

Megan M. Dupuis, M.D., Ph.D.



Hometown: Clifton Park, New York

Undergraduate: University at Buffalo

Medical School: University at Buffalo, PhD at Roswell Park Cancer Center

Residency: Duke University

What are your career goals?

I am passionate about medical education, so I plan to develop a career in academics that includes teaching and working with learners. Ultimately I think I would like to be involved in residency or fellowship program management, or potentially teaching and curriculum development which focuses on oncology. I also love patient care, and I know that whatever specific type of cancer I choose to focus on, I intend to have a heavy clinical focus.

Why did you choose MD Anderson?

I chose Anderson because there is so much support to develop the career that I want, not the career that others may want for me. Because I have a basic science PhD, many programs assumed that I would want to remain heavily involved in bench research. Anderson did not assume anything about my career, but instead read my personal statement and then interviewed me with faculty who also had a passion for medical education. To me, that spoke volumes about their commitment to their trainees. They just want us to be the best at whatever we decide to pursue!

Also, it probably goes without saying, but this place is sometimes just unbelievable. We are on the very forefront of innovative therapy, and we can give our patients the best care in the world. It is an incredible place to train. Every time I listen to a grand rounds lecture, or read a paper published here, or help enroll a patient on a trial, I am kind of blown away by the academic rigor of this institution.

How has MD Anderson helped you in achieving your goals?

The program leadership have been very open about supporting us in whatever we want to do. Within the first few months after starting, I met with Dr. Bhadkamkar, who is one of the APDs. He spent nearly ninety minutes with me, creating and outlining a three-year plan for my fellowship, with a focus on medical education. Additionally, the program assigns each of the fellows a faculty mentor. After meeting just one time with my mentor, she had introduced me to other faculty members who pursued medical education, and this has led to a number of fruitful collaborations and projects. Our fellowship chief also reached out to a recent graduate who became an APD elsewhere. He leveraged that connection on my behalf so that I could better understand how to navigate my fellowship successfully. Basically, what I am saying is, I have an atypical career aspirations compared to other fellows, and this has not stopped the leadership in the program from bending over backwards to ensure my success.

What do you like best about MD Anderson's fellowship program?

Where to start? I love my co-fellows! The program did a great job picking a class of people that is so smart, driven, and fun to be around. I love the focus on education; every Tuesday we have a protected half-day of didactic lectures. The focus in this program truly is education over service. I like that there are resources to pursue whatever interests you, and the program will support you in that. Finally, I really appreciate the program leadership; they are really invested in us as individuals.

What do you like about living in Houston?

The food scene is unbelievable. My co-fellows and I go to a different restaurant every Tuesday and we have not been disappointed once! Also I live on the train line, so I don't ever have to drive into work. My commute is an 8 minute train ride and a pleasant 5 minute walk on each side. I think that the cost of living is also pretty reasonable compared to other, similarly-sized cities.

What has surprised you most about living in Houston?

I was surprised that the weather is much more tolerable than I thought! Coming from upstate NY, I thought I was going to die in the summer heat, but it was not as bad as everyone says. If you can tolerate 5 months of freezing cold winter, you can tolerate 2-3 months of hot weather in Houston.

Also, this is the most diverse city in the US, and I think that may be my absolute favorite thing about living in Houston. There are so many languages, cuisines, festivals, and cultures here that it feels super inclusive.

What do you like to do outside of medicine?

I am passionate about cooking, and I like to try new restaurants as I mentioned above. My husband and I also try a new happy hour each week to see what fun cocktails there are in Houston. We also joined a dodgeball league! I love to take my dog to the park, go to the museums near my house, and see live music and concerts. I enjoy trying anything that sounds like it may be interesting or unique in Houston: we've been to an outdoor fundraiser at the MFA with live DJs food, and art; we went to the Renaissance Festival; did the Halloween bar crawl in midtown; and did a food tasting at the Houston Chronicle featuring 35 top chefs from Houston.