INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL ONCOLOGY GLOBAL CANCER DISPARITIES FELLOWSHIP
DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
MEMORIAL SLOAN KETTERING CANCER CENTER
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

GOALS

The aim of the International Surgical Oncology Global Cancer Disparities Fellowship is to train the fellow to effectively direct multimodality cancer therapy for the cancer patients in both high- and low-income countries.

BACKGROUND

Cancer is a rapidly growing problem in low- and middle-income countries. Outcomes for cancer patients are poor. There is a need for improved research and training to improve these outcomes. The MSK Global Cancer Disparity Initiative was created in 2013. The goal of the initiative is to improve outcomes for patients with cancer in LMIC. It is based on a collaboration between physicians at MSK and Nigeria that began in 2010. This collaboration has now grown to include the African Research Group for Oncology (ARGO) in Nigeria, which is an MSK cofounded consortium that includes 5 centers in Nigeria and MSK. ARGO has multiple ongoing training endeavors and clinical trials regarding colorectal and breast cancer.

OBJECTIVES

Fellows are expected to understand the evaluation and treatment of malignancies from the common cancers in high- and low-income countries. Fellows receive an operative experience which provides the technical facility which is necessary to manage complicated oncologic problems with cancers that are common in high- and low-income countries. This experience is achieved during rotations on a variety of clinical services and through research projects including breast and colorectal cancers. While in research months at MSK, fellows will attend colorectal and breast cancer clinical conferences while performing research in global cancer disparity topics. Emphasis is placed on understanding and developing multimodality treatment protocols for the range of malignancies which are encountered by surgical oncologists in practice in both high- and low-income countries.

Trainees are expected to gain a thorough understanding of cancer biology, cancer disparities, cancer care in resource limited environments, genetics, biostatistics and epidemiology. This is done through lectures, conferences, grant applications, directed readings and individual research projects.

SPECIFIC STRUCTURE

The Surgical Oncology Global Cancer Disparity Fellowship is a one year program designed to provide exposure to the multidisciplinary treatment of surgical oncology malignancies common to low- and middle-
income countries. Fellows will be paid a salary determined by the MSK fellow salary structure that is decided by post graduate year.

The year is comprised of a rotation schedule. Fellows will spend 3 months in breast and colorectal services at MSK, 3 months on clinical research/elective time at MSK, and 6 months at MSK’s collaborating sites in West Africa, performing surgery and research.

ORGANIZATION OF INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT TEACHING

Africa rotation: Fellows will have daily rounds with MSK collaborating surgeons that specialize in surgical oncology in Africa. The sites will be ones that are actively involved in research projects with MSK and where MSK faculty have operated. There will be weekly video conferences with MSK faculty during the fellow’s rotations in Africa for continued mentorship and assurance that milestones are met. Fellows will be responsible for teaching medical students and surgery residents at the MSK collaborating African site.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Fellows will become well-versed in the current literature with a specific reading list provided by the global cancer disparity fellowship. The fellow will have a dedicated mentor on the Colorectal Service and the Breast Service to guide research projects. In addition, the Global Disparities Director will have weekly meetings to assist with research projects and provide weekly education sessions specific to global cancer initiatives.

Over the course of the year, the fellow will create:

- Two retrospective research projects answering 2 important clinical research topics related to cancer in low- and middle income countries (LMIC). These projects will utilize the MSK supported databases and biobanks in Nigeria with breast and colorectal cancer patients.
- One prospective study that will be initiated during their clinical/research rotation in Nigeria. This study will focus on topics such as barriers to cancer care, implementation of treatment pathways, and methods for the early detection of cancer. The fellow will also inherit the prospective study that was created by the prior fellow – thus each fellow will generate a prospective study they will develop and initiate and inherit an already established prospective protocol that they will actively manage.
- Assist with writing one grant application specific to cancer research or training in LMIC. This will provide the fellow with valuable experience in synthesizing LMIC cancer topics, creating specific aims, grant structure, and the logistics of creating a grant application.
- Send one abstract to a conference with a topic specific to cancer in LMIC.

DEADLINE
Completed applications should be returned by May 1, 2018.

LENGTH OF PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must be graduates of a recognized US or foreign medical school and have completed a general surgery residency training program by the time they would begin the fellowship. US general surgery residents are eligible to apply in their 4th year of residency, in order to begin the fellowship immediately after completing their residency. The candidate should be interested and committed to expanding his/her expertise in surgical oncology in high- and low- income countries. The candidate must have passed the USMLE examinations or any equivalent predecessor or successor examination and hold a valid ECFMG
certificate, if applicable. In addition, the candidate must certify intent to return to his/her home country, if not from the US, upon completion of training.

**LENGTH OF PROGRAM**

One year

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