

## Shalini Makawita, M.D.



**Hometown:** Toronto, Canada

**Undergraduate:** University of Toronto

**Medical School:** Wayne State University School of Medicine

**Residency:** Baylor College of Medicine

### What are your career goals?

*I like both the clinical and research aspects of oncology and hematology and my career goal is to one day become a clinical investigator involved in both patient care and translational research in medical oncology.*

### Why did you choose MD Anderson?

*I had first heard of MD Anderson during my undergrad days at the University of Toronto as I dabbled in summer research projects in cancer research. After becoming a resident at Baylor College of Medicine, I had the opportunity to rotate at MD Anderson and was drawn to its infrastructure for excellent patient care, dedication to research, and learning opportunities for trainees. Being a large cancer center, there is a wide spectrum of patients who seek care at MD Anderson, from those with very rare and unusual tumor types to those with common presentations for well-known tumor types, as well as a broad range of treatment modalities that are used from investigational therapies available through clinical trials to the well-established standard of care treatments. This vast exposure I feel, enables trainees to gain a broad experience in the care of all cancer patients. The fellowship program at MD Anderson is also known for its excellent mentorship structure and research opportunities and education. For these reasons and more, MD Anderson seemed like an exciting place to pursue fellowship.*

### How has MD Anderson helped you in achieving your goals?

*Being a new fellow it can be difficult at times to identify a good project(s) to take on, and having structured mentors in both the clinical and basic science arenas as well as an*

*Introduction to Research series where each department presents recent research and opportunities for fellows during the first six months of fellowship has been helpful to identify areas of interests and research to pursue.*

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

*There is a lot I like about the program from the patients we see to the faculty that teach us to the amazing co-fellows. One thing that really stands out to me is the support structure that the program has from faculty mentors to the program coordinators and leadership to help us navigate our way through and achieve our personal career goals.*

**What do you like about living in Houston?**

*The cost of living is really great compared to other big cities across the country. There are also a large variety of great restaurants catering to the diverse population of the city.*

**What has surprised you most about living in Houston?**

*Having grown up in Toronto, Canada, I wasn't sure how I'd do with the summer humidity but it hasn't been too bad (and all of the apartment buildings have pools!).*

**What do you like to do outside of medicine?**

*Visit with family and friends and travel and try new restaurants with my husband.*