

Pancreas Cancer Research Fellowship Curriculum

Digestive Disease Institute



**PANCREATIC CANCER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
AT VIRGINIA MASON**



Introduction & Background

Established in 1920, Virginia Mason is an award-winning, non-profit organization offering a network of primary and specialty care clinics throughout the Puget Sound region and a 336-bed hospital in Seattle. The Digestive Disease Institute at Virginia Mason was established to bring our accomplished group of digestive disease specialists and investigators together in a highly collaborative environment.

Our active pancreas cancer program is internationally renowned and sees approximately 250 patients every year. The Digestive Disease Institute at Virginia Mason has created the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fellowship in keeping with the Institute's mission to optimize patient care through innovations in research, education, and a multidisciplinary approach to treatment of digestive and liver diseases.

Vincent J. Picozzi, Jr., MD, Pancreatic Cancer Research Fellowship Program Director, works closely with the Digestive Disease Institute Executive Director Richard Kozarek, MD, to ensure a valuable educational experience. Pancreatic cancer research fellows work with business analysts and multidisciplinary providers as well as program faculty.

Program Faculty

Supervision and mentoring will be provided by Vincent Picozzi, Jr., MD, Fellowship Director, and other faculty (listed below) depending upon specific areas of engagement. These faculty members are part of the Digestive Disease Institute and include oncologists, surgeons, gastroenterologists, pathologists and radiologists with expertise in the treatment and research of digestive disease.

Vincent J. Picozzi, Jr., MD, Pancreatic Cancer Research Fellowship Program Director

Richard Kozarek, MD, Executive Director, Digestive Disease Institute

Scott Helton, MD, Director, Liver, Pancreas & Biliary Surgical Center of Excellence

Bruce Lin, MD, GI Oncologist

Russell Dorer, MD, PhD, GI Pathologist

Hejin Hahn, MD, GI Pathologist

David Coy, MD, PhD GI Radiologist

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Duration of Fellowship

The duration of training is one year. This duration of time can be modified in special circumstances to two years.

Number of Positions

One.

Prerequisites for Training

Trainees for the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fellowship must have an MD degree and have completed at least three years of residency. Non-native speakers of English must take and submit TOEFL scores. We cannot consider applicants with J1 visa status. Applications from international applicants eligible for an H1-B visa will be considered.

Salary

The Pancreatic Cancer Research Fellow will receive a competitive salary and benefits at the regionally-determined PGY-4 level or higher, depending on level of training. Additionally, the Fellow is entitled to a \$2,000 conference stipend + \$1,000 for statistical coursework fees.

Expected Products

1. At least three publications on Virginia Mason research/clinical results in peer-reviewed journals per year, co-authored with mentoring supervisor.
2. Presentations of research at a minimum of one national or international meeting.

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Program Goal

The goal of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fellowship program is to provide a unique and challenging experience for the fellow to:

1. Perform meaningful, supervised research and engage in scholarly activities. The fellow will not participate in clinical patient care.
2. Examine records from a population of pancreas cancer patients in the context of a high-volume inpatient consultative service, outpatient clinic and outpatient treatment service.
3. Learn a multidisciplinary team approach to medical research. Fellows are expected to shadow and observe the work of major providers in six main areas - medical and radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology, gastroenterology, surgery, and pathology - and serve as valued and important contributors to the team.
4. Study, analyze and publish on short and long term survival, quality of life issues, end of life care, and possible long term complications related to Virginia Mason Protocols for pancreas cancer patients, including the development of secondary malignancies.

Objectives

By the end of the fellowship year, the fellow will be able to:

Medical Knowledge

- Demonstrate understanding and application of medical knowledge in the assessment of pancreas cancer clinical data.
- Apply knowledge of medical literature to evaluation of clinical data and profiles of patients with pancreatic cancer.
- Use medical knowledge and analytical thinking to develop manuscripts that will contribute significantly to the literature.

Research Skills

- Design and execute scientific research projects.
- Apply knowledge of Human Subjects Research ethics and institutional review board requirements to submission of projects for approval.
- Apply various statistical methods to analysis of clinical data.
- Use Access or other database skills to report from and analyze data.

