

University of Wisconsin – Madison Residency in Medical Oncology

- Thank you for your interest in the Medical Oncology residency program at UW Madison! We are a world-renowned and highly integrated oncology service focused on training well rounded, highly skilled, and independently thinking veterinary oncologists!

- [VIRMP](#)
- [UW Veterinary Care](#)
- [UW School of Veterinary Medicine](#)

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General information

- In addition to the minimum of seventy four (74) weeks working in medical oncology the resident needs to complete the additional twenty eight (32) weeks of ACVIM requirements of: two (2) weeks of clinical pathology (which may be met through weekly/biweekly rounds) and/or a clinical pathology rotation; two (2) week of surgical pathology (which may be met through biweekly rounds) and/or a pathology rotation; two (2) weeks of radiology; four (4) weeks of internal medicine; eight (8) weeks of radiation oncology under the supervision of a board-certified radiation oncologist; twelve (14) weeks of oncology or other allied specialty with a boarded specialist. All rotations, besides surgical and clinical pathology, must be a minimum of two (2) week blocks.
- The first year is heavily clinical (32-36 weeks on clinical duty). We expect that during the first year the residents become proficient at all routine oncologic procedures and by the end of the year they should be able to handle multiple straightforward oncology patients a day (new and recheck patients). Within the first year, the resident is expected to have determined the topic of a (clinical) research project and to make some progress on said project.
- The second year consists of 28-32 weeks on clinical duty. By the end of this year, we expect that the residents be proficient in managing routine and complicated oncology cases. They should also ideally have completed at least an initial draft of a clinical (or basic) research paper and be considering submitting the work for presentation at VCS or ACVIM. The resident is expected to take the general examination at the end of their second year. Also at the end of the second year/beginning of third year, after taking the general examination, residents have the option of attending the 'molecular biology 2 week boot camp' at Smith College (either in person or remote depending on Covid pandemic situation). The oncology program has funding to send residents to this program (paying for registration and travel fees).
- The third year consists of 16-24 weeks on clinical duty. By the end of the third year, the residents should be able to oversee the daily clinical oncology service; they will be scheduled for 2-6 weeks of clinical duty as 'chief' resident. Ideally, the resident should have completed at least 1 clinical and 1 basic science project and have at least 1 manuscript submitted for publication. However, expectations can be adjusted depending upon resident interest. The resident is expected to sit the certifying examination at the end of their third year.
- Besides direct patient care and clinical consultation, other clinical expectations include managing referring veterinarian consults, questions, and chemotherapy requests via phone or email.

About the program

Basic schedule

- **6-8 am:** take over any transfers from ER (there is a webpage that can be checked from home that lists daily transfers for each service)
- **8-9 am:** topic rounds with students. The responsibility for delivery of topic rounds falls primarily upon the residents. Although residents are expected to help with daily topic rounds with the students, students also attend some of the 8-9 am special rounds. Oncology has several topics that we make sure students are very comfortable with by the end of their 2-week rotation. These topics include: chemotherapy drugs, chemotherapy safety, canine and feline lymphoma, mast cell tumors, osteosarcoma, and oral tumors.
- **9-noon:** receiving
- **Noon-3 pm:** work-up and treat patients, write records, return calls, discharge patients, etc 3-4 pm: case rounds with med onc and rad onc
- **4-whenever done:** finish with tasks for the day
- **After hours:** There is limited on-call duty. Each intern class must have regular back up for the first 60 days of their program. That means that every ACVIM resident will cover 2-3 shifts (night/weekend) during which they come in to look at every case that the interns are seeing on ER. Also, specialty residents take call to help if the interns or ECC residents need help with a specific oncologic issue (cardio and neuro do the same, SAIM is always on call for scopes, etc.). This specialty call schedule rotates by week and includes nights and weekends for the occasional transfer and ER case. The rest of your after-hours time is spent studying, working on projects, preparing presentations (JC, ACVIM presentations, grand rounds, etc), relaxing and socializing!
- **Weekends**
- Although not routine, if the medical oncology service has hospitalized patients the residents and senior clinicians on duty will be in on the weekend to assess and manage these patients as necessary.

