

MEDICAL TRUST HOSPITAL

Excellence in health care

PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

Admissions Open | January 2027 Intake

MEDICAL TRUST HOSPITAL

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The Psycho-Oncology Fellowship is a **one-year, full-time advanced clinical training programme** designed to prepare mental health professionals to provide comprehensive psychosocial care to individuals and families affected by cancer.

Programme Objectives

Build clinical expertise in psycho-oncology.
Develop skills in delivering evidence-based psychosocial care.
Promote clinical research and multidisciplinary teamwork.

Programme Details

Programme Type: Institutional Fellowship
Course Director: Ms. Raja Venkateswari S.
Consultant Psycho-Oncologist
Department of Medical Oncology
Duration: 12 Months (Full-time)
Course Fee: ₹50,000
Monthly Stipend: ₹10,000
Available Seats: Only ONE seat for the January 2027 intake.

Eligibility Criteria

M.A./M.Sc. Psychology (Clinical, Counselling, Health or Applied Psychology)
M.Sc. Psycho-Oncology
Minimum 60% marks in a regular postgraduate programme

Important Dates

Application Period: 16 November 2026 to 4 December 2026
Interview Period: 14 December 2026 to 23 December 2026
Course Commencement: January 2027

Application and Selection Process

Interested and eligible candidates are invited to submit their **updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)** to: **oncology@medicaltrusthospital.in**

Applications will be screened based on the submitted CVs. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a **direct, in-person interview.**

Interviews will be scheduled between **14 and 23 December 2026.** The confirmed interview date, time and other relevant instructions will be communicated to shortlisted candidates through email.

The selected candidate will commence the fellowship in January 2027.

Additional Information

Only ONE fellowship seat is available for this intake.

Programme Duration: 12 Months (Full-time Fellowship)
Admissions twice annually (January & July)

Programme Overview

The Fellowship in Psycho-Oncology is a one-year full-time advanced clinical training programme designed to prepare mental health professionals to provide comprehensive psychosocial care for individuals and families affected by cancer. The programme integrates evidence-based psychological practice with multidisciplinary oncology care, enabling fellows to develop competencies in assessment, psychotherapy, communication, supportive care, research and leadership. Through structured academic teaching, supervised clinical practice and research, fellows gain the knowledge and skills required to function independently as psycho-oncology specialists.

Introduction to Psycho-Oncology

Psycho-oncology is a specialised field that addresses the psychological, behavioural, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of cancer. Modern cancer care recognises that optimal outcomes depend not only on effective medical treatment but also on comprehensive psychosocial support. Psycho-oncologists assist patients and caregivers from diagnosis through treatment, survivorship, recurrence, palliative care and bereavement. They assess distress, anxiety, depression, cognitive concerns, illness perceptions, coping, treatment adherence and caregiver burden while delivering evidence-based interventions that improve quality of life and patient-centred care.

Why Pursue this Fellowship?

India has a growing population of people living with cancer, yet specialised psycho-oncology services remain limited. This fellowship bridges that gap by offering intensive clinical exposure within a comprehensive cancer programme.

The Fellowship in Psycho-Oncology at Medical Trust Hospital is designed to prepare highly skilled mental health professionals to provide comprehensive psychosocial care for individuals living with cancer. Fellows receive structured academic teaching, intensive supervised clinical training, research exposure and multidisciplinary experience across medical oncology, hematology, surgical oncology, radiation oncology, palliative care and geriatric oncology.

How the Fellowship Benefits Fellows

Upon successful completion, fellows will be able to independently conduct psychosocial assessments, deliver evidence-based psychotherapies, participate in multidisciplinary tumour boards, manage complex psychosocial issues in adults, children and older adults with cancer, provide caregiver support, undertake research, present scientific work and contribute to the development of psycho-oncology services. The programme also strengthens leadership, teaching and communication skills.

Vision

To develop compassionate, competent and research-oriented psycho-oncology professionals capable of delivering evidence-based psychosocial care across the entire cancer continuum while advancing education, research and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Programme Objectives:

1. Conduct comprehensive psychosocial assessments throughout the cancer journey.
2. Provide evidence-based psychological interventions.
3. Integrate psycho-oncology into multidisciplinary oncology care.
4. Deliver specialised geriatric psycho-oncology services.
5. Provide psychosocial care in palliative and end-of-life settings.
6. Manage psychosocial issues in Hematology, BMT and CAR-T therapy.
7. Conduct research and quality improvement.
8. Train healthcare professionals and develop leadership skills.

PART I – THEORETICAL LEARNING

(Approximately 120 Hours)

The academic component provides a strong foundation in psycho-oncology through structured classroom teaching and interactive learning. Teaching methods include interactive lectures, seminars, case-based discussions, multidisciplinary tumour board meetings, journal clubs, workshops, guest lectures and guided self-directed learning. The curriculum is organised into four academic papers.

Paper I – Foundations of Psycho-Oncology

This paper introduces the principles of psycho-oncology and provides the theoretical foundation for psychosocial cancer care.

Unit 1: Introduction to Psycho-Oncology
History and evolution of psycho-oncology, cancer epidemiology, psychosocial impact of cancer, cancer trajectory and multidisciplinary cancer care.

Unit 2: Psychological Assessment in Oncology
Clinical interviewing, Mental Status Examination, distress screening, assessment of anxiety, depression, quality of life, cognition, functional status, caregiver burden and illness perception.
Administration and interpretation of validated psycho-oncology assessment tools and outcome measures.

Unit 3: Evidence-Based Psychological Interventions
Supportive psychotherapy, Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Meaning-Centred Therapy, Dignity Therapy, Problem-Solving Therapy, Behavioural Activation, Mindfulness, Relaxation Training, Guided Imagery, Sleep Interventions, Psychoeducation and Family Interventions.