Interpersonal Skills, Communication Skills and Professionalism

- Complete assigned tasks, including documentation, reliably and in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate integrity, respect for others, honesty and compassion.
- Set a tone of respect and collegiality for individuals and the team.

Expected Activity

1. Design and complete at least three research projects in pancreas cancer. If a project cannot be finished before the Fellow graduates, the project will be continued by the incoming Fellow, who then becomes a co-author.
 - a. **Identify a topic/project** – meet with a member of the faculty to identify/confirm potential topic, data needed or available, and knowledge necessary to investigate further.
 - b. **Formulate a hypothesis** – using the knowledge you have gained, formulate a hypothesis about a cause or effect of the phenomenon, or the relationship of the phenomenon to some other phenomenon.
 - c. **Test the hypothesis** – plan and carry out tests of the hypothesis, including gathering and sorting data as needed.
 - d. **Analyze the data** – use proper mathematical analysis to see if the results of the experiment support or refute the hypothesis.
 - e. **Draft a manuscript** – use AMA formatting to draft a publishable academic research article; provide initial and subsequently improved drafts to faculty member to receive input for improvement; identify appropriate peer-reviewed journals for submission
 - f. **Submit manuscript** - follow publisher guidelines for submitting manuscript, make changes in response to reviewer feedback, and re-submit in a timely manner
2. Interact daily with supervisor to identify next steps on research plan(s), collaborate on analysis and submission, enhance research methodology, perform statistical review, and build on database creation and analysis skills.
3. Work with GI oncologists, DDI business analysts, CCRU and multidisciplinary providers to determine appropriate inclusion/exclusion criteria and incorporate validated Quality of Life measures for use in building robust databases.
4. Participate actively in the regularly scheduled GI Cancer, GI Pathology and GI Radiology conferences (tumor boards) and Journal Club, as follows.

GI Cancer Conference - Every Tues 5-6pm, Rad-Onc Conference Room

Biweekly cancer conference focuses on gastrointestinal cancers. Faculty and fellows from gastroenterology, hepatology, surgery, pathology, interventional radiology and oncology meet weekly to present, review and discuss the medical conditions and treatment options of individual patients with gastrointestinal and pancreaticobiliary cancers. Consensus recommendations for further evaluation and treatment for each patient are documented and communicated to patients and treating physicians.

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GI Pathology Conference - 4th Thurs of month 7:30-8:30am, Pathology Conference Room Meet monthly with pathologists, radiologists, and gastroenterologists to review biopsy specimens. Biopsies have been performed by the Radiology Department, referral hospitals and/or referral physicians. The number of biopsies reviewed will vary. For any patient who has an autopsy, the results will be discussed during the conference as well. All explants will be reviewed during pathology conference.

GI Radiology Conference - 3rd Wed of month 7:30-8:30am, Correa B Conference Room Faculty, gastroenterologists, surgeons, general radiologists, interventional radiologists and fellows meet monthly to review computed tomography, magnetic resonance, angiograms and ultrasonography on selected patients to be discussed. Indications, contra-indications, limitations, and complications of all radiologic procedures pertinent to the subspecialty of pancreatic cancer are also discussed.

Journal Club – 1st, 2nd, 3rd Thurs of month, 7:30-8:30 am, Rad/Onc Conference Room Providers meet weekly to discuss the latest news from literature published for physicians and health care providers.

Conference Schedule:

Name	Conference Director	Occurrence	Location
Grand Rounds	Nitsche	Friday, 7:30-8:30 am	Volney-Richmond Auditorium
AHPBA Grand Rounds	Alseidi	1st Wednesday, every month, 2:00 pm	Rad/Onc Conference Room
Bariatric Care Conference	Hunter	Last Monday, every month, 7:00am; 3rd Monday for November & December 2018	Rad/Onc Conference Room Bainbridge Island (CR WIN VIDEO) Federal Way Auditorium-- (CR SO AUDITORIUM)
GI Journal Club	Krishnamoorthi	1st, 2nd, 3rd Thursday, every month, 7:30am	Buck 5 Radiology Conference Room
GI / Pathology	Dorer	Regularly 4th Thursday, every month, 7:30am	Pathology Conference Room
GI / Radiology	Coy	3rd Wednesday, every month, 7:30am	Correa B
GI M&M	Ross	1st Wednesday, every month, 7:30am	Correa B
GI Cancer Conference	Rocha (Pancreas-Biliary) B. Lin, Song (Luminal GI)	Every Tuesday, 5:00pm	Rad/Onc Conference Room
Liver Cancer Conference	Burman and Helton	Every Thursday, 7:30am	Pathology Conference Room, Buck 6 for 1st, 2nd, and 3 rd Thursdays; 4th Thursday TBD

