

Intro to Radiation Oncology Residency Program at the University of Toronto

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Radiation Oncology Residency Training Program

University of Toronto

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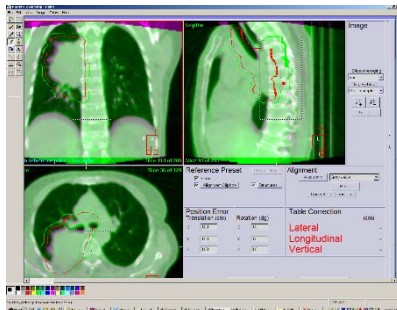
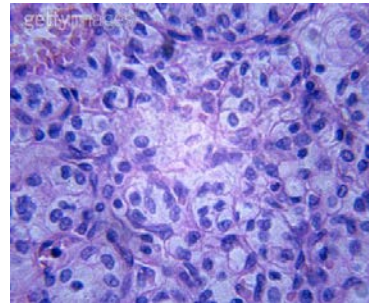
Outline of the Presentation

1. RO Residency Training at University of Toronto
2. What is the Application Process like
3. What after Residency is Completed



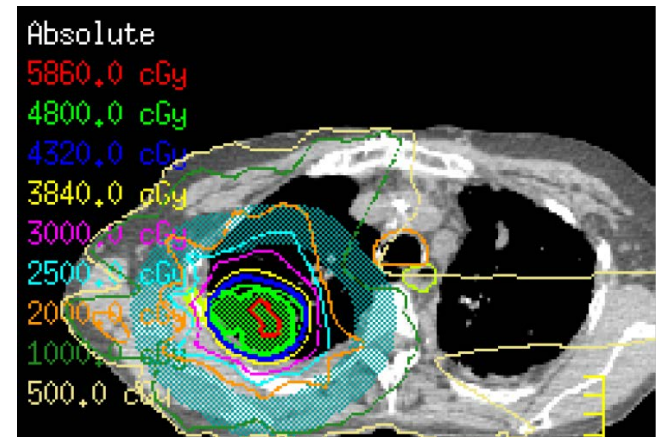
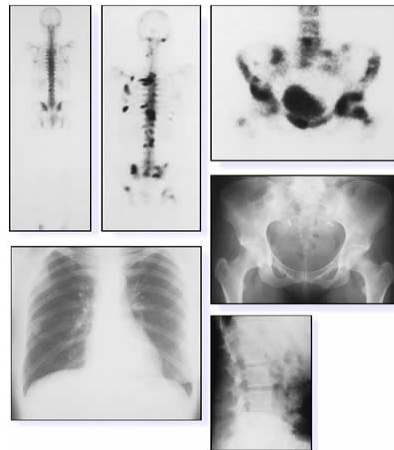
Radiation Oncology

- RO is a clinical specialty based on knowledge of cancer, anatomy, biology, imaging and technology
- Continues to be an important modality of treatment of many cancers



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)
 - Royal College written exam winter/spring PGY4 yr, oral exam fall PGY5 yr



Application Process to RO Residency

- 13 programs across Canada – 21 Residency positions
- July 2024 UTDRO = 4 CMG positions + 1 visa trainee
- 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 all 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 20)
- 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



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 yr 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, there are current and anticipated job openings across Canada, and projections for RO shortages in the coming years



49 cancer centers in Canada with RT departments



Ontario cancer centers with RT departments:

Princess Margaret, Odette Cancer Centre, Barrie, Credit Valley, Newmarket, Oshawa, Kitchener, London, Hamilton, St Catherine's, Kingston, Ottawa, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Windsor

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