Unit 4: Cancer Across the Lifespan
Paediatric Oncology, Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology, Adult Oncology and Geriatric Oncology.
Unit 5: Communication Skills and Professional Ethics
Breaking bad news, communication across the disease trajectory, shared decision-making, family communication, cultural competence, ethical issues, sexuality, survivorship and professional boundaries.

Paper II – Specialised Psycho-Oncology

This paper focuses on psychosocial care across various oncology specialties.

Medical Oncology
Psychological aspects of chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, treatment adherence, symptom burden and survivorship.

Hematology, Bone Marrow Transplantation and CAR-T Therapy
Psychological care in leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, stem cell transplantation, CAR-T therapy, isolation, caregiver distress and long-term survivorship.

Surgical Oncology
Pre-operative counselling, post-operative rehabilitation, body image concerns, ostomy counselling and functional adjustment.

Radiation Oncology
Psychological preparation, treatment-related anxiety, fatigue management, adherence and survivorship.

Palliative Care
Psychological symptom management, existential distress, end-of-life communication, advance care planning, bereavement and caregiver support.

Paper III – Geriatric Psycho-Oncology

This paper provides specialised training in the psychosocial care of older adults with cancer.
Topics include:

- Principles of Geriatric Oncology
- Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment
- Frailty and Functional Assessment
- Polypharmacy
- Cognition, Delirium and Dementia
- Decision-Making Capacity
- Caregiver Burden
- Healthy Ageing
- Cancer Survivorship in Older Adults

Paper IV – Research Methodology and Evidence-Based Practice

The research component prepares fellows to become clinician-researchers.
Topics include:

- Research Methodology

Epidemiology
Study Design
Quantitative and Qualitative Research
Mixed Methods Research
Biostatistics
Critical Appraisal
Systematic Reviews
Scientific Writing
Grant Writing
Research Ethics

PART II – CLINICAL TRAINING

(10 Months of Supervised Clinical Rotations)
Clinical training forms the core of the fellowship. Fellows will work under direct supervision of the multidisciplinary oncology team while progressively developing independent clinical competencies.

Medical Oncology and Hematology (4 Months)
Training includes outpatient and inpatient oncology services, chemotherapy day-care, hematology services, bone marrow transplantation, CAR-T therapy, distress screening, psychotherapy, caregiver support, multidisciplinary tumour boards and psychosocial rehabilitation.

Surgical Oncology (2 Months)
Exposure includes pre-operative counselling, post-operative psychological rehabilitation, body image concerns, ostomy counselling, rehabilitation and family counselling.

Radiation Oncology (2 Months)
Training focuses on psychological preparation, anxiety management, adherence, radiation-related distress, fatigue management and survivorship care.

Palliative Care (2 Months)
Training includes symptom management, psychological support in advanced illness, existential distress, end-of-life counselling, caregiver support, bereavement and hospice care.

Throughout the fellowship, fellows will also receive longitudinal exposure to:
Psycho-Oncology Outpatient and Inpatient Services
Multidisciplinary Tumour Boards
Survivorship Clinics
Ethics Meetings
Patient Support Groups
Community Outreach Programmes
Geriatric Oncology Clinics

PART III – RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Each fellow shall undertake one original research project under faculty supervision.
The research component includes protocol development, Institutional Ethics Committee approval, data collection, statistical analysis, dissertation writing, scientific presentation at a conference and preparation of a publication-ready manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.
Fellows will also participate in journal clubs, critical appraisal sessions, and quality improvement initiatives to strengthen evidence-based clinical practice.

PART IV – ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Assessment is competency-based and continuous throughout the fellowship.
The final assessment comprises:
Theory Examination
Four written theory papers covering all academic components.

Clinical Examination
Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

Long Case Examination
Short Case Examination
Viva Voce

Continuous Internal Assessment includes:

Clinical competency
Supervisor evaluations
Case presentations
Journal club presentations
Professional behaviour
Attendance
Research progress
Portfolio and logbook assessment

Clinical Logbook Requirements

Each fellow is required to maintain a structured logbook documenting all supervised clinical and academic activities completed during the fellowship.

Minimum requirements include:

150 Comprehensive Psycho-Oncology Case Evaluations (including psychosocial assessment, Mental Status Examination, clinical formulation, management plan and documentation)
75 Individual Psychotherapy Sessions
30 Caregiver Counselling Sessions
30 Family Counselling Sessions
10 Multidisciplinary Team Case Presentations
15 Detailed Case Reports
10 Journal Club Presentations
Participation in 2 Community Outreach Programmes
1 Original Research Dissertation
1 Publication-Ready Manuscript

Expert Faculty

The fellowship is delivered by an experienced multidisciplinary faculty with expertise in psycho-oncology, medical oncology, hematology, radiation oncology and palliative care.

Faculty	Designation
Dr. Varun Rajan	Senior Consultant Medical Oncologist & Hemato-Oncologist, Head of the Department of Medical Oncology
Dr. Rahul Ravind	Consultant Medical Oncologist & Radiation Oncologist
Ms. Raja Venkateswari	Consultant Psycho-Oncologist & Program Director- Psycho Oncology Fellowship
Dr.Syam Vikram	Senior Consultant - Surgical Oncology & Robotic Surgeon
Dr.Minu Luckose	Consultant - Clinical Hematolgy, Hemato Oncology, Stem cell Transplantation & Cellular Therapy

Please share your CV to :oncology@medicaltrusthospital.in

For Inquiries and assistance : 7358543644

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