

CLINICAL ONCOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAMME

Definition of a Clinical Oncologist

A Clinical Oncologist is a specialist trained in the science and practice of Oncology and the use of non-surgical methods of cancer treatment including radiotherapy, chemotherapy (including hormones and biological therapies) and other non-surgical modalities of cancer treatment, both for curative and palliative purposes. Clinical Oncologists work as an integral part of multi-disciplinary teams to provide holistic, multi-modality care to patients with cancer.

1.0 Basic Specialist Training

1.1 Period

The period shall not be less than four(4) years

1.2 Postings

The training must be held in the recognized training centres (see Appendix A)

1.3 Training Contents

(see details in Appendix B)

1.3.1 Basic medical sciences relevant to Clinical Oncology

- Radiotherapy Physics
- Radiobiology
- Pathology and Epidemiology of Malignant Diseases
- Statistics and Principles of Clinical Research and Clinical Trials
- Cancer Genetics and Molecular Biology
- Clinical Pharmacology of Anti-Cancer Agents and Supportive Therapy

1.3.2 Structured Training in the Clinical Management of Cancers and Specific Individual Sites

The training emphasizes on the multidisciplinary approach to the management of the cancer patient. It involves patient evaluation, decision making on the appropriate treatment (or combination of treatment) and the process of treatment delivery. For Chemotherapy, this includes selection of the appropriate drug(s) regimes and the administration of cytotoxics. For Radiation therapy, this involves patient immobilization, treatment planning, dosimetry and the daily care of the patient undergoing radiotherapy. Training should also include on-call commitments and the management of oncological emergencies.

1.3.3 Supportive and Palliative Care

1.3.4 Psycho-social aspects of Cancer Care

1.3.5 Research Activities

1.3.6 Core Procedural Skills

1.3.6.1 Chemotherapy

- Familiar with the indications and goals of anti-cancer agents in primary and recurrent malignant diseases
- Knowledge of Chemotherapy dosages, administration and protocols
- Management of short and long term toxicities of Chemotherapy

1.3.6.2 Radiotherapy

- Competency in interpreting radiology films e.g. plain X-rays, contrast films, CT scans and MRI scans
- Simulation and localization procedures of radiation treatment planning
- Dosimetry and Computer planning
- Treatment set up of the patient
- Quality assurance of Radiotherapy
- Radiation prescription, treatment and care of patients and monitoring patients
- Brachytherapy
- Use of sealed and unsealed sources
- Radiation protection

1.3.6.3 Supportive and Palliative care procedures including but not exclusively

- Therapeutic pleural tap
- Insertion of a chest tube
- Pleurodesis
- Paracentesis
- Pain control (familiar with principles of pain management and understand the various drugs and modalities available for treating pain)