

SAMPLE MODEL OF PROGRAM ROTATIONS

Program Year	Contents and Sequence of Rotations Number of Months (or 4 week blocks)											
	First	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	# 1 Palliative Care Core	Chronic Pain	Oncology	Community Based Care	# 2 Palliative Care # 3 Palliative Care	Elective	# 4 Palliative Care					
Academic Half Day												

**We welcome your interest and inquiries regarding the Palliative Medicine Residency Fellowship**

**Please direct to:**

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Palliative Care Residency Program Director  
**Dr. Alan Taniguchi**  
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Family Medicine



## Palliative Medicine Residency Fellowship Program

This 12 month Program is jointly accredited by the Royal College (RCPSC) and the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The philosophy of the program is to provide the resident with a broad and inclusive experience in Palliative Care. The Program will include experience in a number of Palliative Care settings – community, acute care hospital, Palliative Care Unit and Long-term Care setting. It will include a two month block of oncology, and some elective time. Each Palliative Care block has unique features that give the Fellow exposure to patients with a wide variety of Palliative Care problems; for example, oncology and renal patients, cardiovascular and trauma patients, and others.

The Resident will have extensive and varied exposure to management of pain and other symptoms, psychosocial care of patients and their families and interprofessional team work.

**The following is an outline of program rotations:**

#### I. PALLIATIVE CARE CORE CONCEPTS

A two month block that will provide the Resident with clinical experience in the needs of palliative care patients, their families and in team work.

The resident will assess and manage patients with all the symptom problems and psychosocial needs

commonly seen in Palliative Care. They will also assess and manage the supportive care needs of families and work with the interprofessional team.

The Academic Half-Day learning experience will also begin during this block and continue throughout the year

## II. ONCOLOGY ROTATION

This block will be two months of learning in ambulatory oncology care clinics and in-patient oncology unit with an emphasis on physical and psychosocial and supportive care. The emphasis will be on management of common cancers, and their complications and crises (physical and emotional). The resident will be exposed to the common modalities of treatment (systemic, radiation, surgical).

## III. #2 AND #3 PALLIATIVE CARE

These are 3 four-week blocks at separate teaching sites, where palliative care patients will have oncologic and non-oncologic diagnoses. The first setting will give the resident experience in managing patients with end stage cardiovascular, neurosurgical and trauma problems, as well as patients with chronic complex pain. The second setting will give the resident experience in managing patients with head and neck malignancies and end stage renal disease. The third setting includes some pediatric palliative care.

In all settings, oncology patients with surgical problems and those with new diagnosis of cancer will be seen, as well as patients with end stage COPD and other conditions.

## IV. COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

Residents will experience the whole continuum of care at home including death at home and care of family around time of death and in the bereavement period. Residents will be assigned several patients and families and will work with the community-based team in a rural and urban academic setting.

## V. # 4 PALLIATIVE CARE – IN-PATIENT UNIT

The resident will spend a 4 week period in an in-patient Palliative Care Unit setting. In this block, the resident will learn the factors that lead to in-patient admission, and develop care plans that may lead to discharge home or to continued on-going care in the unit. The resident will learn about the role of in-patient units in a total palliative care program (community care, acute care hospital, ambulatory and in-patient care).

## VI. ACADEMIC HALF-DAY

The Academic Half-day is once per week over the whole year. Some of these days will be shared with the medical oncology residency training group. The half-day will also be utilized for self-directed, supervised learning in: ethics, bereavement care, communication, basic sciences, pharmacology, spiritual care and a number of other topic areas in Palliative Care/Palliative Medicine. The Fellow will have a resource person(s) in each subject area, who will guide self-directed learning projects in their subject. The resident will seek resource knowledge and synthesize it into approaches and frameworks for dealing with various issues and topic ideas.

## VII. ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE

This will be based on the needs and interests of the resident. Electives are eight weeks in length. Some possible areas of elective are Palliative Care Unit in another city, pharmacology, geriatric palliative care, further research skills, bereavement counseling, pediatric, oncology, palliative care, and HIV Aids palliative care.

Residents will develop their focus for elective in collaboration with their advisor/mentor and the program director.

## VIII. RESEARCH SCHOLARLY PROJECT

Residents will participate in research and scholarly work through involvement with Palliative Care Journal Club. They will also identify a project for in-depth inquiry (academic project) with a goal to preparing a paper suitable for publication.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

For PGY3 positions in Family Medicine, please submit a covering letter outlining your interest, a CV and letter of references not later than **October 14** to:

*Dr. Nancy Fowler  
Program Director, Residency Program  
Department of Family Medicine  
McMaster Innovation Park  
175 Longwood Road South, Suite 201A  
Hamilton, ON L8P 0A1*

Royal College applicants please submit to:

*Dr. Alan Taniguchi  
Director, Palliative Care Fellowship Program  
Department of Family Medicine  
McMaster Innovation Park  
175 Longwood Road South, Suite 201A  
Hamilton, ON L8P 0A1*

## SELECTION

The Selection process includes the following steps:

- A. All candidates will be required to submit their CV and letter with two references detailing past medical training, previous experience in end-of-life care, rationale for pursuing training in palliative medicine, and personal learning objectives for the fellowship.
- B. Applications will be reviewed by the Palliative Medicine Residency training committee and the director.
- C. Interviews will be granted to selected candidates, to ensure that the fellowship program can meet the learning needs of the applicants.
- D. Final selection of fellows/residents will occur