



## **Alberta General Practitioner in Oncology Training Program**

**University of Calgary**

**2021-2022**

### **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 months. A shorter course of training (minimum 3 months) could be considered depending on the individual's learning objectives and background. Training will consist of 2 weeks of didactic virtual teaching during the first two weeks of August each year. The remaining time will be spent in clinical learning which 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 disease site or 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 able to pursue the program on a full-time basis, but candidates may also pursue the program on a part-time basis over no more than one year to permit other professional or personal responsibilities to be fulfilled. We would welcome applications from both family medicine residents as well as practicing family physicians. Priority will be given to candidates that aim to practice in underserved communities.

## **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 rotation supervisor who will also consult with all the individual clinical supervisors. 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.

### **Please send all application materials to:**

Dr. Gloria Roldan Urgoiti

c/o Dustin Morris

Tom Baker Cancer Centre

1331-29<sup>th</sup> Street NW      Calgary, AB      T2N 4N2

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