

**Contact:**

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Alberta Cancer Board  
Tom Baker Cancer Centre



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

Faculty of Medicine  
Departments of Surgery & Oncology  
Division of Surgical Oncology

**Post Graduate  
GENERAL SURGICAL ONCOLOGY  
Training Program**

Program is 'Accredited without Certification' by the  
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada

Duration: 2 years

Number of residents/fellows accepted: 1 annually

Application requirements:

- Completed core training in General Surgery
- Educational Medical License of Alberta
- Covering letter describing long-term goals in surgical oncology
- 3 letters of reference
- University of Calgary Post Graduate Training Application
- Deadline: December 1

Application process: Short-listed candidates will have a  
personal interview in Calgary

#### 4. Medical Oncology rotation

- Develops understanding of principles of medical oncology by participating in outpatient multidisciplinary clinics, inpatient, and Day Care chemotherapy treatment management including complications with exposure to palliative care and pain control. (8 weeks)

Other aspects of the training include:

#### Pathology Oncology rotation

- Learning specifics of cancer pathology with exposure to molecular pathology, immunostaining, and controversies occurring in pathological diagnosis

#### Academic Development

- Participates in General Surgical Oncology Teaching Rounds, Grand Oncology Rounds and Core Curriculum Oncology Course

#### Specialty Areas

- Focused expertise in the following areas is offered
  - Breast
  - Sarcoma – bone & soft tissue
  - Surgical endocrinology
  - Plastics oncology
- Melanoma & skin
- Hepatobiliary
- Colorectal
- Oncologic techniques
  - Sentinel node biopsy techniques
  - Limb perfusion
  - Intraperitoneal chemotherapy and peritoneal stripping
  - Cryosurgery
  - Sacrectomy, pelvic exenteration, hemipelvectomy, forequarter amputation
  - Laparoscopic adrenalectomy/splenectomy

#### Description of the Program

- Organized to allow the trainee to meet the objectives of the Royal College and the University for training in the specialty
- The four basic components to the curriculum include:
  1. Research rotation
    - 6-month research period giving a comprehensive introduction to basic and/or clinical research which can be further explored during career
    - a project that will be developed over a 2-year period is expected
    - research objectives can be accomplished in 2 basic ways
      - working in the laboratory at the Southern Alberta Cancer Research Centre at a level of complexity of project based on level of knowledge and experience of basic laboratory science
      - developing and conducting a clinical trial based on an area of interest or on a retrospective analysis to be completed during the 6-month research rotation
    - learns laboratory approach to science in area of interest
  2. Surgical Oncology rotations
    - First year, 6-month surgical oncology experience working with General Surgical Oncologists
    - includes daily rounds and weekly formal teaching rounds at which trainee organizes and/or present
    - participates in ongoing surgical treatment of patients having seen patients in preoperative clinics and postoperative follow-up clinics to learn the judgement involved in managing the patient regarding surgical options and how these fit in with the other therapeutic approaches and finally seeing the results of treatment
    - participates in planning and learning how to do outpatient biopsies and surgery
    - active in teaching activities with the general surgery residents
    - Second year surgical oncology rotation student will help manage patients more independently in clinics and operating theatres
  3. Radiation Oncology rotation
    - Develops understanding of principles of radiobiology, radiation physics, and therapeutic methods employed to learn all aspects of radiotherapy and monitor the results of treatment for patients seen in Multidisciplinary Clinics. (4 weeks)