

**University of Pennsylvania Medical Center
Department of Radiation Oncology**

PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY

Expectations for Residents Rotating from Outside Institutions

Educational Goals:

The overall goal of the educational pediatric program is to instill a broad clinical and scientific radiation therapy knowledge base into residents who come from a variety of backgrounds. General information about pediatric malignancies, approaches to therapy (including surgery, chemotherapy, and irradiation) and treatment of acute and late effects are taught.

The radiation oncology residency program is designed to incorporate didactic instruction in clinical oncology, radiation biology, radiation physics, and biostatistics into a broad and varied clinical experience.

The pediatric radiation oncology program at the University of Pennsylvania is responsible for the radiation treatments of approximately 125 new patients per year. The patients come primarily from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Residents are responsible for all aspects of patient care including performing initial histories and physical examinations, simulations, and treatment planning, on therapy care, and follow-up care.

As a component of the rotation, several multidisciplinary conferences are held. These conferences are in collaboration with physicians from the Children's Hospital. Among them are a radiation therapy conference, a neuro-oncology conference, a bone marrow transplant conference, and a multidisciplinary tumor board.

Organization of the Pediatric Rotation:

The resident makes the initial contact with the patient regardless of the type of referral. He or she has an opportunity to evaluate the patient before presenting findings and management plans to the staff radiation oncologist. A multidisciplinary approach to teaching is stressed. The resident must first consider whether the patient has been adequately diagnosed and evaluated for extent of disease. Therapeutic alternatives are considered before radiation therapy is decided upon as the most appropriate form of treatment for the patient. Once a treatment decision has been reached and approved by the attending, the resident is primarily responsible for the treatment planning process and for the evaluation of the patient's progress during and after treatment.