

# Outline of the Presentation

1. What is Radiation Oncology/What do Radiation Oncologists do
2. RO Residency Training at University of Toronto
3. What is the Application Process like
4. What after Residency is Completed

# What is Radiation Oncology (Radiotherapy (RT))

Well established way to treat cancer

More than 100 yrs of history

Many ways in which RT helps cancer patients  
cure (alone or in combination with chemo or surgery)  
disease control  
symptom palliation



# What is Radiation Oncology

Other cancer specialties:

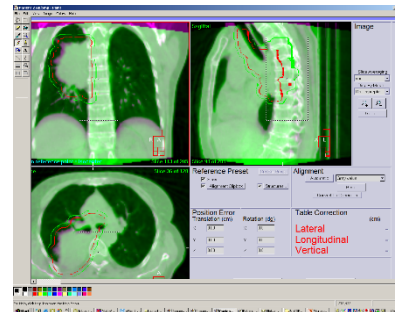
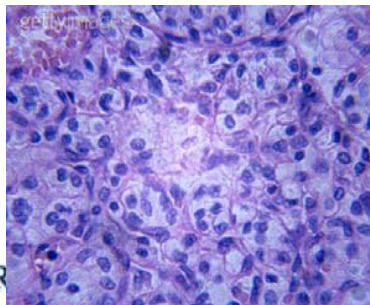
- Medical oncology

- Surgery -surgical oncology or subspecialty – eg thoracic, urology, gynecology

- Palliative care

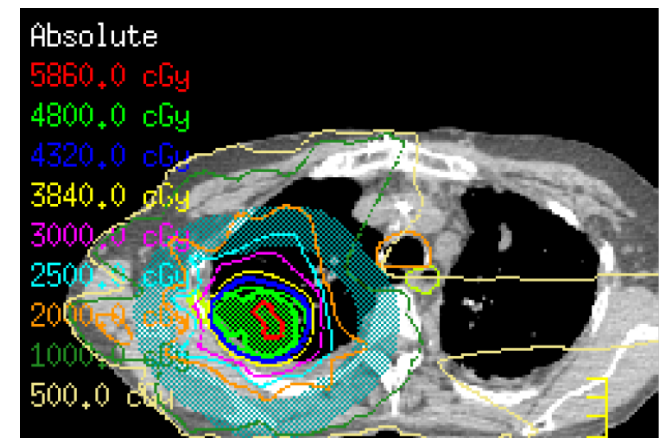
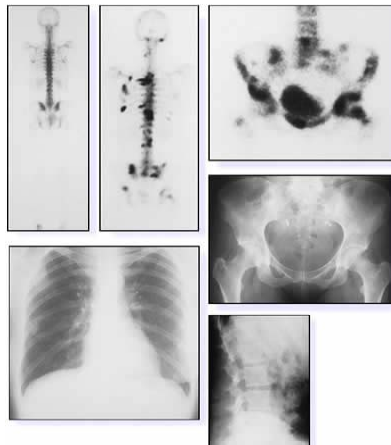
- (Family medicine with oncology focus)

RO is a clinical specialty based on knowledge of cancer, anatomy, biology, imaging and technology



# What do Radiation Oncologists Do?

Clinical care – mostly outpatient  
consultations with newly diagnosed patients  
decisions about best treatment  
outlining the target for radiation (“contouring”)  
reviewing the RT treatment plan  
overseeing the course of RT  
managing side-effects  
following the patient after treatment



# What do Radiation Oncologists Do?

- Most RO focus their work on several cancer types (eg breast, lung, GU cancers...) altho they need to know about all
- Some RO do procedures (eg brachytherapy for gyne ca, prostate)
- They work in Cancer centers across Canada
- Team work – physicists, therapists, nurses, medical oncologists, surgeons, etc



