



Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship

The mission of the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Training Program at the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders (CCBD) at Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH) is to develop the knowledge base, clinical experiences, professional skills, research exposure, and teaching ability that are necessary for a graduating fellow to assume the duties and responsibilities of an academic attending pediatric hematologist/oncologist.

The CCBD has the largest pediatric cancer program in Arizona (approximately 200 new oncology patients diagnosed per year) and is a leading participant in research to find cures for cancer. The Center is a long-standing member of the Children's Oncology Group (COG), and there are currently over fifty COG clinical research trials open for enrollment at PCH.

PCH also participates in ongoing clinical trials administered by the Histiocyte Society and pharmaceutical trials for the treatment of hemophilia. PCH is one of two institutions in Arizona – and the only location in Phoenix – conducting Phase I trials, giving pediatric cancer patients access to the newest treatments available.

The CCBD is also an active participant in the Pediatric Oncology Experimental Therapeutic Investigator Consortium (POETIC), a Phase I consortium composed of 10 large academic medical centers in the United States and Canada. The CCBD runs an active, expanding hematopoietic stem cell transplant program that is FACT-accredited for both autologous and allogeneic transplants and serves as a COG-accredited stem cell transplant center. There are currently 20-30 transplants conducted per year. The CCBD also administers a federally-funded hemophilia program with regular comprehensive clinics, a comprehensive sickle-cell disease program, and an ongoing, comprehensive long-term follow-up program for cancer survivors. The CCBD also participates in a vascular malformations clinic in conjunction with the division of dermatology and has an active, multidisciplinary neuro-oncology program in conjunction with the divisions of neurology and neurosurgery. All faculty members in the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders are fellowship-trained in pediatric hematology/oncology.

The three-year Fellowship Training Program received accreditation by the ACGME in October 2007, and the first fellowship class will start in July 2009. There are two fellowship positions available per year.

Fellows have an orientation period at the start of their first year, during which they are introduced to the faculty and support staff at all hospitals. During this time,

fellows have required lectures and seminars on topics such as HIPAA training, human subjects protection in research, medical ethics and patient privacy issues, and cultural and religious awareness (in particular as it pertains to the Native American population in Arizona). The first year of subspecialty training exposes the fellows to all aspects of clinical care of the general hematology/oncology and bone marrow transplant patient. This training is accomplished by spending a majority of time alternating between the inpatient and outpatient setting (monthly) while overseeing all aspects of patient care. During this time, fellows gain experience and proficiency with procedures commonly performed on hematology and oncology patients. Fellows also begin an outpatient continuity clinic experience that continues for all three years of training. During this time, fellows learn how to direct the treatment plan of a patient with an oncologic or chronic hematologic diagnosis and how to function as part of a multidisciplinary treatment team. Fellows also have the opportunity to develop their supervisory and teaching skills gradually under the supervision of program faculty.

The first year of training encompasses exposure to basic hematology laboratory techniques, bone marrow aspirate and peripheral blood smear morphology interpretation, blood product collection and banking protocols, cytogenetics laboratory techniques, radiation oncology techniques, a rotation that concentrates on clinical aspects of neuro-oncology, and a two-week period of time toward the end of the first year of training during which the fellow will have an opportunity to spend some time choosing a hypothesis-driven research project to be completed in the second two years of training. Fellows have an opportunity (in a one-month dedicated rotation) to see patients with congenital and acquired immunodeficiencies in the outpatient setting and during inpatient consultations. Fellows are expected to participate in morbidity and mortality rounds and on a quality improvement committee that is formed in response to a hospital sentinel event. Fellows attend seminars regarding professionalism, practice-based learning using an evidence-based medicine approach, interpersonal and communication skills, and systems-based practice so that the fellows satisfy the ACGME competency requirements in these areas.

The second and third years of fellow training is spent refining those skills learned in the first year of training, as well as completing a research project to satisfy the ABP requirements for a "scholarly project" while in training. PCH and the nearby Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGEN) have developed a robust research training curriculum that serves as the framework for exposure to bench research. This curriculum includes seminars in bench research techniques, bioethics, biomedical statistics, bioinformatics, research design, introduction to the institutional review board, presentation skills, formal instruction in grant and manuscript writing, and regular presentations at laboratory meetings. Fellows participate in the outpatient hematology/oncology clinic approximately one half-day per week during the second and third years in a continuity experience that starts in the first year of training. Second and third year fellows also spend one month of each year on the inpatient service to gain more experience in supervising clinical care and teaching residents and medical students.

Fellows have four weeks of paid vacation time per year. Fellows also take overnight pager call throughout all three years of training. Formal instruction also includes weekly morphology rounds, tumor boards, didactic lectures, psychosocial rounds, fellow-driven research seminars and journal clubs, and Board Review sessions.

Fellows complete their research requirement under the supervision of faculty researchers at TGEN, PCH, or at a facility of their choosing. The Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders physicians have a very close working relationship with the researchers at TGEN, and they actively participate in the guidance of the fellows as they conduct their research. If they wish, fellows also may elect to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Health at the Arizona State University.

Interested applicants may contact:

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