

**National University Hospital
Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Division of Gynaecologic Oncology
Clinical Fellowship Program in Gynaecologic Oncology**

Gynaecologic Oncology is a subspecialty of obstetrics and gynaecology. Gynaecologic Oncologists are specialists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology who have completed a formal training program in gynaecological cancer care and have been assessed as competent in the comprehensive management of women with a genital malignancy. The subspecialist will work in gynaecology with at least 66% of the time in gynaecological oncology.

Objectives of Training Program

The aims of gynaecologic oncology subspecialty training are:

- To improve the education and skills of those specialists treating women with genital malignancy
- To improve outcomes for these women
- To promote research into the management of these diseases
- To ensure that women receive the highest standards of care
- To ensure that all women have access to subspecialist care in the management of gynaecological cancer

At the end of the fellowship training, the trainee should have developed:

- basic competence in clinical gynaecologic oncology
- basic competence in surgical procedures for the treatment of gynaecologic cancers and precancers
- basic knowledge of clinical research in gynaecologic oncology
- organizational know-how in the setting up of gynaecological cancer care services

Method of Training

1. Main components of Fellowship Program:

- comprehensive clinical management of gynecologic cancers including radical surgery, laparoscopic surgery, robotic surgery, radiation oncology, medical oncology and palliative care.
- preinvasive module including colposcopy, laser, LLETZ, needle cone, cold coagulation.
- Understanding of colorectal, urological, hepatobiliary and reconstructive surgery
- research module including basic lab research, translational research and project for publication.
- organizational module including the setting up of gynecologic oncology services
- educational module including lectures to residents and nurses

2. Daily Roster

	0730-0830h	0830-1230h	1230-1400h	1400-1700h	1700-1800h	
Monday	Dept teaching session / Ward Rounds	Operating Theatre		OT / Colposcopy	Exit Ward Round and Administration	
Tuesday		Medical Oncology Clinic		Cancer Clinic		
Wednesday		Operating Theatre				
Thursday		Laparoscopic Surgery	Tumour Board	Colposcopy / Multidisciplinary Tumour Clinic		
Friday		Radiation Oncology Clinic		Research		
Saturday		Ward Rounds / Clinic / Admin				

3. Duration of Training

The duration of training is that of fulltime clinical work for at least 6 months, but preferably 1 year.

4. Components of Training

The Clinical Fellow will function as a member of the team, in the capacity of a senior trainee. Active participation in the work of the Gynaecologic Oncology Division on a fulltime basis is expected.

The clinical fellow will conduct the gynaecologic oncology ward round in the subsidized wards and follow the rounds for the private patients. He will be responsible for the inpatient and outpatient care, as well as the surgery of all the subsidized patients.

He will coordinate the weekly tumour board meetings and participate in the weekly Nursing & Psychosocial Care meetings.

Exposure will be given to laparoscopic and robotic surgery, colorectal, urologic and reconstructive surgery, palliative care, medical oncology and radiation oncology. Arrangements will be made for attachments to colorectal, urologic and reconstructive surgery operating sessions as well as to medical and radiation oncology clinic sessions.

He will be expected to participate in the teaching of medical students, junior medical staff and nursing staff.

Arrangements will also be made for sessions at the ovarian cancer research laboratory at the Research Centre of Excellence (RCE). The Fellow will undertake a research project (clinical, basic or translational work) that should be suitable for publication before the end of the training period.

5. Syllabus

The scope of knowledge and skillset content that should be achieved by the Fellow follows the document "Guide to learning on Gynecologic Oncology" published by the American College of Obstetrics & Gynecology, which is appended.

Supervision

The Clinical Fellow will train under the direct supervision of the consultants of the gynaecologic oncology division and under the overall supervision of the Head of Division.

Assessment

The Clinical Fellow will have a temporary appointment in the first 4 weeks of training. He will be assessed by the Division before being confirmed as a Clinical Fellow for subspecialty training. If he is deemed to be unsuitable, he may have the option of staying on as a Preceptee (hands-on training but no clinical privileges) or Observer (no hands-on training). This will be decided at the discretion of the Division.

Once confirmed, the Clinical Fellow is expected to maintain a record of all training, teaching and research activities in a training assessment log. The training assessment log serves as the basis for assessment of training and progress.

Assessment of the Fellow is carried out on a daily continuous basis during ward rounds, clinics and operating theatres.

The training assessment log will be reviewed by the Division every 3rd month to ensure that the training experience is appropriately recorded. Progress of the research project must also be recorded. The training supervisor will discuss with the Fellow about his progress and comments will be recorded in the logbook, which will be signed by the Fellow and training supervisor.

Termination process

Termination of the appointment will take place upon completion of the period of training. Any termination of appointment prior to this will follow the guidelines of National University Hospital's Departments of Human Resource and Medical Affairs, and will be at the discretion of the Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

(Prepared by Dr Jeffrey Low, Head of Gynaecologic Oncology, November 2008)