Dr. Gloria Roldan Urgoiti, will be accountable for all aspects of the conduct, supervision, and evaluation of the program and its participating learners. The Director will be advised by a Program Committee made up of one family physician and one medical oncologist.

Candidate Evaluations

A standardized in-training evaluation of the learner will be completed by each clinical supervisor. The Program Director and Program Committee will review the learner's evaluations and determine whether each learner has successfully completed the program. A certificate will be issued to each learner by Postgraduate Medical Education, University of Calgary upon successful completion of the program.

Faculty Evaluations

Confidential evaluations of each supervisor/rotation will be completed at the conclusion of each rotation by the learner.

Salary

Learners in this program will be paid the equivalent of a PARA PGY-3 resident salary, which is \$5682.67 per month of training. No additional benefits will be paid. Funding will be provided through the Department of Oncology, University of Calgary and/or the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) where appropriate.

Application Process

Applicants must be registered and in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA). They must have successfully completed a two-year family medicine residency program and/or received their CCFP designation prior to commencing this program.

A complete application will consist of the following:

- 1) Personal letter outlining learning and careers goals, as well as why the candidate is well suited for this GPO training program.
- 2) Current curriculum vitae.
- 3) Three signed professional letters of reference, written within three months of application.
- 4) Certificate of completion or good standing from the Family Medicine Program Director.

Applications will be received until February 28/2020 5 p.m. MST.

Please send all application materials to:

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c/o Dustin Morris

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