



Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program

ACGME Requirements

- **Minimum of 18 months of clinical training**
 - 9 months Hematology: 6 months non-neoplastic classical hematology, 1 months bone marrow transplant service
 - 9 months Oncology: At least 50% in the outpatient setting
- **Continuity Clinic throughout all three years**

General Fellowship Goals

- **Promotion of Clinical Excellence**
 - Training of fellows to take care and service patients and their needs in different avenues of hematology and oncology
- **Promotion of Academic Excellence**
 - Encourage fellows participation in scholarly activities and develop/support their individual academic pursuits
 - The only academic institution in the state of South Carolina
- **Promotion of Intellectual Curiosity**
 - Provide Avenues to foster individual fellow research interests and goals

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For information regarding this scope of practice, please contact: Abirami Sivapiragasam, Fellowship Program Director, sivapira@musc.edu

Scope of Practice PGY-4 – PGY-6

PGY- 4

During the PGY-4 year, fellows are to gain a base experience with all aspects of hematology & oncology, including classical hematology, hematologic malignancies, bone marrow transplantation & cellular therapy, and solid tumor oncology. This year is primarily clinical and structured to cover different avenues of hematology & oncology.

- Fellows rotate in both inpatient and outpatient settings consisting of 6 months inpatient and 6 months outpatient
- Outpatient Rotations are divided into clinics of each disease group. Fellows are scheduled to rotate through different subspecialties including GI, GU, Thoracic, and Breast
- Inpatient Rotations consist of 2 months each in Inpatient Benign Hematology consults, Inpatient Malignant Hematology, Inpatient Solid Oncology Consults
- Fellows are also assigned to ½ day a week continuity clinics of 6 months duration. This maybe in either malignant hematology or solid tumor oncology.
- Other required electives in first year include: Benign hematology clinic and hematopathology
- On the MUSC Consultation Service, first year fellows are responsible for the evaluation of the inpatients for which consultation has been requested. In collaboration with the supervising attending physician, a consult note is documented, and fellow communicates these recommendations with the primary teams.
- For a consult patient who requires a specialty procedure, such as a bone marrow biopsy or intrathecal chemotherapy, the consult fellow is responsible for coordination and performing the procedure and communicating the results.
- Fellows make decisions regarding diagnostic and therapeutic management as his or her knowledge and experience permit, with the help and guidance of the attending physician. Fellows implement diagnostic and treatment plans, after discussion with and approval by the attending physicians.
- On the inpatient malignant hematology service, fellows also work in collaboration with APPS and supervise internal medicine residents. Fellows round every morning with the attending physician and the house staff team.
- Responsibilities for outpatient care include initial and follow-up evaluations, development of

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treatment recommendations to the best of your knowledge while reviewing NCCN guidelines or latest trials and writing a patient clinic visit note in a timely fashion. Fellows implement diagnostic and treatment plans, after discussion with and approval by the attending physicians. During first year fellows have approximately 3 full days of clinic with 2 administrative days to focus on research opportunities.

- First year fellows have one half-day continuity clinic weekly. Duration of this clinic is for six months and may include non-neoplastic hematology, malignant hematology and solid tumor oncology. Fellows have continuing responsibility for patients in their longitudinal clinics at the Hollings Cancer Center.
- Fellows implement diagnostic and treatment plans, after discussion with and approval by the attending physicians.
- First year fellows are not on inpatient services or call coverage the first two months of fellowship to focus on internal medicine boards preparation.
- Overnight weekday night calls are evenly split among all the three years. Fellows are responsible for on-call coverage for hematology & oncology division patients and inpatient consults. The calls may come from different hospital locations. The overnight calls are all home calls from 5pm to 8am.
- Responsibilities may change as determined by fellow needs and educational opportunities.
- Fellows are encouraged to initiate research projects in their respective field of interest. Research projects are expected to be presented at the Hematology & Oncology Division Grand Rounds as a 3rd year.

PGY- 5

During the PGY-5 year, fellows should expect to complete the required clinical rotations to meet board eligibility and to function with less guidance from attending physicians.

- Second year fellows have approximately 3-4 months of inpatient coverage
- Each second-year fellow in the Division of Hematology/Oncology spends two months at the Ralph H Johnson VA Medical Center with responsibilities similar to those of the first-year fellow assigned to the inpatient and consult services at MUH, except for progression in independence.
- The inpatient VA consults fellow will assist in covering the infusion center at the VA hospital in cases of emergencies and infusion reactions.

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- Second year fellows also cover the inpatient services at MUSC including solid oncology, benign hematology, and malignant hematology.
- Fellows are assigned two ½ day a week continuity clinics of 6 months duration. These are divided into primary and secondary continuity clinics.
- The primary continuity clinics are attended even while on inpatient rotations, but the secondary continuity clinics are attended only on outpatient rotations.
- Other required electives in second year include: outpatient BMT clinic, neuro-oncology, and head & neck cancer.
- Overnight weekday night calls are evenly split among all the three years. Fellows are responsible for on-call coverage for hematology & oncology division patients and inpatient consults. The calls may come from different hospital locations. The overnight calls are all home calls from 5pm to 8am.
- Fellows are encouraged to participate in research and scholarly activities along with presenting at national conferences.
- Responsibilities may change as determined by fellow needs and educational opportunities.

PGY-6

During the PGY-6 year, fellows already complete the required clinical rotations to meet board eligibility and to function with less guidance from attending physicians. Fellows tailor their rotations per their career choice.

- Fellows will cover primary continuity clinics for an entire year at the VA longitudinal clinics and will consist of two half days (Wednesday & Thursday).
- Fellows are also responsible for their own patient panel and will serve as the primary oncologist to these patients. They are responsible for coordinating care for their patient with multidisciplinary services, nurse navigators, infusion, and pharmacy.
- Fellows may also pursue additional clinics of their choice on their in conjunction with their personal interests and career choice.
- Fellows are expected to present their research as a 3rd year at the MUSC Hematology & Oncology Division Grand Rounds.

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- Overnight weekday night calls are evenly split among all the three years. Fellows are responsible for on-call coverage for hematology & oncology division patients and inpatient consults. The calls may come from different hospital locations. The overnight calls are all home calls from 5pm to 8am.
- Responsibilities may change as determined by fellow needs and educational opportunities.

Didactics Conference Schedule

The first two months of fellowship consist of introductory lecture series focusing on the introductory topics in the field of hematology & oncology. These consist of once a week one-hour lectures.

Full-fledged didactics start from the month of September.

- Monday 8-9am
 - Presentation by fellows
 - These consist of board review, case presentations, and journal club.
- Monday 12-1pm
 - Solid Oncology lecture series by faculty
- Tuesday 8-9am
 - Hematology lecture series by faculty
- Tuesday 12-1pm
 - Benign hematology conference
 - Consists of fellow presentations in the field of benign hematology, journal clubs, and multidisciplinary faculty presentations.
- Friday 12-1pm
 - Hollings Cancer Center Grand Rounds

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