

# 1-year Clinical Fellowship in Pediatric Palliative Medicine

## Prospectus and Application Form

### **Eligibility:**

MD pediatrics/DNB pediatrics/DCH

### **Important Dates:**

Course start dates:

There are 1 position is available each year. The position starts in January. The fellowship is 1-year in duration.

### **Deadlines for Jan 2023:**

Last date to submit applications: Nov 15, 2022

Announcement of selection of candidates: Nov 30, 2022

Course start date: Jan 9, 2023

Course completion date: Jan 5, 2024

### **Course Fee (if accepted): 30 000 INR**

Candidates with financial hardship are encouraged to apply for course scholarship (separate application available upon request)

## Introduction:

Palliative care for children encompasses “the active total care of the child's body, mind and spirit,” which assesses and seeks to relieve a child's physical, psychological, and social distress. This care includes support for the whole family. Early integration of palliative care is recommended and should begin when a life-threatening or life-limiting condition is diagnosed and continue regardless of whether or not a child receives treatment directed at the disease (1).

Pediatric palliative medicine is an integral component of holistic care for children facing serious illnesses. These illnesses include cancer as well as many other life-threatening or life-limiting conditions, including HIV/AIDS, protein energy malnutrition, congenital heart disease, serious neonatal conditions (including birth asphyxia), and congenital anomalies (2). A recent study estimating the global need for pediatric palliative care projected that 4.25 million children in India need palliative care at any one time, including 1.63 million who require specialized palliative care (3).

Physician, nurses, counsellors, psychologists, play therapists, physiotherapists and a broad range of other health care professionals can provide pediatric palliative care, using specialized knowledge and skills to address the unique needs of children and their families.

1. WHO | WHO Definition of Palliative Care [Internet]. WHO. [cited 2016 Jun 26]. Available from: <http://www.who.int/cancer/palliative/definition/en/>
2. Global Atlas of Palliative Care at the End of Life [Internet]. 2014. Available from: [http://www.who.int/nmh/Global\\_Atlas\\_of\\_Palliative\\_Care.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/Global_Atlas_of_Palliative_Care.pdf)
3. Connor SR, Downing J, Marston J. Estimating the Global Need for Palliative Care for Children: A Cross-sectional Analysis. *J Pain Symptom Manage.* 2017;53(2):171–177.

## The Clinical Pediatric Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

### Aims:

- To build the capacity of physicians to provide palliative care services for children across South Asia.
- To train physicians who will become leaders in the field of palliative care for children in India and across South Asia.

**Eligibility Criteria:** Applicants must have a post-graduate (MD/DCH/ DNB) degree, preference will be given to those whose degree is in **Pediatrics**. If candidates have a post-graduate degree in another clinical specialty, they should clearly mention in their statement of interest how their previous work and experience would ensure that they have sufficient knowledge of pediatrics to complete this fellowship. Fellows should have or need to apply for a MMC (Maharashtra Medical Council) registration at the time of application. An MMC registration is essential for the fellowship.

**Course Design:** The fellowship is a 1-year clinical academic program. The fellows will need to live in Mumbai, where the clinical training will take place. The program includes clinical rotations at BJ Wadia, as well as other local palliative care programs at partner organizations.

The fellowship includes regular formal teaching, case discussions and mentorship sessions with international, national, and local faculty, with an emphasis on evidenced based practice. Fellows will also receive international research mentorship to complete a research or quality improvement project.

**Assessment:** The fellowship incorporates regular clinical assessments, case-based discussions, research presentations, written reflection, and a final written and viva examination.

The focus is on ensuring that fellows become competent in the practice of pediatric palliative medicine.

**Selection of Candidates:** The selection will be done by a committee. Since program focusses on developing clinicians who will be future leaders in the field of pediatric palliative medicine, the statement of purpose and interview will be given considerable weight for each applicant. All applicants will be informed by email about whether their application was successful.

**Course Fee:** 30,000 INR (includes institutional fees and other resources).

**Salary:** 60,000 INR per month

## Background and Partners

### **Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children:**

<http://www.wadiahospitals.org/BJWHC.aspx>

Bai Jerbai Wadia is a premier pediatric institute in India. It has been dedicated to healthcare for children since its formation in 1929. The institution runs many fellowship courses apart from the MD and DCH programmes.

### **Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration (TWCC):**

[www.twoworldscancer.ca/#home](http://www.twoworldscancer.ca/#home)

TWCC is a Canadian non-profit foundation that recognizes the need for urgent action to help reduce the burden of cancer in resource limited settings. TWCC partners with Palliative Centres in Asia to provide care in hospice, homecare, and services for children in rural areas.

## Description of the Fellowship Program

### **Goals of the Program**

Upon completion of this training program, a physician is expected to be a competent subspecialist in Pediatric Palliative Medicine, capable of assuming a consultant's role in the subspecialty. The physician must acquire a working knowledge of the theoretical basis of the subspecialty, including its foundations in the basic medical sciences and research, as it applies to Pediatric Palliative Medicine. Only candidates who have completed post-graduate training are eligible for this training program, with preference for pediatric-trained candidates.

During the course of training, the physician must acquire the medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional attitudes needed to provide exemplary care throughout the continuum of life, death and bereavement for patients with chronic or life-threatening illness and patients' families. The physician must acquire an understanding of the basic physiological principles of pain and other common symptoms experienced by the population served, to expertly assess and manage the complex issues associated with chronic and life-threatening illness.