Didactic schedule

- Our goal is that through these rounds residents will be able to prepare for boards. Residents are also given 6 weeks of protected study time prior to the ACVIM General exam, and 8 weeks of protected study time prior to the ACVIM Specialty exam. There is no required Master's program as part of the residency (but opportunity for combining the residency with a thesis-based Master's or PhD does exist).
- **Specific rounds and learning opportunities (currently all rounds continuing either in-person, or hybrid):**
- **Monday 8-9 am: Surgery-Oncology** rounds every other week.
- **Tuesday 8-9 am: ACVIM rounds:** residents in ACVIM college are assigned topics to present, expectation is that the presentation is at the level of an ACVIM forum talk and that complete notes with references are handed out. Oncology residents will present one topic/day each year.
- **Wednesday 8-9 am: Grand Rounds at the UW Carbone Comprehensive Cancer Center (hybrid virtual and in-person).** Topics for these rounds range from targeted therapies for specific cancers to the socio-economic impact of cancer in various populations. Speakers range from UW experts to guest speakers from other institutions.
- **Thursday 8-9 am:** Every other week, **cancer histopathology rounds** are hosted by the anatomic pathologists. Participants in these rounds include anatomic and clinical pathologists and staff, oncology clinicians, VM4 students on oncology rotation.
- **Thursday 8-9 am:** Every other week, **resident lead book club**, where various textbooks are reviewed as part of boards studying. Textbooks reviewed include Withrow & MacEwen, Tannock & Hill, and Weinberg.
- **Friday 8-9 am: Cytology rounds** are hosted by the clinical pathologists. Participants in these rounds include anatomic and clinical pathologists and staff, oncology clinicians, VM4 students on oncology rotation, occasionally VM students from years 1-3 of the curriculum.
- **Friday 9-10:30 am: Oncology journal club.** Participants include medical and radiation oncology clinicians. 3 people are assigned each week to present one article (2 from veterinary medical literature and 1 from human/basic science literature). The expectation is to have a professional level presentation including a thorough literature review followed by description of the hypothesis/objectives, materials and methods, results and critique of the paper be performed. Each 30 minute presentation also includes a question at the end pertinent to the article.
- **Friday 2-3 pm: Radiation oncology rounds.** Participants include rad and med onc clinicians, rad onc techs, and students on these rotations. The purpose of these rounds are to discuss radiation oncology patients who: 1) have just completed their radiation therapy protocols, 2) are still undergoing their prescribed course of therapy, or 3) are potentially going to be starting radiation therapy.
- **Friday 3:30-4:30 pm: once a month Grand Rounds.** Typically 2 residents a month co-present grand rounds. They may have 2 separate patients, or they may address 2 different aspects of 1 patient's care and management. Residents are required to present grand rounds once during their training programs.

About us (photos from UWVC)

Faculty

- **Medical oncology faculty:**
- David Vail, DVM, DACVIM
- Ruthanne Chun, DVM, DACVIM
- Xuan Pan, VMD, PhD, DACVIM
- MacKenzie Pellin, DVM, DACVIM, DACVR (RO)
- **Radiation oncology faculty:**
- Lisa Forrest, DVM, DACVR (R, RO)
- Michelle Turek, DVM, DACVIM, DACVR (RO)
- Nate Van Asselt, DVM, DACVR (RO)

Residents

- 2nd year:
 - Rachel McMahon (rqmcmahon@wisc.edu)
 - Ann Marie Picone (apicone2@wisc.edu)
- 1st year:
 - Han-Yun (Hannah) Cheng (hcheng97@wisc.edu)

Technicians

Abbey Ace
Allie Boland
Jennifer Borgen
Gina Durham
Abby Jones
Casey Komperda
Ashley Onsager
Leah Krawczyk (coordinator)

Research

- University of Wisconsin consistently ranks amongst the top research universities in the US/World
 - Located down the road from the UW Carbone Cancer Center at UW hospital there is the potential for translational research
 - Many researchers within the SVM focusing on cancer
 - We will work with research ideas you have or find a project/researcher you can collaborate with
 - Options include retrospective studies, prospective clinical research, and benchtop research based upon the individual resident's interest
 - At beginning of 3rd year of residency there is an opportunity to send residents to [Molecular Biology boot camp](#) at Smith College in Northampton, MA (all expenses paid)
- **Clinical trials**
 - We have a very active clinical trials program both within Oncology and the rest of UWVC
 - [UWVC clinical trials page](#)
 - **Oncology clinical trials team (photos from UWVC)**
 - Dr. David Vail
 - Dr. Christen Montesanto – Clinical Trials intern
 - Dr. Tricia Hu – Clinical trials intern
 - Rubi Hayim – CVT
 - **Clinical Trials internship:** for 2023-2024 we will be offering 2 internship positions outside of the match. If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please contact Dr. Vail (link to email david.vail@wisc.edu)

Live in Madison, WI!

- Ranked #1 place to live in US by [Livability](#) (2021 & 2022)
- Lots of (year-round) outdoor activities
 - 4 lakes
 - Bike trails
 - Dog parks
 - 26 on-leash, 8 off-leash
 - Hiking
- Entertainment
 - Music, comedy
- Food & Drink
 - Amazing food scene
- Dane County Regional airport
- Milwaukee (1.5 hrs) and Chicago (2.5 hrs) close by

<https://www.visitmadison.com/>

