2019-2020

Medical Physics Residency Program

Our mission:
To serve. To heal.
To educate.

Cooper University Health Care
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
I am delighted to be writing to you about our new Medical Physics Residency Program at MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper.

Medical physicists, before the advent of residency programs, typically entered the workforce directly from graduate school. I was incredibly fortunate that my first job was at William Beaumont Hospital in Michigan, where I had the privilege of working with many great medical physicists, including nine AAPM fellows, and receiving broad-based training on cutting-edge technology in a dynamic and stimulating environment.

I was lucky. Many “first jobs” in medical physics weren’t so conducive to professional development. Too often, new graduates could be asked to work in isolation as the sole physicist at a clinic, with little mentoring, feedback, or support. They may be asked to serve only a narrow clinical function, such as LINAC QA and chart checks, with little exposure to the full range of technology and duties a medical physicist could have familiarity with.

I see residency as, in effect, an effort to guarantee new physicists a favorable “first job” environment. A residency should guarantee close access to collegial, experienced physicists for feedback and expertise. A residency should guarantee a broad range of duties: not just QA and chart checks, but brachytherapy, treatment planning, commissioning, and so on. A residency should guarantee a well- and broadly-equipped department with up-to-date technology.

Residency programs are responsible for upholding CAMPEP educational standards, but I don’t see residency as an extension of school. Before the advent of residency programs, you would already be a junior physicist with clinical responsibilities. In that spirit, I see residents as physicists, not students, and my expectation is that graduates will be experienced medical physicists, not someone just ready for their first job. In the end, a residency has to take you farther than two years of being traditionally “on-the-job.”

Before coming to MD Anderson at Cooper, I was a residency director and also built a certificate program from the ground up. I’ve thought a lot about medical physics training, and what I have written above is what I want for our program. I think we have a great staff for this, engaged and enthusiastic about their work. In a recent employee engagement survey, our physicists and dosimetrists scored in the 99th percentile nationally, reflecting the dedication with which they approach their work and what they will bring to residency training. Being part of the MD Anderson Cancer Network has given us many resources and opportunities that I am excited to bring to the program.

To all of you reading and thinking of applying, welcome!

Leonard Kim, MS, AMusD, DABR
Program Director, Medical Physics Residency
Through our partnership with MD Anderson Cancer Center, the No. 1 cancer center in the nation as ranked by U.S. News & World Report, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper has taken cancer care in our region to a whole new level.

In 2013, Cooper University Health Care partnered with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston Texas – the nation’s leading cancer hospital – to create MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. Through this partnership, MD Anderson Cooper physicians and staff adhere to the philosophy, processes, and guidelines set by MD Anderson in Houston, Texas, and patients receive the same proven treatment plans provided at MD Anderson.

The Medical Physics Residency is modeled after MD Anderson’s program and has four main components:

1. Rotations by disease site (e.g., breast, thoracic, head and neck, etc.) in which residents follow patients through the entire radiation therapy process.
2. Didactics, including journal club and weekly topical readings, discussion, and presentations.
3. Machine-based training, in which residents will receive long-term, in-depth experience with the whole range of equipment in our department.
4. Projects, in which residents will be continually involved in opportunities to improve the clinic and expand its capabilities.

The Department of Radiation Oncology operates at facilities in Camden, Voorhees, and Mount Laurel. Residents work at all three locations. There are seven medical physicists on staff. The department is equipped with both Elekta and Varian TrueBeam linear accelerators with cone-beam and surface imaging and active HDR brachytherapy, Gamma Knife, and CyberKnife programs.

The MD Anderson at Cooper Medical Physics Residency is a two-year program with a July 1 start date. The program will apply for CAMPEP accreditation in 2018. We plan to admit one new resident each year.
How to Apply

Applicants for the Medical Physics Residency Program at Cooper University Health Care must:

- Satisfy CAMPEP didactic requirements: http://www.campep.org/ProspectiveApplicants.asp
- Register for the match: https://natmatch.com/medphys/
- Submit application via the AAPM Medical Physics Residency Application Program (MP-RAP): https://www.aapm.org/MPRAP/

The program director and additional faculty members will review applicant files. Invitation for interview will be based upon their recommendations. Onsite interviews will take place in late February through early March.

