

Programme details - Clinical Oncology North West

Overview

The Training Programme will comprise a Basic Phase completed after a minimum of 3 years allowing the individual to sit the FRCR examinations, followed by a Higher Phase which normally lasts for 2 years (statutory minimum of 1 year post FRCR). The post is based at the Christie which is the largest cancer centre in the UK. The programme includes a rotation to the Preston Cancer Centre (usually for 16 months) allowing the trainee to experience two-centre training and of treating cancer in a large District General Hospital with the full range of medical, surgical and diagnostic specialties on site.



Structured Training in Clinical Oncology

| Phase | Year of training | Objectives |
|--------|--------------------------|--|
| Basic | 1 | FRCR Part 1 Training |
| | 2 | Completion of FRCR Part 1 Exam |
| | 3 | FRCR Part II Training Clinical Research, Audit, posters, abstracts & publications |
| Higher | 4 | Completion of FRCR Part II Post FRCR Training |
| | Optional mainly for ACFs | Out of programme Research (MD or PhD) |
| | 5 | Site Specialisation Management Training CCT |

Clinical Training

(A) Basic Phase of Training

The Department of Clinical Oncology at the Christie is organised into nine site-specialised teams of consultants to provide site-specialised training as well as continuous consultant cover. The Specialist Registrars will enter a 3-year rotation spending 4 months on each of these teams, to ensure a complete apprenticeship. It is expected that trainees will also rotate to the Preston Cancer Centre at the Royal Preston Hospital. These arrangements are flexible enough to accommodate possible changing requirements of trainees.

Trainees will be educated in patient assessment for radiotherapy, the management of toxicities associated with radiotherapy treatments, radiotherapy treatment planning, and post treatment review of out-patients.

Training in radiotherapy planning incorporates simulator and computer radiotherapy planning, as well as brachytherapy and mould room techniques, all under direct consultant supervision.

All trainees will also gain practical experience systemic therapy on each of the site specialised teams and in addition will have an allocation to a chemotherapy team. Trainees will be educated in patient assessment, the management of toxicities and the delivery of systemic therapies, including cytotoxic chemotherapy, endocrine therapies, biological and targeted agents.

Trainees will have the opportunity to participate in multi-disciplinary team decision-making as well as a wide variety of educational sessions. Radiology training will be incorporated into the weekly site specific tutorials, supervised computer radiotherapy planning, attendance at MDT and organised tutorials.

There is an option to train as an Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) where trainees will be required to take up a PhD and MD as an out of programme research.

(B) Higher Phase of Training

During this period of approximately 2 years the trainees will be encouraged to assume increasing responsibility for decisions related to patient care. They will be expected to participate in multi-disciplinary team meetings, radiology and pathology review meetings. Multi-disciplinary Disease Groups allow trainees to gain practical experience and insights into the specialised assessment and multi modality treatment options for patients, enabling them to develop a special interest/expertise in a cancer subspecialty. Trainees will be introduced to crucial non-clinical skills via involvement in management committee structures, organisation of meetings, attendance of management courses, teaching of undergraduate and paramedical groups and clinical presentation of research and audit projects.

Opportunities will be available for developing expertise in advance radiotherapy techniques such as stereotactic treatments, VMAT. As the Christie is one of the 2 NHS centres in the UK developing Proton Therapy, there will be a chance to develop experience in Proton Therapy.



Educational sessions

- Monthly formal clinical and scientific lecture programme series
- Radiotherapy scientific meetings rotating through disease-sites.
- Weekly oncology tutorials (rolling programme of site-based modules)
- Targeted FRCR 2mock viva and clinical sessions
- Regular site-based clinico-radiological MDT meeting

Research

North West Clinical Oncology trainees have good track record of producing abstracts and publications during their training. It has a strong academic department supporting postgraduate research.