

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPORTIVE CARE PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Affiliated with the University of Toronto, the department of Supportive Care offers one and two-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.
- 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.

FELLOWSHIP DETAILS:

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Start Date: the academic year starts on July 1. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with the following deadlines:

Applicants requiring a work permit: Due to processing times at immigration offices, Post Graduate Medical Education (PGME) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO), complete application packages must be received by the Fellowship Office 6 – 8 months in advance of the training start date. For example, complete application paperwork must be received by January 1 for Fellowship training that is scheduled to begin on July 1 of the same year.

Canadian citizens / Permanent Residents: Complete application packages must be received by the Fellowship Office 4 months in advance of the training start date. For example, complete application paperwork must be received by April 1st for Fellowship training that is scheduled to begin on July 1st of the same year.

To ensure eligibility for a medical license, contact the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. They will also assist you with inquiries about recognition of qualifications or training, if such were obtained outside of Canada, licensure requirements, work permits, and related matters.

Application Forms:



Psychiatry Fellowship educational_objective
Application Form 2022_s_form 2022.docx

FUNDING

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).

Note: Sponsored candidates must have already applied on the University of Toronto's Sponsored Trainee Registry (STAR). For more Information, contact the UofT Psychiatry Fellowship Program at: psych.fellows@utoronto.ca

DURATION

Fellowship placements will be awarded for twelve or twenty-four months with the possibility for extension, dependent on performance.

Fully affiliated with:  UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Supported by:  The Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation 

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicant must:

- Have a medical degree.
- Have completed psychiatry residency.
- Be eligible for obtaining the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) medical practice license.

Please see the detailed requirement information here: <https://psychiatry.utoronto.ca/prospective-fellows>.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

To be considered, the applicant must submit the following:

1. **Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
 - Must include: date of birth, country of birth, residential address, and current employment
2. **Letter of intent (max 1 page)**
 - Should include the following:
 - Rationale for pursuing training in psychosocial oncology
 - Previous experience in psychosocial oncology
 - Personal goals and learning objectives for the program
 - How the fellowship experience will fit with your future needs
3. **Copy of original medical degree** (with English translation if applicable)
4. **Copy of original speciality certification** (with English translation if applicable)
5. **Proof of salary support** (e.g., sponsorship letter, proof of funding from institution, etc.). Funds must be able to cover expenses for living, travel, entertainment, etc. for trainee and dependents for the duration of the placement (sponsored applicants only) **Please note that clinical fellows must secure funding at a minimum of \$65,000 (CAD) per annum (full-time position).*
6. **Two letters of reference** (must be on letterhead and signed) from the Director of a residency program, or other graduate training program.
7. **Copy of your TOEFL iBT (TOEFL, TSE) or IELTS results** (international applicants only)

Applications will be reviewed by the PSO Fellowship Director or delegates.

Completed applications should be sent as one PDF file to learners.supportivecare@uhn.ca.

Please direct any questions to: learners.supportivecare@uhn.ca