



# RADIATION ONCOLOGY

## Los Angeles Medical Center

Welcome to the Radiation Oncology Residency Program at the Kaiser Permanente Cancer Center at Los Angeles Medical Center! We offer a unique training experience within a fully integrated healthcare system and managed care organization!

### History

The Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center was opened in 1963. The Radiation Oncology Department is the largest in California and one of the largest in the nation. Our residency program was founded in 1986 under the leadership of the late Dr. A. Robert Kagan as Chief of Service and Dr. Aroor Rao as Program Director. The program initially began with a total of three residents and has since increased to a total of eight residents (two per year). Over the course of thirty plus years, the department has grown rapidly in size from a small group of founding physicians in one location to 30 full-time clinical faculty across four locations.

### Mission

Our core missions are: 1) to train competent and compassionate radiation oncologists who will deliver high-quality, evidence-based care within a variety of practice settings and 2) to help our graduating residents secure ideal job placements in competitive markets.

### Clinical Experience

The 48-month curriculum is designed by intention to achieve the ACGME Core Competencies of 1) professionalism, 2) patient care and procedural skills, 3) medical knowledge, 4) practice-based learning and improvement, 5) interpersonal and communication skills, and 6) systems-based practice. These four years include progressively increasing responsibility in all phases of clinical oncology.

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During residency, a minimum of 36 months will be spent in core clinical training. All clinical rotations are completed at the Kaiser Permanente Cancer Center at Los Angeles Medical Center including pediatrics. Our clinical curriculum is organized on a “mini-block” system (1-2 months) and integrated by design around each of the multi-disciplinary clinics that we host and lead on a weekly basis. These clinics include head and neck, central nervous system, gynecologic, genitourinary, and anorectal malignancies. Residents function as a critical part of the multidisciplinary care team working alongside our surgical specialists and become proficient in procedures including nasopharyngoscopy and rigid proctoscopy. In addition, residents attend multidisciplinary conferences for pediatric, thoracic, soft tissue, hepatobiliary, and hematologic malignancies.

Our senior residents (PGY-4, PGY-5) participate in a Senior Resident Clinic, reflective of our philosophy of fostering a graded transition towards independent practice. Clinical faculty members serve as mentors and are assigned to oversee treatment decision-making, planning, and implementation. The Senior Resident Clinic has been consistently rated by current residents and alumni as one of the biggest strengths of our program. An additional 12 months are provided for research and clinical electives at the discretion of the resident and the approval of the program directorship.

### Didactics

Formal didactics are provided in a multitude of formats including but not limited to bimonthly faculty lectures, annual mock oral examinations and our visiting professor A. Robert Kagan Memorial Lecture Series. On a weekly basis, residents participate in case conferences, Tuesday evening didactics, chart rounds, faculty-led “chalk-talks,” and resident-led journal club.



Additionally, each resident will give an annual department talk on a relevant clinical topic of their choice.

Residents will also receive formal instruction in radiation physics and radiation biology in a Friday lecture series to establish foundational understanding of our field and in preparation for written board examinations.

### Technology

Our facilities house state-of-the-art technologies to foster a comprehensive training using a wide range of treatment modalities for all clinical scenarios. There are seven linear accelerators at our Los Angeles facility including three Varian TrueBeams and one Varian Halcyon. We perform a high-volume of LINAC-based stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) treatments on the Varian TrueBeamSTX system with ExacTrac Dynamic for surface tracking. In 2022, we opened our state-of-the-art HDR brachytherapy suite with Varian HDR Bravos afterloader for interstitial and intracavitary implants with a dedicated Siemens CT scanner and C-arm imaging. We also perform LDR brachytherapy implants at our main hospital.

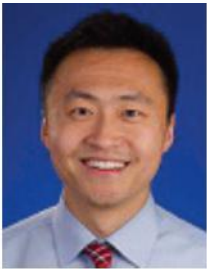
Our satellite facilities in Anaheim, Ontario, and Bellflower host additional linear accelerators with SRS, SBRT, and VMAT capabilities as well as a Xovert electronic brachytherapy system. We have an on-site biochemistry laboratory with fully equipped tissue culture facilities and six centrifuges to support all types of molecular biology research including Western blotting, real-time PCR, and epigenetic analysis.

## Clinical and Basic Science Research

Our curriculum offers ample and dedicated time to participate in research and scholarly activities. Residents have access to an extensive tumor registry and on-site biochemistry laboratory. Residents may focus on clinical, radiation physics, or radiation biology research under the guidance of a mentor. It is required that this effort culminates in the completion of at least one investigative project followed by submission and/or presentation in a peer-reviewed journals or scientific meeting based on ACGME requirements. Residents are allowed to conduct research at home as part of our work-life balance program.

Thank you for your interest in our program. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions or want to request additional information!

Sincerely,



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