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In the **first quarter**, the fellow will:

1. Complete CITI GPC/Ethics Training and Statistics course.
2. Attend the Wilske Research Symposium in September.
3. Develop studies and submit IRBs.
4. Complete data collection and present to Fellowship Director.

In the **second quarter**, the fellow will:

1. Develop additional studies and submit IRBs.
2. Present research findings at DDI Director's Meeting in December.
3. Submit abstracts to Digestive Disease Week by December.
4. Finalize analysis; write and distribute manuscripts.

In the **third quarter**, the fellow will:

1. Finalize approval of manuscripts.
2. Finalize analysis; write and distribute new manuscripts.
3. Submit 3+ manuscripts for publication.
4. Present at University of Washington Frontiers in GI in March/April.

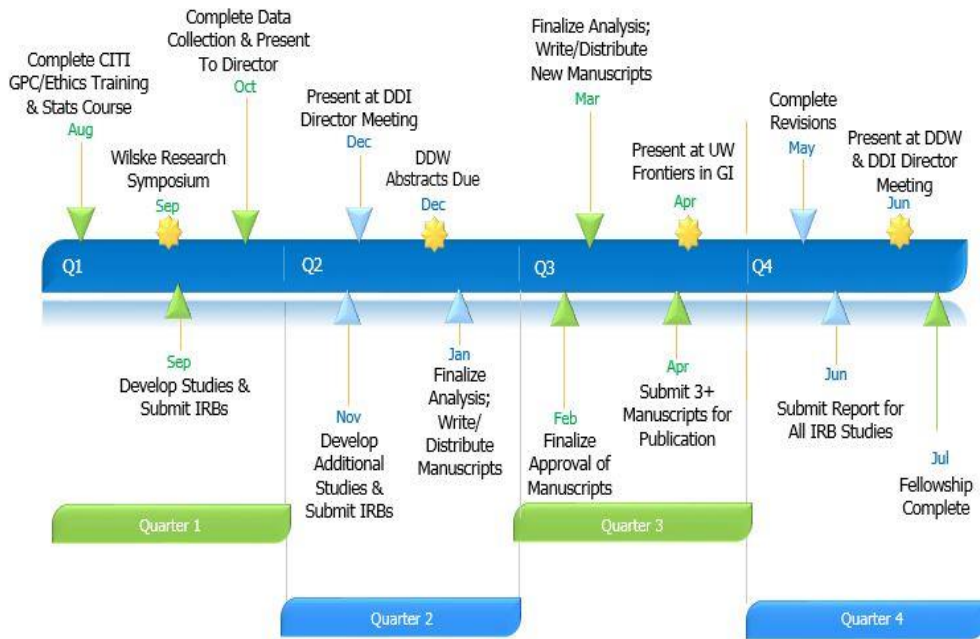
In the **fourth quarter**, the fellow will:

1. Complete all revisions on studies and manuscripts and resubmit.
2. Submit report for all IRB approve studies.
3. Present research findings at Digestive Disease Week and DDI Director's Meeting in May/June.

All research data must be stored on a secured, shared drive. No PHI may be placed on a flash drive or moved from the secured, shared drive in any manner.

If the fellow is unable to complete a manuscript prior to completion of appointment as a Virginia Mason Fellow, authorship may change. Access to Virginia Mason's electronic medical record, including for the purpose of research, concludes when the fellowship appointment ends.

Research Fellowship Research Timeline



Digestive Disease Institute



Evaluation and Feedback

The fellow will meet with the Program Director monthly and will receive regular verbal and written evaluations. The fellow will be expected to provide confidential assessment and feedback about the program and faculty. DDI faculty, research support staff, DDI business analysts, and other staff who interact with the fellow may also be asked periodically to evaluate the Fellow. Assessment will focus on three key areas above.