

# CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP IN GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY

[Syllabus Approved by Board of Studies, Medical & Health Sciences]

<b>Programme Code</b>	:	HLTH14A25
<b>Programme Details</b>	:	2-YEARS HBNI CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP IN GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY
<b>Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs / PSOs)</b>	:	MENTIONED [COMMON FOR ALL 2 YRS HBNI CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIPS OFFERED AT TMC]
<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	:	DM/DRNB (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY) OR MD/DNB (GERIATRIC MEDICINE) OR MD/DNB (MEDICINE) PREFERABLY WITH AT LEAST 1-YEAR EXPERIENCE IN ONCOLOGY.
<b>Duration of the Course</b>	:	2 YEARS
<b>Programme Structure (Credit-Based)</b>	:	NA
<b>Detailed Course Syllabus</b>	:	ATTACHED
<b>Teaching–Learning Methodologies</b>	:	2 YEARS PROGRAM
<b>Examination &amp; Evaluation System</b>	:	ANNUAL APPRAISAL FOLLOWED BY UNIVERSITY FINAL EXAMINATION
<b>Internship / Project / Dissertation Guidelines</b>	:	NA
<b>Program In Charge</b>	:	PROF. VANITA NARHONHA

## CERTIFIED FELLOWSHIP (GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY)

*Programme Code: HLTH14A25*

*Programme Outcome:*

- The HBNI Fellowship Programmes at Tata Memorial Centre are designed to develop competent, ethical, and academically oriented healthcare professionals with advanced knowledge and skills in their respective specialties and subspecialties. At the completion of the fellowship, candidates are expected to demonstrate excellence in clinical practice, patient-centered care, multidisciplinary teamwork, communication, professionalism, and evidence-based decision-making. Fellows shall acquire the ability to independently evaluate, diagnose, plan, and manage patients while adhering to institutional protocols, quality standards, patient safety practices, and ethical principles in healthcare delivery.
- The fellowship programmes also aim to foster academic growth, research aptitude, lifelong learning, and leadership qualities among trainees. Fellows are expected to actively participate in teaching, seminars, journal clubs, conferences, audits, and research activities, thereby contributing to the advancement of medical science and institutional development. Upon successful completion of the programme, the fellow should be capable of functioning independently as a skilled specialist/subspecialist with competence in clinical services, academics, research, and collaborative healthcare practice in tertiary care and oncology-focused settings.

## DETAILED SYLLABUS

### 1. Detailed academic curriculum with syllabus and distribution of courses

#### ▪ **Outline of the fellowship:**

- The geriatric oncology fellowship program is designed to create individuals with skills in the care of geriatric oncology patients and geriatric oncology research from an academic and community practice perspective. Training will encompass ageing cancer biology, comprehensive assessment of the geriatric oncology patient, management of geriatric cancer syndromes, and formulation and conduct of a research project in geriatric oncology.
- The fellows will work closely with members of the medical oncology department at the Tata Memorial Centre.

#### ▪ **Scope of the fellowship:**

Proposed structure of the training programme:

- Practical training: The fellows will evaluate patients in the geriatric oncology clinic and coordinate various aspects of the care of older patients with cancer. They will also evaluate individualized patients, and will perform in-patient consultations, in tandem with the supervising medical oncology consultants and the geriatric consultant. The geriatric oncology fellows will be integral to the multidisciplinary geriatric oncology joint clinic meeting, in which they will present the cases and lead the discussion to help formulate individualized treatment plans for the older patients with cancer.
- Teaching and seminars: Fellows will attend seminars in the department of Medical Oncology and at the Tata Memorial Centre. They will study geriatric oncology literature and will be taught to integrate theory and practice and apply the principles and concepts of geriatric oncology. They will also be encouraged to attend at least one national/international geriatric/geriatric oncology conference like the annual SIOG meeting. Fellows will be responsible for training junior residents and other trainees in the geriatric oncology clinic.
- Rotations: The geriatric oncology fellows will rotate in various departments, including palliative medicine, pain clinic, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, clinical pharmacology, psycho-oncology, and the molecular laboratory.

- Research: Fellows will be taught to develop data collection strategies, and review, write, and implement research proposals.
- Patients' and caregivers' support group: The geriatric oncology will lead and coordinate the patient and caregiver support group programmes. They will plan the agenda, disseminate the information among the patients attending the geriatric oncology clinic, and ensure that the maximum number of patients and caregivers derive benefit.

