



**AFRICAN RESEARCH
GROUP FOR ONCOLOGY**

National Cancer Institute (NCI)
Approved Colorectal Cancer Consortium



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

GLOBAL GASTROINTESTINAL MEDICAL ONCOLOGY IN NIGERIA.

BROCHURE/APPLICATION
2025/2026

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION
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The African Research Group for Oncology (A National Cancer Institute Approved Colorectal Cancer Consortium) and Global Cancer Disparity Initiative at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre, New York in collaboration with the Association of Radiation and Clinical Oncologists in Nigeria is introducing the Global Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology Fellowship in Nigeria.

PROGRAM	OVERVIEW
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■ **Introduction**

The Global Gastrointestinal (GI) Medical Oncology Fellowship is a comprehensive, specialized training program designed to equip Nigerian Oncologists with advanced knowledge and skills in the diagnosis, treatment, and holistic management of Gastrointestinal Cancers. The fellowship offers a hybrid learning experience combining structured self-learning modules, live one-on-one virtual interactions with expert Faculty, and Clinical Observership in the United States. The course will be divided into modules, with milestones measured regularly to track progress. As trainees advance, they will complete online examinations to assess their understanding and performance. At the end of the curriculum, Fellows will take a final examination. Successful completion of both the curriculum and the final exam will result in the awarding of a certificate, acknowledging the Fellows' achievement in mastering the course material and building mentoring connection with the course faculties.

■ **Purpose**

To train Clinical Oncologists in the field of GI Cancers, preparing them to deliver state-of-the-art, evidence-based care and to contribute to clinical research.

■ **Target Audience**

Clinical Oncologists practicing in Nigeria who are seeking to enhance their expertise in Gastrointestinal Oncology.

■ **General Objective**

To provide a comprehensive training program in medical oncology, aimed at equipping practicing Clinical Oncologists with the knowledge, skills, and clinical competence needed for effective GI Cancer diagnosis, treatment, and patient care.

■ **Specific Objectives:**

1. Proficiency of GI Cancer Biology and disease management
2. Basic clinical trial design and investigator role in Cancer studies
3. To produce highly trained Oncologists who are potential trainers for future Fellows

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **Self-Learning Curriculum**
The program is divided into structured, progressive modules focusing on GI Cancer Biology, clinical management, treatment approaches, and emerging research.
- **Live Faculty Sessions:**
Fellows will have live discussion sessions with distinguished faculty from MSK and Nigeria to discuss complex cases, review recent advancements, and receive personalized guidance on treatment planning and clinical challenges in GI Oncology.
- **Practice-based learning with multi-disciplinary case conferences:**
The Fellows are also required to participate in the already established monthly multi-disciplinary meetings and present cases at the meetings.
- **Thinking like an Oncologist series:**
Fellows are invited to give a disease-specific case-based learning discussion with an attending discussant as part of this lecture series. Attendees can play "devil's advocate" with the fellows in this series, discussing intriguing case twists to illustrate complex clinical decision making.
- **Chemotherapy Practicum:**
With pharmacists to discuss Chemotherapy preparation, safety and implementation.
- **Communication Curriculum Workshop:**
Will equip Fellows with essential skills in patient-centered communication, breaking bad news, and shared decision-making in Oncology care. :through interactive sessions and simulated case scenarios, Fellows will learn to navigate complex conversations with patients, families, and multi-disciplinary teams.
- **Periodic Online Examinations:**
As part of the continuous evaluation, fellows will take periodic online assessments to gauge their understanding and mastery of each module. These assessments will cover both theoretical knowledge and clinical problem-solving skills.
- **Observership (Clinical Exposure)**
- **Final Examination:**
At the conclusion of the program, fellows will sit for a final examination to assess their overall knowledge and competency in gastrointestinal medical oncology. Successful completion will lead to certification.

COMPETENCY AREAS

The GI Medical Oncology Curriculum provides a comprehensive and structured framework for the education, training, and professional development of healthcare practitioners involved in Gastrointestinal (GI) Cancer Care. It covers a wide range of essential knowledge, clinical skills, research competencies, and patient-centered care principles. The curriculum aligns with the standards of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO).

LEARNING	OBJECTIVE
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- 1. *Develop Expertise in GI Oncology:***
Fellows will gain in-depth knowledge of GI Cancer Biology, treatment modalities, and clinical management.
- 2. *Enhance Clinical Decision-Making:***
Fellows will refine their ability to make evidence-based decisions in the diagnosis and treatment of GI malignancies.
- 3. *Develop Multi-disciplinary Care:***
Fellows will learn to collaborate effectively with other healthcare professionals in a multi-disciplinary Oncology team.
- 4. *Advance Research Competence:***
Fellows will be introduced to current research trends in GI Oncology and contribute to ongoing research and clinical trials.
- 5. *Cultivate Compassionate Patient Care:***
Fellows will develop strong communication skills to address the psycho-social aspects of Cancer care and navigate ethical considerations.

