



Job Title: Oncology Intern
Department: Oncology
**Reporting To: Senior Clinician Medical Oncology/
Clinical Director**

FURTHER PARTICULARS

Role Description:

Fitzpatrick Referrals Oncology and Soft Tissue (FROST) Hospital is a specialist referral hospital dedicated to expert care, innovative clinical decision-making, and compassionate communication. The facilities at FROST are state-of-the-art and include a 160-slice CT scanner, C-arm fluoroscope and interventional radiology suite, in-house ultrasound, digital radiography, in-house laboratory, dedicated chemotherapy preparation and administration rooms and minimally-invasive surgery.

The Oncology Intern is part of a growing team based around the senior clinician in medical oncology, including one other Oncology Intern, two nurses, and one auxillary. They will in addition interact with the surgical, imaging, nursing and administrative teams within the clinic.

The Oncology Intern programme is for a 12-month period and will provide training in all aspects of oncology cases including; chemotherapy protocols, administration of chemotherapy drugs, diagnostic imaging and clinical staging of new patients, surgical oncology decision-making, interventional radiology/oncology, cytology, haematology, and management of oncology emergencies. You will be required to assist the medical oncology team with daily care of inpatients and outpatients, consultations, client communication, diagnostic procedures and chemotherapy administration. You will be encouraged to get involved in clinical research.

Duties will involve daily collaboration with all clinical and non-clinical teams, including but not limited to, medical oncology, surgical oncology, soft tissue surgery, interventional radiology, advanced diagnostic imaging, nursing, surgical residents and rotating interns; ensuring that the needs of patients and their owners are met. Out-of-hours requirements involve on-call duties one-in-four weeks with senior clinician back-up for oncology and surgical emergencies and enquiries. The inpatients will be overseen by the rotating interns under your guidance and instruction, backed up by the senior clinician.

The successful candidate must be a graduated veterinary surgeon, registered in the UK and preferably have completed a one-year general internship. Candidates with at least two years of general small animal practice may also be considered. In addition, they will be care driven, have excellent communication skills, be exceptionally organised, thorough and be able to operate in a 24/7 team environment.

Professional Development Objectives:

The Oncology Intern must...

1. Be legally permitted to work in the UK without visa requirements.
2. Hold a current MRCVS registration.
3. Be able to perform a thorough clinical examination and record their findings clearly, concisely and confidently.
4. Be familiar with the most common tumours affecting dogs and cats and their clinical presentations.
5. Be aware of the most common chemotherapy drugs used in veterinary oncology, their indications and side effects.
6. Understand the importance of the safe handling and administration of chemotherapy agents and patients following treatment.

7. Be able to assimilate information from clinical examination and clinical history to create a differential list and diagnostic plan for an oncology patient.

Responsibilities and Tasks:

Assist the oncology clinicians and oncology team in daily care of patients including:

Consults

- When possible the Oncology Intern is expected to observe senior clinician consultations so they learn skills of history taking and examination. It is expected they will attempt to follow the patient through diagnostic work up and treatment.
- The Oncology Intern will not be expected to receive new patient referrals; however, this aspect is open to review if the Oncology Intern gains the necessary skills and confidence during the one-year programme. Please note that any primary consulting by the Oncology Intern must be under direct and close supervision of a senior clinician who remains ultimately responsible for the case.

Diagnostic work-ups

- The Oncology Intern is expected to work with senior clinicians and medical oncology nurses to maximise efficiency of patients undergoing diagnostic work up including advanced diagnostic imaging and surgery. This may include:
 - Preparing the anaesthesia sheets and trays, or assisting nurses with this
 - Placing catheters
 - Taking bloods for laboratory tests
 - Inducing and maintaining anaesthesia for such cases
 - Follow the patient through the steps of the diagnostic work up

Chemotherapy outpatient care

- The Oncology Intern is expected to oversee outpatient chemotherapy treatments to assist in smooth workflow and safe chemotherapy administration. Specific tasks include:
 - Admitting chemotherapy outpatients and taking clinical histories
 - Clinical examination of the patient and collecting blood and tissue samples for in-house and external laboratory tests
 - Basic interpretation of patient test results
 - Calculating chemotherapy doses based on specific protocols, and drawing up chemotherapy drugs, under senior supervision
 - Administering chemotherapy with assistance of a nurse or auxillary
 - Dispensing medication as required
 - Discharging patients
 - Instruction of owners on the safe handling of their pet in the home environment after chemotherapy treatment
 - Providing advice to primary care clinicians on case management

Chemotherapy in-patient care

- During the working week, the Oncology Intern is first point of contact for in-patients when the dedicated clinician is not available. The Oncology Intern should perform a full clinical examination on those patients on a daily basis and ensure hospital instructions are correct. They are also responsible for ensuring communication with the owner and, if directed, the primary care veterinary surgeon (PCV).
- However -
 - The Oncology Intern should keep in e-mail / phone contact with the primary clinician especially if there are concerns about the patient or if there are challenges in communication with the client.
 - Clinical decisions about the in-patient e.g. change in medication should be authorised by the senior oncology clinician. Ongoing care of the patient will be discussed at morning rounds or when necessary.
- Post-operative care is the primary responsibility of the surgeon however, the Oncology Intern is expected to have a working knowledge of all the oncology in-patients, be observant and help when required. For example, help with indwelling catheters and feeding tubes.
- The Oncology Intern is expected to assist with the management of any critical in-patient.
- The Oncology Intern may be asked to perform and/or arrange discharge appointments for oncology patients. This will require ensuring that:

- Clear discharge instructions; including information on medication, expected side effects and health and safety considerations are created.
- Ensuring that there has been communication with PCVs e.g. e-mail interim report/discharge instructions.

