

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY RESIDENCY AND SPECIALTY INTERNSHIP INFORMATION SHEET

The Flint Animal Cancer Center (FACC) comprises over 90 clinicians, researchers, trainees, and staff. Clinical services are provided in the Lucy Oncology Clinic by 11 faculty, 9 residents, an oncology specialty intern, a clinical trials intern, two surgical oncology fellows, and 10 nurses/technicians. The training programs focus on a comprehensive approach for the treatment of cancer in domestic animals, including investigational research. The FACC has a strong clinical trials service and residents and the specialty intern spend clinic time dedicated to seeing clinical trials patients and learning the basic of clinical research. Additional non-clinic time may be spent in a laboratory setting. Access to board certified specialists in a wide variety of fields is considered a strong point of this training program. Below are answers to some common questions you may have.

What is unique about your combined oncology service?

The FACC operates as a single, integrated service which includes medical, surgical and radiation oncology and clinical trials, to provide a strong team-oriented approach to patient care. Each day we have three to four faculty (medical, surgical, and radiation oncology) and multiple residents, interns, and fellows seeing patients on the clinic floor. We round together twice a day and Oncology is a required rotation for 4th year small animal and general track students. Because we are all seeing cases as one large combined service, we are able to offer our clients consultation with multiple specialists at their initial visit while diagnostic and treatment plans are developed. For a medical oncology resident and intern, this exposure provides an excellent first-hand experience with the other treatment modalities.



What are clinics like?

We are a busy service that moves at a fast pace. We see more than 6,000 visits per year with about 1,700 of those being new cases. We have five medical oncology-dedicated nurses as well as one phone/scheduling nurse and a client coordinator who helps with new client appointments. The faculty see cases on the clinic floor with the residents and oncology intern. The residents and oncology intern manage a diverse case load, including surgical and radiation oncology cases. Yearly duties for the residents vary but generally include 2 to 4 months out of clinic and the rest of the time on the clinical oncology service or rotations in allied services of the hospital. We also have a new clinic space (opened in November 2017) and recently completed a remodel of the radiation oncology space (March 2018). Medical oncology residents and the specialty intern do not work any shifts within the emergency department; however, they will share in weekly on-call duty, which may involve in person or phone consultations from the emergency room doctors at any time. The oncology service is available to receive transfers from the emergency room seven days a week. Please see example daily schedule at the end of this document.

What about clinical trials?

We have a robust clinical trials service that manages patients enrolled in clinical trials or presenting as a new case interested in a clinical study. This service has two full time nurses and a coordinator, and is staffed by a dedicated trials

intern and a medical oncology resident or intern. The service is also supervised by a boarded medical oncologist. An average of 15-25 clinical trials are open for enrollment at one time and, in 2019, approximately 950 appointments and 167 patients were seen through the clinical trials service. The medical oncology residents and oncology intern rotate through the clinical trials service approximately 8 weeks per year, providing patient care and recruitment activities. It is an excellent opportunity for our trainees to learn about and hone their skills in clinical research.

What is the Master's degree all about?

Residents are required to enroll in the graduate school and take appropriate course work leading to a Master's degree. This is a non-thesis Master's for the 3-year residency program and a thesis Master's for the 4-year residency program; course work includes classes such as Cancer Biology, Cancer Genetics, Radiation Biology, and Statistics which are directly pertinent to board preparation. The College will cover the cost of in-state tuition for up to 9 credits per academic year (27 credits over 3 years). Enrolled residents will receive tuition assistance to cover out of state tuition costs during the first year of the residency program. Thereafter, residents who have established Colorado Resident status will continue to have in-state tuition costs covered by the College. It is, therefore, very important that a resident establish Colorado residency status during the first year of their residency in order to avoid paying out of state tuition costs in the second and third years of the residency. International students are unable to establish in-state residency. Unfortunately, there are some taxes associated with the graduate program which the University is unable to cover and are the responsibility of the resident. We are happy to discuss this with you directly in more detail.

The resident is expected to attend and contribute to resident/graduate seminars for a total of 4 of the 6 semesters they are enrolled as a graduate student. Additionally, two projects suitable for publication are required from the resident in the area of their special interest. Presentation of research at a national scientific meeting is strongly encouraged. Each resident's training program is individualized through the guidance of a faculty advisor and graduate studies advisory committee.

What are the research opportunities?

The FACC is unique in the number and breadth of research opportunities available to the resident. In addition to opportunities for clinical research (both prospective and retrospective clinical projects), there are multiple laboratories within the FACC building, with expertise in cancer cell biology, molecular oncology, radiation physics, radiation biology, cancer pharmacology, surgical/musculoskeletal oncology, stem cell biology and cancer immunology. Residents are encouraged to pursue both clinical and laboratory research experiences during their training, and the breadth of opportunities allows for tailoring of the research experience to the resident's interests.

How does the oncology internship differ from the residency?

The oncology specialty internship is a one-year position and the intern has the same primary case responsibility as the residents, however, they do not rotate through any ancillary services (internal medicine, radiology, etc). The oncology intern also participates in emergency on-call duty (explained above) and rotates through the oncology clinical trials service. The oncology intern is on clinics the majority of the year with approximately 4 non-consecutive weeks of off clinic time for research and professional development. The oncology intern may not enroll in the Master's program. The oncology intern is also provided a desk, computer, and financial support to attend and travel to VCS.

Can I work on the side or do locums?

In accordance with college policy, residents and interns are not permitted to practice veterinary medicine in private/specialty veterinary practices in Colorado during the course of their program. In order to practice veterinary medicine, residents and interns required to obtain an academic license through the State of Colorado which only allows practicing within and for the academic institution.

Do you provide health insurance?

Yes, and important details regarding health insurance benefits and requirements for veterinary licensure can be found at the following link: www.virmp.org.

What other support do you provide?

Each resident is given a desk and a computer that is compatible with hospital operating systems. Each resident is also provided a set amount of financial support over the three-year period to be used to help defray the cost of board exam registration, credential submission, travel to take exams. The FACC provides financial support for residents to attend the annual VCS meeting in their second and third years, and are given 5 weeks off to study for the general exam and 7 weeks to study for the specialty exam.

For more information about the FACC, please visit our website at www.csuanimalcancercenter.org

Example resident/intern schedule:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:30-8:30 Class*	8:30-9:30 Rounds	7:30-8:30 Class*	7:30-8:30 Class*	7:30-8:30 Class*
8:30-9:30 Rounds	9:30-3:00 Clinics	8:30-9:30 Journal Club	8:30-9:30 Rounds	9:30-10:00 Rounds
9:30-3:00 Clinics	3:00-4:00 Rounds	9:30-10:00 Rounds	9:30-3:00 Clinics	10:00-10:30 Argus Rounds
3:00-4:00 Rounds	5:00-6:00 Class*	10:00-3:00 Clinics	3:00-4:00 Rounds	10:30-3:00 Clinics
			5:00-6:00 Class*	3:00-4:00 Rounds

*Resident classes only; oncology intern does not attend

Thank you for your interested in oncology specialist in training programs. For additional information please visit <https://www.csuanimalcancercenter.org/residency-training/>.