



DEPARTMENT OF SUPPORTIVE CARE PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Description of the fellowship opportunity:

Affiliated with the University of Toronto, the Department of Supportive Care offers one-year fellowships in the division of Psychosocial Oncology (PSO). The PSO Fellowship Program is designed to help psychiatrists develop the psychosocial knowledge and skills needed to deliver high quality supportive care for all patients and their families throughout the course of illness.

Fellows receive supervision in the psychiatric care of serious illness patients and develop collaborative relationships with interdisciplinary staff within palliative care and cancer rehabilitation and survivorship.

Specifically, fellows learn to:

- Assess and co-manage (a) anxiety, depression, delirium, and other common problems oncology patients experience in psychiatric consultation, and (b) emotional components of distressing symptoms such as pain, nausea, dyspnea, and insomnia.
- Identify, assess, and work therapeutically with patients who are fearful, uncertain, or struggling with dependency, loss of control, and other psychosocial issues associated with life-threatening illness.
- Apply pharmacologic principles to the treatment of seriously ill patients needing psychotropic and/or analgesic or other palliative medications. Choose non-pharmacologic therapies appropriate to the patients needs, using a psychodynamic understanding of the patient's personality style, values, relationships, and other resources.
- Work effectively with an interdisciplinary team of oncology and palliative care professionals (representing medicine, anesthesia, psychiatry, pharmacy, nursing, social work and chaplaincy) in the emotional care of patients and their families.
- Articulate ethical principles involved in choices regarding end of life care, such as designation of DNR, DNI, the use of proxies and living wills, withdrawal of treatment, and Medical Assistance in Dying.
- Understand hospice services and refer appropriately to community hospice providers.
- Identify needs and provide psychosocial support to families dealing with life-threatening illness.
- Describe the bereavement process and implement appropriate interventions to support families in bereavement.

CLINICAL COMPONENT:

- Fellows have the opportunity to observe and perform comprehensive psychiatric assessments with supervisors to aid in developing diagnostic and formulation skills. Fellows receive ongoing clinical supervision as they learn about the psychiatric and psychosocial aspects of cancer for patients and families at diagnosis, during active treatment, in the event of reoccurrence, after completing treatment, through survivorship and during palliation and end-of-life-care.
- Psychiatric care of patients on the inpatient palliative care unit.

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- Consultation and treatment of scheduled outpatients.
 - Availability to respond to urgent requests for outpatient consultation during work and on-call hours.
 - Multidisciplinary meetings of clinical staff and families regarding patients.

EDUCATION COMPONENT:

- Ongoing mentoring by fellowship faculty
- Various education activities rounds, including:
 - Department of Supportive Care Grand Rounds
 - PSO Clinical Case Conference
 - Global Institute of Psychosocial, Palliative and End-of-Life Care (GIPPEC) Seminar

RESEARCH COMPONENT:

- Development of a research project including the preparation of manuscripts serving as the first author.
- Fellows may participate in an ongoing project under the supervision of a principle investigator in the department.

TEACHING COMPONENT:

- Fellows supervise third and fourth year medical students and residents.

Training start date:

Fellowship training should start on **July 1 annually** if possible, to align with the new academic year. However, alternative start dates may be negotiated in consultation with the fellowship supervisor (see below) & Psychiatry Fellowship Program (psych.fellows@utoronto.ca).

Stipend availability:

Limited and competitive funding is available from the Department of Supportive Care, Psychosocial Oncology Program. Please contact learners.supportivecare@uhn.ca for more details.

Sponsored applicants must provide a letter of financial support from sponsoring institution or organization. Please note that clinical fellows must secure funding at a minimum of \$65,000 (CAD) per annum (full-time position).

* Sponsored candidates are applicants from the following countries whose governments have official postgraduate medical training agreements with the university of Toronto: **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.**

Note: Sponsored candidates must have already initiated an application on the University of Toronto's **Sponsored Trainee Application Registry (STAR)**. For more Information, contact the University's postgraduate medical education (PGME) office at: pgme.international@utoronto.ca

Application Process

Overview:

Candidates must review the University of Toronto Psychiatry Fellowship Program's application requirements carefully **before** initiating an application. Internationally trained applicants may be asked to provide **English proficiency test results** at the time of application. To learn more, see: <https://psychiatry.utoronto.ca/apply-fellowship-program>

Interested candidates are invited to submit their updated **CV**, copies of their **MD** and **specialty certificate***, a **letter of intent** detailing their interest in this opportunity and how it aligns with their career goals, as well as the contact information of **3 references** one of whom being their Residency Program Director. Reference letters must be received by the above-listed deadline. Other requirements may apply - see above.

** In lieu, current domestic residents can submit a letter of good standing indicating their anticipated graduation date from their residency program*

Application period:

Applications to this opportunity for entry in the **2024-25 academic year** (July 1 academic session) will be accepted between **Oct. 1, 2023 – Nov. 30, 2023** on the Psychiatry Fellowship Program's application platform: <https://documents.med.utoronto.ca/Forms/FellowshipsApplication>

Contact:

learners.supportivecare@uhn.ca for further information/questions.