

## **Physician Assistant Student Elective Program Elective Rotation Descriptions**

### **Clinical Care at MD Anderson**

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center is one of top comprehensive cancer centers in the world. Our mission is to eliminate cancer, and physician assistants at MD Anderson play an instrumental role in all aspects of patient care to help make this goal possible. The Physician Assistant Student Elective Rotation in Oncology is a four-week program in clinical oncology designed to acquaint the motivated, senior-level PA student with state-of-the-art multidisciplinary cancer care. Students will be mentored by experienced clinical PAs and/or nurse practitioners who teach on a volunteer basis.

Students may choose from a variety of multidisciplinary rotations spanning all main oncology disciplines, including surgical oncology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, general internal medicine, and pain and palliative care. In addition to direct involvement in patient care, rotations also include participation in lectures, grand rounds, and multidisciplinary conferences. Selected students may identify their specific area of interest from the following list of elective rotation sites. Upon availability, students will be placed according to his or her preference.

### **Elective Rotations**

#### **Surgical Oncology:**

A rotation designed to provide a practical introduction to surgical oncology and general principles of surgical treatment of the cancer patient. Emphasis will be placed on outpatient evaluation and surgical treatment of patients diagnosed with solid tumors. Although primarily based in the outpatient clinic, students may also spend time rounding on the inpatient surgery service, as well as providing assistance in the operating room. Students are matched with a primary preceptor(s) from one of the following surgical departments: surgical oncology (e.g., gastrointestinal, breast, melanoma, sarcoma, and endocrine), head and neck surgery, thoracic surgery, and urology.

#### **Medical Oncology (solid tumor):**

A rotation designed to provide a practical introduction to oncology and general principles of medical oncology. Emphasis will be placed on evaluation and treatment of patients diagnosed with solid tumors. These rotations are based primarily in the outpatient clinic setting, but may also include time on the inpatient service. Oncology rotations may take place in one of the following disease-specific sites, including: brain and spine, head and neck, thoracic, breast, melanoma, sarcoma, and gastrointestinal.

**Gynecologic Oncology:**

A rotation designed to provide a practical introduction to oncology and general principles of gynecology oncology and reproductive medicine. Emphasis will be placed on the evaluation, and medical and surgical treatment of patients diagnosed with gynecologic malignancies. These rotations are based primarily in the outpatient clinic setting, but may also include time on the inpatient service. Students may also observe and participate in procedures and surgery cases on a case available basis.

**Hematologic Oncology:**

A rotation designed to provide a practical introduction to hematology oncology and general principles of liquid tumors. Emphasis will be placed on evaluation and treatment of patients diagnosed with hematological malignancies. Students will be assigned to a preceptor(s) in one of the following oncology specialties: leukemia, lymphoma, or stem cell transplantation. Although primarily based in the outpatient clinic, students may also spend time on the inpatient ward, as well as Apheresis and Bone Marrow Aspiration clinics.

**Radiation Oncology:**

A rotation designed to provide a practical introduction to radiation oncology and general principles of radiation treatment. Emphasis will be placed on outpatient evaluation, including simulation and treatment of patients diagnosed with solid tumors. Rotations may take place in one or more of the following disease-specific sites, including: brain and spine, head and neck, thoracic, breast, urology, and gastrointestinal.

**Pediatric Oncology:**

A rotation designed to provide a practical introduction to oncology and general principles of oncology treatment focused on pediatric and adolescent patients. Emphasis will be placed on outpatient evaluation, and will include an overview of pediatric oncology (e.g. leukemia, lymphoma, brain, and non-neural solid tumors) as well as pediatric surgical oncology. Surgery experience will be on a case available basis.

**Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery:**

This rotation is designed for the motivated student who has an interest in reconstructive plastic surgery in the oncologic patient. Emphasis will be placed on outpatient evaluation, reconstructive options, and further development of surgical skills. Although primarily based in the outpatient clinic, students may also spend time rounding on the inpatient surgery service, as well as provide assistance in the operating room.

**Internal Medicine:**

A rotation designed to improve student's clinical skills in developing work-up and management strategies for common medical problems seen in adult oncology patients. Rotations may take place in one or more of the following medical disciplines: general internal medicine, cardiology, pulmonary, and infectious disease. Students will primarily spend time on the inpatient/hospitalist service, but may also see patients in the outpatient clinic as well.

**Palliative Care Medicine**

A rotation designed to provide practical introduction to palliative care medicine for the cancer patient. Rotations are primarily based in the outpatient clinic, but students may also participate in inpatient rounds.

**Critical Care:**

A rotation designed to provide practical introduction to caring for critically ill patient, including evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of various conditions related and unrelated to the oncology patient. Students will be matched with a primary critical care preceptor, and participate in daily ICU rounds and conferences.