LEARNING	METHODS
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- ***Interactive Online Learning:***
Fellows will complete interactive e-learning modules that include video lectures, readings, quizzes, and case studies, designed to provide in-depth knowledge of GI Oncology.
- ***Live Mentorship and Case Discussions:***
Fellows will have scheduled one-on-one sessions with faculty to discuss case studies, address clinical queries, and receive mentorship on specific GI Cancer cases.
- ***Clinical Practice and Real-World Applications:***
Hands-on clinical training will be incorporated into the Fellowship, allowing Fellows to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. This includes reviewing cases, imaging and treatment plans with expert faculty.
- ***Online Assessments and Milestones:***
Periodic evaluations will track progress, with a final examination testing both theoretical knowledge and clinical application. Feedback and support will be provided to ensure continuous improvement.

PROGRAM DURATION

The Fellowship will span **12 months**, with a combination of self-paced learning, live faculty interactions, clinical practice, and assessments. Fellows are expected to complete the program within this time-frame while balancing professional commitments. The fellows will also participate in in 4-6 weeks Observership program (Clinical Exposure) at MSKCC., USA

CERTIFICATION

Upon successful completion of the Fellowship, including passing the final examination, fellows will receive a certificate recognizing their expertise in **Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology**.

QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS

An applicant for this Fellowship must fulfill the following requirements:

1. The applicant must be Clinical Oncologist working in Nigeria, hold a Board certification or an equivalent certificate from a residency institution, and have at least one year of faculty experience.
2. Preference will be given to candidates who have completed their residency training in Clinical Oncology not more than 10 years.
3. A letter of support and certification from the head of the department in which the applicant is presently engaged in clinical activities are required.
4. A Personal Statement of not more than one page on "How would a GI Medical Oncology Fellowship benefit me and my institution?" and also detailing the candidate's commitment to finishing the Fellowship, including the time and effort needed, must be submitted.
5. An abridged version of a most recent CV must be submitted.

SELECTION PROCESS

For each one-year term, applications for the Fellowship will be accepted from April through mid-May. A selection committee will assess all applications received through the Africa Research Group for Oncology (ARGO), conduct a thorough evaluation, and decide which candidates are eligible to participate in the Fellowship Program. Three (3) successful candidates will be accepted and contacted by the end of August 2025. It is anticipated that the 2025-2026 Fellowship Program will begin in September 2025. The successful candidates will be formally announced at the ARGO symposium in Ile-Ife in September 2025.

EXPECTATIONS AND COMMITMENT FROM THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Our expectation is a commitment from the participants to attend at least 90% of the scheduled activities to be able to graduate from the program.

The rigorous schedule of activities for this GI Medical Oncology Fellowship will consist of the following:

1. Online Learning (self-paced modules, recorded lectures)
2. Live, Interactive Faculty Sessions (bi-weekly)
3. 4-6 Weeks Observership (Clinical exposure)
4. Periodic Assessments (online quizzes, case studies)
5. Participation in monthly ECHO conferences and existing GI MDT meetings.
6. Provide a summarized report of each module explaining the concepts learned and perform a self-assessment evaluation.
7. Presentation of research project (retrospective review, review article, clinical trial etc)
8. Participation in ARGO symposium
9. Final Examination (comprehensive).

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will be accepted up to May 15, 2025 via the online application portal :

<https://www.argo-research.org/2025-global-gastrointestinal-medical-oncology-fellowship-program/>

You are expected to upload the following documents in submitting your application form, and also forward same to trainings@argo-research.org:

1. Current Curriculum Vitae
2. Personal Statement
3. Portrait photo
4. Letter of recommendation from your Head of Department, written on the institution's letter head.

For Application Questions, please contact: trainings@argo-research.org

1. Program Director (Lead Director):

Dr. Diane Reidy
Memorial Sloan Kettering CancerCenter (MSKCC), USA.

2. Co-Director:

Dr. Sharif Folorunso
Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

3. Academic Board/Medical Leadership Team:

- i. Dr. Fiyinfolu Balogun
- ii. Dr. Amaka Lasebikan
- iii. Dr. Atara Ntekim
- iv. Prof. Peter Kingham
- v. Prof. Olusegun Alatise