

# Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Research Fellowship in Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care

We are pleased to announce the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Research Fellowship in Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care. This fellowship is directed toward physicians, psychologists, doctorally-prepared nurses, social workers, and other clinicians who wish to prepare themselves for an academic research career in palliative care or psychosocial oncology. The goal of this fellowship is to train early investigators prepared to move these fields forward through the conduct of highest quality research.

**Duration: 2 years**

## The Fellowship Experience:

- Completion of an original research project under the guidance of a Harvard Medical School Faculty Mentor(s), at least one of whom is affiliated with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.
  - Applicants should have an idea of their research focus, but identification of a specific project or mentor prior to starting is not necessary.
  - After identifying a mentorship team, fellows will choose their research project and refine a study protocol in their initial months.
- Weekly research fellow seminar series that includes works-in-progress sessions, as well as a two-year curriculum designed to form the basis for a successful research career, including sessions on methodology and professional development skills.
- Frequent opportunities to present research ideas and challenges in small group settings and to receive feedback.
- Formal coursework tailored to the fellow's needs and background. Many fellows participate in the Program in Clinical Effectiveness delivered through the Harvard School of Public Health as well as Harvard Catalyst courses.
- Participation in conferences and symposia hosted by the Harvard Medical School affiliated institutions.

## The Research Project:

- Each fellow will identify one long-term research project that will span the length of the fellowship. This research project can be an original question proposed by the fellow or the fellow may partner with a mentor to own a piece of an existing study.
- Most fellows will work on several projects throughout their fellowship in addition to their core research project
- Fellows are expected to publish their findings in an academic journal; most fellows will have multiple publications over the two years

## Additional Educational Opportunities:

- Tuition dollars available to pursue relevant educational coursework
- Summer Program in Clinical Effectiveness (<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/clinical-effectiveness/>)
  - Intensive 15 credit summer program providing clinical investigators with fundamental training in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Harvard Catalyst (<https://catalyst.harvard.edu/>)
- Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/>)

**Seminars and Meetings:** Fellows are encouraged to attend a variety of meetings taking place across various departments at Dana-Farber, as well as at other local academic teaching hospitals, and organizations.

### ***Research Fellow Seminar – Weekly (required):***

- Topics Include:
  - Methodology: (e.g., Mixed Methods, Intervention Development, Qualitative analysis, etc)
  - Professional Development: (e.g., Leadership, Mentoring, Time Management, Research Financial Management, Promoting one's work, etc.)
  - Works-in-progress
  - Journal Club
  - Book club

**Weekly Meetings:**

- POPC Writing Seminar (weekly during the summer, monthly throughout the year) - required
- Center for Outcomes and Policy Research Seminar
- Palliative Care Grand Rounds
- Pediatric Psychosocial Grand Rounds

**Bi-Weekly Meetings:**

- POPC Research Seminar (Works-in-progress seminar open to investigators within POPC to share early work, conceptual models, specific aims, etc.; Fellows present at seminar once per year)
- Ariadne Labs Innovation Meetings

**Monthly Meetings:**

- Psychosocial Oncology Grand Rounds
- Harvard Medical School Center for Palliative Care Clinical Case Seminar
- Pediatric PACT Rounds

**The Environment:** The Dana-Farber Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care consists of over 50 faculty (and >125 clinical and administrative staff) across four academic divisions: Adult Palliative Care, Pediatric Palliative Care, Adult Psychosocial Oncology, and Pediatric Psychosocial Oncology. The work of these divisions spans the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Boston Children's Hospital. The Department shares a research relationship with Massachusetts General Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center through the Dana-Farber Harvard Cancer Center and is closely affiliated with the Harvard Medical School Center for Palliative Care, which serves as a national home for palliative care education. The nearby proximity of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy, and innovative centers such as Ariadne Labs (each housing investigators with related interests) offer an unparalleled and extraordinarily rich research environment.

**Eligibility:** Candidates must demonstrate a serious interest in pursuing research in palliative care or psychosocial oncology. Appropriate trainees include:

- Physicians completing clinical fellowships in Palliative Medicine or Psychosocial Oncology, as well as individuals trained in fields such as Psychiatry, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, Geriatrics, or other relevant specialties provided they are focused on palliative care or psychosocial oncology research.
- Clinical Psychologists completing post-doctoral clinical training in psychosocial oncology.
- Post-doctoral PhDs from the fields of Nursing, Social Work, and other clinical disciplines, with a focus on palliative care or psychosocial oncology.

Applicants agree to undertake a minimum of two years of research training from the time of appointment. Appropriately credentialed clinicians may dedicate up to 20% of their effort to clinical work.

**Compensation and Benefits:** Fellows will be appointed and paid at the appropriate PGY Fellow year and receive health insurance and other benefits comparable to clinical fellows. Fellows will receive a Harvard Medical School appointment. Malpractice insurance is provided for fellows who engage in clinical effort.

**Application process:**

Applicants should submit a package consisting of:

- 2-page personal statement describing the applicant's background, career goals, and research interests
- Applicant's CV
- Reference letter from the applicant's prior residency, fellowship, or doctoral director
- Two additional reference letters that address the candidate's research potential

**Selection criteria:** The goal of this program is to train researchers in palliative care and psychosocial oncology. We will use rigorous selection criteria (e.g., prior research experience, publications, references from research mentors) to identify candidates likely to pursue careers as successful independent investigators. Selected applicants will be invited for interviews (over Zoom) in a rolling admission process that begins August, 2022 and will continue through early Spring, 2023. We strongly encourage early applications as positions are very limited and may fill early.

We will begin accepting applications July 1, 2022

Fellowship Start: July 5, 2023

Interested applicants should submit their application to [POPCResearchFellowship@partners.org](mailto:POPCResearchFellowship@partners.org)

For more details and information about the Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care Research Fellowship, please visit our website at [www.dana-farber.org/fellowships](http://www.dana-farber.org/fellowships) or contact us by email at the address above.

We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions, or any other characteristic protected by law.