

**Vanderbilt University Medical Center**  
**Genitourinary Oncology**  
**Clinical Research Fellowship**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### History

The Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) Genitourinary (GU) Oncology Clinical Research Fellowship was established in 2020 to complement Hematology/Oncology Fellowship training and enhance career opportunities for academic research in GU Oncology.

### Duration

The fellowship is 1 year for candidates who are board eligible/certified in Hematology/Medical Oncology beginning approximately July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### Training Prerequisite

To be considered as a candidate for the program, minimal pre-requisite training qualifications are successful completion an Internal Medicine Residency Program and Oncology Fellowship. For consideration of Foreign Medical Graduate candidates, applicants must hold a valid ECFMG certificate, successfully complete USMLE steps 1 and 2 and hold the appropriate medical licensure for the State of Tennessee in addition to applying for either an H1 or J1 visa. The primary focus of this training program is for Fellows to improve their skills as clinical investigators as well as obtain in-depth training into new therapies under investigation, follow GU oncology patients on clinical trials, report results and produce high-impact presentations and publications.

### Selection Criteria

Eligible candidates are selected based upon program-related criteria such as preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, written and verbal communication skills as well as motivation and integrity. Candidates must be research-oriented with good knowledge in basic and translational science skills. They also must demonstrate serious interest in the field of academic GU Oncology and the expertise to understand and work with drug development, in addition to the competence in patients on experimental therapies. The VUMC GU Fellowship Program does not discriminate against color, race, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, ancestry, status as a disabled or Vietnam veteran or any other characteristic protected by law.

### Goals and Objectives

The VUMC GU Fellowship Program is designed to integrate research with clinical work. The goals of training are for the Fellows to improve their skills as a clinical investigator. During Fellowship the expectation is to obtain in-depth training into new therapies under investigation, follow patients on clinical trials, report results of treatment and present them whenever possible in a published form. Fellow's clinical responsibilities throughout training consist of managing GU Oncology patients with symptoms and other medical problems under the supervision of faculty. Additionally, he or she is expected to participate in writing research protocol(s) for experimental drugs and design clinical trial(s). Presenting their work at national meetings and conferences is essential.

### Program Certification

The program is not ABIM certified, however it is recognized as an integral part of Hematology and Medical Oncology and fellows receive a certificate demonstrating their completion of training and competence to be future investigators.

## Teaching Staff

- **Brian I. Rini, MD**  
VUMC GU Fellowship Program Director  
Chief of Clinical Trials
- **Nancy Davis, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Service Line Chief, Medical Urologic Oncology  
Disease Group Leader
- **Katy Beckermann, MD, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine
- **Sam Chang, MD, MBA**  
Patricia and Rodes Hart Endowed Chair of Urologic Surgery  
Professor of Urology and Oncology  
Chief Surgical Officer, Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center
- **Kerry Schaeffer, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

## Facility

Fellows participate in ambulatory outpatient clinics based at the VUMC main campus, The Vanderbilt Clinic (TVC). No inpatient rotations are required.

## Curriculum

### Clinical Components

Clinical responsibilities are an essential part of training to follow the results of the experimental treatment(s) and Fellows are expected to see patients with various GU malignancies and participate in their care in ambulatory clinics at TVC.

Fellows will spend approximately 50% of their time in the ambulatory setting rotating through faculty mentor's clinics based on a specific schedule as indicated by the Program Director. The remainder of the fellow's time will have a primary concentration on research. Fellows attend 4-5 half days of clinic weekly where expected to see 5-10 patients per day under the supervision of the teaching faculty. They learn about experimental agents, the complications of treatment and manage patients' symptoms and other medical problems. There are no inpatient responsibilities or call requirements.

Fellows will discuss areas of mutual research interest with the Program Director and other faculty mentors to determine projects that meet their interest and assume responsibilities in treatment-related decision making. In addition, fellows will present their work at local and national meetings. Expectations of the program are for fellows to successfully submit at minimum 1 abstract and 1 manuscript representative of their research prior to the end of one year of training. Fellows are expected to attend relevant research meetings and conferences taking place at VUMC and participate in at least one national or international research conference to present their work.

### Procedural Requirements

As successful completion of training will not permit graduates to become board eligible in any of the ABIM subspecialties, there are no procedural requirements.

### Evaluation

Faculty and fellows are required to complete an online evaluation in accordance to Graduate Medical Education guidelines through an electronic system. This electronic system is password protected and program specific ensuring the confidentiality of each evaluation. Completion is monitored and responses kept anonymous. Surveys are submitted directly to the electronic system resulting in a composite report which is generated and distributed to the program director. These a comprehensive composite evaluation results are reviewed by the Program Director with each fellow twice a year, and will discuss strengths, weaknesses and goals and objectives of the next period of training. Finally, the fellows will review the Fellowship Program annually by means of an anonymous questionnaire via the same online electronic system

### Applying for Fellowship

All applicants are welcome. Only candidates with completed application files will be offered interviews. Applications for fellowship will be accepted from November 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> each year for positions beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> for the next academic year. We encourage applicants to contact us for further information. Potential applicants may email the Fellowship Program Manager Page Bruce at [stephanie.p.bruce@vumc.org](mailto:stephanie.p.bruce@vumc.org) . For information regarding benefits and salary, please visit our Graduate Medical Education website at <https://www.vumc.org/gme/2766> and refer to the Graduate Physicians Manual (pdf). Interested applicants should the documents listed below.

-  Personal Statement (1 page maximum)
-  Previous Training Certificate
-  Two Letters of Reference
-  Curriculum Vitae
-  ECFMG

### **Program Director:**

Brian I. Rini, MD, FASCO  
Chief of Clinical Trials  
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center  
Ingram Professor of Medicine  
Division of Hematology/Oncology  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

### **Program Contact:**

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