# What do Radiation Oncologists Do?

## Research/Scholarly Pursuits:

clinical

translational (lab to bedside and back

technology research

health services research

education research

other

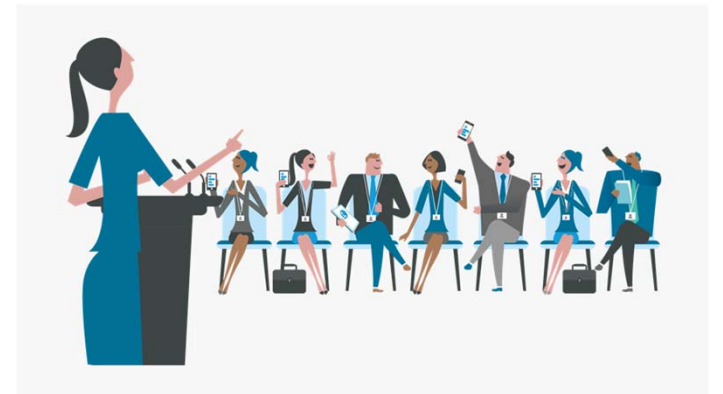


## Teaching:

patients/families/public

trainees

other health care providers



# Radiation Oncology Residency Program

- Five year program
- 13 Residency programs across the country
- <https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/documents/arps/rad-oncology-e>
- Competence by Design introduced in July 2019 across Canada (except Queens started in 2017)
  - Transition to Discipline (1-2 months)
  - Foundations of Discipline (10-15 months)
  - Core of Discipline (30-36 months)
  - Transition to Practice (10-12 months)

# Application Process to RO Residency

- 13 programs across Canada – 21 Residency positions
- July 2022 UTDRO = 4 CMG
- Goals of UTDRO Residency Program =
  - Train Future Academic Leaders
  - Attract Dynamic Enquiring Individuals who are enthusiastic about RO
  - Attract Residents who will contribute to advancing our profession and pursue scholarly enquiry
  - Expectation of excellence in all CanMEDS roles



# Requirements at UTDRO

- A strong academic record
- A proven interest in our specialty, demonstrated by experience in our specialty or related fields
- References should attest to proficiency in clinical skills and provide comments on maturity, interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and potential for an academic career
- Evidence of Research or Scholarly activity

# Comments re expectations at UTDRO

- A strong academic record - we are not comparing between applicants but looking at what you did and how well (eg someone with a BSc background would not be compared to a MSc or PhD applicant)
- A proven interest in our specialty, demonstrated by experience in our specialty or related fields –no expectations of electives in Toronto
- References should attest to proficiency in clinical skills and provide comments on maturity, interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and potential for an academic career -references should be from faculty who got to know you the best – they don't have to be RO faculty, more important that they describe your qualities and provide specifics/details
- Evidence of Research or Scholarly activity –no expectation that it is in oncology area

# Residency at UTDRO

- Great peer group (by far the largest RO program in Canada – currently 22)
- World-class faculty and teams
- Emphasis on clinical excellence and academic pursuits
- Lots of resources - patients, technology, staff
- Lots of research opportunities
- Formal mentorship program
- Wellness program
- Two large cancer programs help residents learn to understand evidence underpinning different treatment approaches
- Diversity, equity, inclusivity are lived, not just acknowledged



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# What after Residency Program is completed?

- Fellowships – most residents currently pursue them to gain additional clinical experience/exposure – Canada, US etc (may not be needed with CBD/TTP)
- Staff positions - most find jobs within 1-2 yrs of residency completion – but may not be in GTA or Ontario
- CARO Human Resources data – 84% of Canadian graduates found staff positions within 1 yr of residency completion in 2020
- 67% of Ontario graduating residents stayed in Ontario
- CARO HR Workforce projections used to predict demand and train appropriate number of residents across Canada (currently 21, may need to increase in the future)

## 49 cancer centers in Canada with RT departments



### Ontario cancer centers with RT:

PMH, OCC, Barrie, Credit Valley, Newmarket, Oshawa, Kitchener, London, Hamilton, St Catherine's, Kingston, Ottawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Windsor

# Contacts re UTDRO Residency program

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<https://www.radonc.utoronto.ca/radiation-oncology-residency>