▪ **Syllabus and curriculum of the geriatric oncology fellowship programme:**

Broadly, the geriatric oncology fellowship training program will teach the following:

- **BASIC GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY CARE**
  - The provision of care to older patients in a variety of settings with special attention to those with frailty, multiple comorbid conditions, dementia/delirium/psychiatric illnesses, and those near the end-of-life.
  - The changes associated with normal ageing as compared with disease from a variety of perspectives including physiologic and psychological.
  - The epidemiology of the ageing oncology population with emphasis on changes in disease incidence and prevalence.
  - The altered presentation of various diseases in older patients.
  - The geriatric syndromes (delirium, falls, incontinence, etc.).
  - The elements of a multidisciplinary approach in caring for older patients, how to function as a team, and special emphasis on the functional and psychosocial domains of health.
  - Conducting a multidisciplinary geriatric assessment, including evaluation of various domains (function, falls, cognition, medication, psychology, social support, comorbidities, nutrition, fatigue).
  - Incorporating the priorities of the older patients with cancer and their caregiver, and the nuances of shared-decision making.
  - The approach to the unique ethical issues that arise in caring for elderly patients.
  - How to formulate an appropriate preventive health care plan for the geriatric oncology patients.
  - Assessment of the appropriateness of the treatment strategy, either radical or palliative.
  - Evaluating the life-expectancy of the geriatric patient and correlating this with the prognosis and expected outcome of the baseline oncology diagnosis.

- Evaluating the expected chemotherapy toxicity in the geriatric patient and formulating an appropriate chemotherapy plan.
- Understanding medication pharmacology in the geriatric oncology patients.
- Rational medication prescribing plan and understanding the various potentially inappropriate medications in elderly patients.
  
- GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY RESEARCH:
  - Fellows will be encouraged to develop a research proposal, to write up the research study, submit the proposal to the institutional ethics committee and to implement the study.
  - Fellows will be encouraged to attend a clinical trials methodology workshop, like AAZPIRE, or CREDO.
  - Fellows will be encouraged to attend at least one geriatric oncology conference during the course of their fellowship, such as the annual conference of the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG) and to present an abstract of a research project at the meeting.
  - Fellows will be taught to enter the data of the research study, analyse and write up the manuscript, and publish this in a peer-reviewed journal.
  
- GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY TEACHING:
  - Fellows will be trained in all aspects of counselling of the geriatric oncology patients. This will include psychosocial counselling, nutritional evaluation and management of nutritional supplementation, cognitive evaluation and resources to help patients with memory loss, strategies to deal with depression and other psychological problems and training patients how to improve physical functioning and decrease the risk of falls.
  - Fellows will be required to present at least one lecture in the medical oncology teaching program, focused on geriatric oncology.
  - Fellows will be responsible for the teaching and training on the junior and allied members of the geriatric oncology team.

## **2. Meeting of credit requirements (if applicable)**

**Not applicable**

### **3. Student selection procedure:**

- Hthg The minimum eligibility criteria for the geriatric oncology fellowship will include DM/DrNB (Medical Oncology) OR MD/DNB (Geriatric Medicine) OR MD/DNB (Medicine) preferably with at least 1-year experience in oncology.
- The selection procedure will be according to the policy followed for other two-year fellowships at the Tata Memorial Hospital. After an advertisement, the eligible candidates will be interviewed by a selection committee and graded. A merit list will be prepared, which will include the selected candidates, as well as those on the waiting list.

### **4. Total intake per year:**

- **The Two fellows**

### **5. Availability of faculty members for the programme at the CI/OCC:**

- The core faculty members for the two-year geriatric oncology fellowship at the Tata Memorial Hospital will include:  
Dr. Vanita Noronha, Professor, Medical Oncology, Tata Memorial Centre o Dr Anant Ramaswamy, Professor, Medical Oncology, Tata Memorial Centre o Dr Kumar Prabhash, Professor and Head, Solid Tumours, Medical Oncology, Tata Memorial Centre
- In addition, the faculty members from the Department of Medical Oncology, Clinical Pharmacology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, Pain and Palliative Medicine, and Psycho-oncology will provide teaching and training to the geriatric oncology fellows.
- We will also invite renowned global geriatric oncologists to provide training and give lectures on a regular basis.

### **6. Availability of stipend/scholarship for the students (copy of DAE approval, if any):**

- As laid down by Tata Memorial Centre-HBNI for all other two-year fellowships.

## **7. Annual tuition fees:**

- As laid down by Tata Memorial Centre-HBNI for all other two-year fellowships.

## **8. Examination pattern:**

- Every 3 months, we will review the progress of the geriatric oncology fellow with a one-to-one meeting. By means of this interaction, we will attempt to identify and address any gaps in the training on an ongoing basis.
- At the end of the first year, there will be a formal examination, in the form of a case presentation, and a viva. This will be conducted by the geriatric oncology clinic faculty members. By means of this examination, the students' progress will be assessed. A formal evaluation and grading will be provided. This will be discussed with the fellow.
- These 3-monthly and the examination at the end of one year will comprise the internal assessment and will be proportionately incorporated in the final grading of the exit exam.
- The final fellowship certification will be issued after the successful completion of a theory and practical exit exam conducted at the end of two years. The score from this final examination will be 70% of total marks, and the internal assessment will consist of 30% of the marks. A minimum score of 50% in the theory paper and 50% in the viva/practical will be necessary to be declared successful in the examination.

## **9. Declaration of results:**

- As laid down by Tata Memorial Centre-HBNI for all other two-year fellowships

## **10. Draft ordinance:**

- As laid down by HBNI

*Academic Coordinator: Prof. Vanita Narhonha*

*Email ID : vanita.noronha@gmail.com*