Application deadline is January 15.

Contact Information

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It is extraordinary to have such a high concentration of leadership at one institution, but then, Cooper is an extraordinary health care system.

Cooper University Hospital is the center of a growing Camden health sciences campus that includes the hospital, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, Sheridan Pavilion at Three Cooper Plaza medical offices, the internationally acclaimed Coriell Institute for Medical Research, and the Ronald McDonald House. Adjacent to the Cooper Plaza/Lanning Square neighborhood, Cooper has a long history of outreach and service efforts to its local community. Some of these initiatives include health and wellness programs for the neighborhood, development of neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and outreach to programs into local schools.

The hospital’s 312,000-square-foot, 10-story Roberts Pavilion features an expansive lobby and concourse, a restaurant and coffee shop, business center, gift shop, and chapel. State-of-the-art patient care facilities include private patient rooms, technologically advanced operating room suites with hybrid imaging capabilities, and an advanced laboratory automation facility. The Emergency Department features 25 beds, dedicated isolation suites, and autonomous CT scanning technology. Designated floors serve specific patient populations, including those needing advanced surgical and heart care, along with South Jersey’s only dedicated 30-bed inpatient cancer unit.

Also in the Roberts Pavilion is the 25,000-square-foot Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit—featuring 30 private patient rooms equipped with the latest in advanced technology, and allowing 360-degree patient access. Five patient rooms are capable of negative pressure isolation, and five rooms have chambered isolation alcoves. In addition, an enlarged room with operating room caliber lighting is outfitted to perform bedside exploratory laparotomy in patients considered too medically unstable for transport to the operating room.

Cooper University Health Care and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, partnered in 2013 to create MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. MD Anderson has consistently been named one of the nation’s top two cancer hospitals by U.S. News & World Report.

Our partnership is a full clinical integration between the two programs. MD Anderson at Cooper physicians adhere to the same philosophy, processes, and guidelines set by MD Anderson in Houston, and patients receive the same proven practice standards and treatment plans provided at MD Anderson. Today at MD Anderson at Cooper, patients have access to more clinical trials for more types of cancer than ever before, as well as a full range of supportive care services.
Advanced, comprehensive cancer services are provided at our Camden, Voorhees, and Willingboro campuses. Cooper Digestive Health Institute locations are fully accredited MD Anderson at Cooper locations providing innovative gastrointestinal cancer prevention, detection, and treatment services. Additional cancer clinical services are provided at multiple locations throughout the Philadelphia-South Jersey areas.

CMSRU’s Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The medical school, which opened in July 2012, was designed to support an innovative curriculum that integrates knowledge of basic science concepts, early clinical experience and patient care, self-directed learning, teamwork, and medical and non-medical activities for the greater community’s benefit.

The Cooper Health Sciences Campus is located in the heart of Camden’s business district. The academic medical center campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation via the PATCO and bus terminal adjacent to the hospital.

Cooper is a short walk or drive from the exciting Camden waterfront, which includes a magnificent waterfront park and marina; the Adventure Aquarium; and the BB&T Pavilion, which hosts nationally renowned entertainment throughout the year. Nearby are the Sixers Training Complex, L3 Communications complex, Lockheed Martin, Rutgers University Camden Campus, and Camden County College. There are expected to be $350M in transportation and infrastructure improvements within the next four to five years to handle the influx of thousands of new employees to the area and students at nearby growing academic campuses.

Cooper is conveniently close to Philadelphia. Just a mile-long drive over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge will put you at the doorstep of Philadelphia’s cultural, culinary, and historic venues. South Jersey also offers a range of living and entertainment options. Quaint towns such as Haddonfield and Collingswood are just 10 minutes away. The lights and action of Atlantic City and popular beach towns such as Cape May and Ocean City are a one-hour drive from Cooper.
The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at:
CooperHealth.org/Locations