Surgery

- There is potential for the Oncology Intern to scrub in for surgeries however this should not interfere with other duties, and is to be co-ordinated with the senior clinician in medical oncology and the medical oncology nurses.

Rounds

- The Oncology Intern is expected to attend morning rounds (9am daily, Board Room) and have a good working knowledge of the oncology in-patients and be the first point of contact for in-patients of clinicians who are not working at FR that day and ensure continuity of care of those patients. It is expected the Oncology Intern will have examined any medical oncology patients prior to rounds to help give an opinion regarding any questions that arise.
- If the Oncology Intern is looking after a patient with complex medical needs, late afternoon/evening rounds with a more senior clinician is necessary.

Attendance at journal and book clubs and in house lectures.

On-call duties

- The Oncology Intern has a 1 in 4 weekend duty rotating with the surgery residents and another Oncology Intern. During this weekend, duties of the Oncology Intern include:
 - Ensuring the continuing care of in-patients
 - Provision of daily updates to the owners of oncology inpatients regarding basic status (so called “emotional update” not discussing diagnosis, prognosis or specifics of treatment)
 - Being the first point of contact for enquiries about **existing** oncology patients and deal with simple enquires (for example clarification of discharge instructions). The Oncology Intern should keep in e-mail/phone contact with the PCV and/or telephone back up clinician. If the enquiry is simple then an e-mail update is sufficient (e.g. clarified that medication X is given with food), however if there are concerns about the patient or if there are challenges in communication with the client/PCV, then telephone back up clinician should be contacted.
 - The Oncology Intern may be expected to take emergency referrals of new cases under advice and close supervision of a senior clinician.
- When on call at the weekend, the Oncology Intern will be on-call Monday-Thursday nights of the week preceding.
- Communicate directly with clients and PCV under the direction of senior clinicians.

Other requirements

- The Oncology Intern is encouraged to be involved in clinical research and to present this at a scientific congress with a view to eventual publication.
- Represent and promote the practice, its aims and values at all times.
- In addition to the main duties, the Oncology Intern will be required to carry out such other duties consistent with the position to meet the needs of the business and as the Company may require from time to time.
- The position may extend beyond 12 months if both parties are in mutual agreement. Under those circumstances, there may well be a change in job description to reflect the greater experience in clinical oncology.

Responsibilities and Tasks:

The skills, abilities, experience and knowledge outlined below provide a summary of what is required to carry out this role effectively. They also form part of the selection criteria on which the decision on who to appoint will be made. Please ensure that you show how you meet the criteria outlined below in your application.

Requirement	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Graduated veterinarian and have completed a one-year general internship or at least 2 years in small animal general practice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rotating small animal internship in a multi-disciplinary specialist hospital that includes internal medicine, critical care and anaesthesia, in addition to at least 1 year in general small animal practice.

Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good basic knowledge of internal medicine e.g. able to recognise and interpret haematological and biochemical abnormalities. • Good basic knowledge of cancer conditions including presentation, tumour behaviour, basic knowledge of treatment options and prognosis of the most common tumour types. • Good basic knowledge of chemotherapy safety, mode of action, side effects and public health issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confident in interpreting and correcting blood gas and other metabolic abnormalities in the critical care patient. • Advanced oncology knowledge. • Advanced chemotherapy knowledge.
Personal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to communicate confidently in clear English (verbal and written) with clients and colleagues. • Compassionate to animals and their owners. • Good interpersonal skills with client & colleagues. • Good problem solving & critical analysis skills. • Commitment to patient care. • Reflective practice. 	
Clinical skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to perform a thorough clinical examination and record it concisely and precisely. • Competent at placing intravenous catheters, venepuncture and cystocentesis. • Confident and competent in performing and monitoring sedation and anaesthesia. • Maintaining good patient records including completing daily SOAPs and clear, succinct verbal presentation of cases. • Using medicines responsibly. • Awareness of H&S, hygiene and biosecurity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to perform basic ultrasonography. • Able to obtain optimally positioned and exposed radiographs. • Able to interpret a blood smear. • Able to perform bone marrow aspiration. • Able to interpret basic cytology.
Personal Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works well in a team. • Shows initiative. • Good problem solving ability. • Good conflict resolution. • Awareness of personal limitations and an enquiring attitude to clinical work. 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to work in the United Kingdom. 	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity – We endeavour always to do the right thing. • Innovation – We challenge ourselves to develop new and better ways to solve problems. • Care – We care passionately about what we do. • Education – We are totally committed to learning and sharing knowledge and information. • Community – We work best when we work as a team. 	