**Oncology Clinical trial internship**

**Objectives of the program:**

This 1-year program aims to develop clinical (experiential) expertise, teaching skills, and experience in clinical research in the field of oncology for aspiring young oncologists and increase their competitiveness in obtaining a residency position in medical oncology or radiation oncology.

Successful candidates should have a DVM degree or equivalent, have completed a rotating small animal medicine/surgery internship, or received equivalent experience. Candidates should be detail-oriented, organized, self-motivated, and a team player with exceptional client service skills.

The internship is designed to allow the house officer to:

* Consolidate knowledge in standard of care and outcomes for the oncological patient in the following ways:

i) Understand how to appropriately stage the patient diagnosed with cancer

ii) Become comfortable in tailoring a therapeutic plan for the patient diagnosed with cancer based on evidence-based medicine

iii) Understand expected outcome for each oncological disease seen in the medical oncology service

iv) Gain comfort and familiarity with appropriate and safe cytotoxic agent handling and administration

* Provide additional opportunities in case management (both outpatient and inpatient), to perform procedures (such as fine needle aspirates, incisional and Tru-cut biopsies and bone marrow aspirates), evaluate imaging and other diagnostics (such as radiographs, ultrasound, CT, and PET/CT) in the diagnosis and staging of cancer
* Continue to develop skills in effective communication with clients, students, hospital clinicians and staff.
* Provide opportunities to gain experience in educating clients, students, and VMTH colleagues on current clinical trials
* Gain experience in both small- and large-scale oncology prospective clinical trial implementation
* Develop experience in recruitment and screening patients and consenting owners for clinical trials
* Gain experience in clinical trial conception, design and implementation in oncology including regulatory and ethical oversight

**Mentorship:**

The oncology clinical trial Intern will have access to 5 board certified oncology faculty members and three board certified radiation therapists. In addition, the surgery service has three board certified surgical oncologists who can provide mentorship as indicated.

Oncology Faculty:

- Dr. Amandine Lejeune DACVIM Oncology

- Dr. Sami Al-Nadal DACVIM Oncology

- Dr. Robert Rebhun, PhD, DACVIM Oncology

- Dr. Katherine Skorupski, DACVIM Oncology

- Dr. Jennifer Willcox, DACVIM Oncology

The Oncology Clinical Trial Internship training program will utilize faculty members within the Oncology Service as advisors. The intern’s faculty advisor will be assigned by the Oncology Clinical Trial Internship Director at the beginning of the training program. The advisor will be chosen based on the intern’s letter of intent and direct communication with the intern regarding their clinical interests and long-term goals following acceptance into the training program.

The faculty advisor’s primary role is to serve as a mentor and advocate for the intern. They should assist the intern in setting and keeping to timetables for completion of the internship requirements. The mentor will be kept advised of the intern’s progress through receipt of rotation informal feedback and will also participate in the semiannual program progress evaluations. The mentor should also serve as a source of advice and guidance for career decisions (particularly for those interns interested in pursuing advanced training in a clinical specialty).

**Clinical and Teaching Responsibilities:**

The medical oncology internship will be a 1-year program rotating through predominantly the oncology clinical trial service (32-34 weeks) with 0-2 weeks spent in radiation oncology and 8 weeks of medical oncology, 1 week of orientation, 2-4 weeks of personal development (research of additional rotation) and 5 weeks of vacation.   
Starting date will be July 15th 2022, end date will be July 14th 2023, with some flexibility allowed based on the selected candidate and service needs.

While on clinic duties for the medical oncology service, the intern will share on call duties with the house officers (typically ~12 weeks of on call duties for medical oncology).

The intern must complete all clinical rotations, medical records, and referral letters to be eligible for the oncology specialty internship certificate.

Most of the clinical commitment is through receiving patients in the oncology clinical trial service. The receiving of this service functions typically without students. While on clinic duty, the intern will receive oncology clinical trial cases, provide staging recommendations, discuss standard of care & clinical trial therapeutic options and consent clients. The intern will be responsible for case management of these patients, following the study protocol, under the supervision of the medical oncology faculty.

Overall, the backbone of clinical, research and teaching mentorship available for the current medical oncology residents will serve as a training platform for the oncology clinical trial intern.

**Course of activities:**

The intern will be required to attend a variety of rounds, such as:

Monday 8 – 9, every week: Medical oncology board preparation Rounds

Monday 9-10, every week: Internal medicine physiology Rounds (optional)

Tuesday 8 – 9, weekly: Surgical/Medical/Radiation Oncology patients Rounds

Friday 9-10, weekly: Oncology Journal Club rounds

Wednesday 3-4PM, weekly: Oncology Clinical Trial patient enrollment Meeting

Friday 3-4PM, weekly: Oncology Clinical Trial Adverse event and data collection meetings

House officer as teacher seminars: during the orientation, 1hr topics on feedback, clinical teaching and how to develop and deliver a lecture will be provided.

**Process of evaluation:**    
Interns receive 2 formal evaluations (written and verbal) during the program, in addition to more frequent informal feedback. If indicated, more frequent evaluations may be performed. If the performance of an intern is considered inadequate, they will receive written letters of warning describing the concerns and what is required to rectify them and in what time frame. If these performance issues are severe, the intern will be informed that failure to improve could result in termination from the program.

**Please note:**Candidates should be US citizens, US permanent residents, or foreign nationals eligible for a J1 scholar visa (and at the time of application not be subject to holds, bars, or in-country rules) or Canadian/ Mexican citizens eligible for a TN visa. We will NOT pursue other visa categories. The offer of a residency may be withdrawn if written evidence of a visa is not provided by June 1, 2022.   
https://siss.ucdavis.edu/scholars\_depts/j\_visa/index.html

**Certification:**   
**A certificate of successful completion will be awarded at the end of the internship.**

**How to apply:**For the year 2022, applicant should apply by contacting directly Dr. Amandine Lejeune ([atlejeune@ucdavis.edu).](mailto:atlejeune@ucdavis.edu).)

Qualified applicants should submit the following materials:

1. **A Cover Letter** outlining the applicant's interests and professional goals in oncology, clinical trials
2. A **current Curriculum Vitae** (please limit to 4 pages).
3. **Three letters of recommendation** from individuals familiar with the applicant's academic and/or clinical performance (email PDF’s directly to [atlejeune@ucdavis.edu)](mailto:atlejeune@ucdavis.edu))

**Inquiries** can be directed to the following email address using the subject UCD oncology clinical trial internship inquiry: [atlejeune@ucdavis.edu](mailto:atlejeune@ucdavis.edu)

**Applications will be reviewed the week of March 7th, 2022.**