

Welcome to Oncology!



My name is Raj Jena and I am coordinator for the stage 2 attachments in Oncology. I hope that you will find your 2 week taster of Oncology to be an enjoyable and informative time.

We have recently restructured the teaching programme in Oncology, so please bear with us if we encounter some teething problems. At the start of the attachment you will receive a personalized timetable with a list of activities, including time in clinics and on the ward. In addition, there are 6 core teaching lectures which will be given by members of the department during the fortnight.

Lecture 1 : Key competencies in cancer care. In this lecture you will learn about cancer pathways, the diagnostic and staging process, and important skills in decision making and reviewing data used by oncologists

Lecture 2 : Hallmarks of Cancer. This lecture runs through the Hanahan & Weinberg papers describing in overview form the key molecular processes involved in cancer. This lecture will be delivered by one of our academic registrars, and will include a discussion of opportunities to find out more about translational research in Oncology.

Lecture 3 : Principles of cytotoxic and biological therapies. Here we will review the main groups of anti-cancer therapies, how they work, and how we use them in the clinic

Lecture 4 : Principles and practice of radiation therapy. This lecture reviews different forms of radiotherapy treatment, some of the physics and biology behind radiation therapy, and the principles of its current clinical use.

Lecture 5 : Visual Oncology. This is an overview of some of the visual signs and symptoms of cancer, and effects of therapy. It's a bit of a melting pot of different bits of information that will hopefully help you at some point in the future.

Lecture 6 : Acute oncology and managing the unwell cancer patient . Here we review oncological emergencies and other common situations encountered by our patients.

You will always be able to download copies of the lectures from www.camradiotherapy.org.uk/students, and I will ensure that updates to the lectures go on this site.

We will also gradually introduce teaching resources for all of the clinics that you attend. These will contain the core knowledge that you need in order to make the most of the experience of being in clinic. I would urge you as much as possible to follow through the discussion for one patient from start to finish when you go to clinic, and if there are subsequent treatment activities for that patient scheduled during your attachment, try to see these things too. Again all these resource sheets will be available from www.camradiotherapy.org.uk/students

I have created an electronic FAQ (frequently asked questions) noticeboard onto which you can post questions, which you can access via <http://padlet.com/rjena/students> . If you ask a question (about Oncology only please) on the Padlet you will find it gets *automagically* answered, so please do ask questions, and remember there is no such thing as a silly question. Good Q&A's will be kept on the Padlet for others to see, and then incorporated into the teaching materials, so your questions will help your colleagues.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns about the attachment, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself (rjena@nhs.net) or Jane Sales (jms203@medschl.cam.ac.uk).

Raj Jena. 24th September 2014