The physician must develop the ability to function as a consultant in the inpatient, outpatient, and community settings, as part of an interprofessional team. Expertise in communication to promote the development of supportive, respectful, caring relationships, along with moral and ethical principles, especially related to end-of-life decision making, are essential.

Physicians must demonstrate the requisite knowledge, skills, and behaviours for effective patient-centred care and service to a diverse population. In all aspects of subspecialist practice, the physician must be able to address moral and ethical issues, and issues of gender, sexual orientation, age, culture, beliefs, and ethnicity in a professional manner.

### **Educational Program**

The educational objectives of the Program are defined and operationalized within the fellowship structure, longitudinal experiences, and formal teaching curriculum. See Appendix 1 below for more detailed structure.

Clinical rotations in the Program are distributed between local palliative care service delivery sites (clinical rotation in various Pediatric departments at BJ Wadia Hospital for Children) and external pediatric palliative care programs from a variety of income and service settings (both high and low-and middle-income countries, home-based, hospice and hospital-based programs). See Appendix 2 for more details (below).

**Assessment:** The fellowship incorporates regular clinical assessments, case-based discussions, research presentations, written reflection, and a final written and viva examination. The focus is on ensuring that fellows become competent in the practice of pediatric palliative medicine.

For further details, please contact:  
Program Coordinator: Dr. Smriti Khanna  
Palliative and Supportive Care Unit, BJ Wadia Hospital for Children  
[palliative.care@wadiahospitals.org](mailto:palliative.care@wadiahospitals.org)

## Application Instructions:

Instructions: Please submit all of the following documents to Dr.Smriti Khanna  
(Program Coordinator, [palliative.care@wadiahospitals.org](mailto:palliative.care@wadiahospitals.org) )

- 1) **Completed Application Form**- only fully complete applications will be considered.
- 2) **Statement of purpose**- a brief statement on why you wish to pursue this training programme and how you would use the training in your future career (maximum of 500 words).
- 3) Copies of **MBBS/BDS Degree Certificate, MBBS/BDS Transcripts, Proof of undergoing/completed internship, Registration certificate of MCI/State Medical Council/Dental Council, MD/DCh/DNB Degree Certificate.**

## Application Form:

Name (In Full-as appearing in certificate): \_\_\_\_\_

MCI/DCI Reg. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Reg: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Correspondence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Details of Examinations passed (Self-attested copies of certificates to be attached)

| Medical College | University | State | Month/ Year | % of Marks |
|-----------------|------------|-------|-------------|------------|
|                 |            |       |             |            |
|                 |            |       |             |            |
|                 |            |       |             |            |
|                 |            |       |             |            |

Date of completion of internship: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of completion of **MD/DCh/DNB** Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of Professional References:** (NOTE: please provide names/details below, and we will contact them directly, no need to send letters)

### Reference #1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### Reference #2

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_





## Appendix 1- Fellowship Training Components

| Component of Fellowship                    | Item   | Description   | Assessment Techniques   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Transition to Discipline</b>            | Orientation weeks (2 weeks)  | Provide introduction to PPC, determine research project mentor, location of clinical placements, supervision mentor   | Successful completion of assignments, selection of mentors, clinical placement locations, & research project                        |
| <b>Formal Teaching/ Learning</b>           | <b>Overall</b>   | Expected to require 8hrs/week   |   |
|  | ECHO 3.0 (1.5h/week)   | Fellows will participate in ECHO 3.0 on PPC, this course includes 25 x 1 hr sessions, plus additional self-study (reading and watching videos)<br>-expected to require 1.5hrs/week                | Attendance, participation in discussion, completion of assignments  |
|  | Academic Teaching and Study (3h/week)                                      | Faculty will provide suggested learning materials and engage in learning sessions with fellows<br>Will include case presentations, discussion and formal teaching                                 | Completion of discussions with faculty, related to specific EPAs  |
|  | Journal Club (4 x year)  | Fellow will present twice per year  | Journal Club Evaluation Form  |
|  | ECHO PPC for India (or another setting)- 10 sessions (3 hrs/wk x 10 weeks) | Fellow will take on leadership role in shorter ECHO course during second half of fellowship, will assist with organization and leadership as well as teaching program<br>-May be for home country | Completion of facilitator training, participation in leadership team, conduct sessions as facilitator                               |
| <b>Scholarly Activity (Research or QI)</b> | <b>Overall</b>   | Will be assigned a research/QI project supervisor, who fellow will meet on quarterly basis  | Completion of project with presentation during final week of fellowship<br>Completion of research meeting forms and interim reports |
|  | Scholarly Project (1.5h/week)  | Fellow will complete a scholarly project and is expected to present the   | Submission of final research report   |

|                    |  |   |   |
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|                    |  | project at the end of their fellowship, as well as at national or international conference (poster or presentation)   | Poster presentation at conference                         |
|                    | Research in Progress Rounds (4x/year)        | Fellow will present twice per year (once at the beginning with initial project idea and once near the end) to receive feedback on their presentation                    | Research in Progress Evaluation Form                      |
| <b>Supervision</b> | Monthly meeting                              | Fellow will be assigned a professional supervision mentor (1 meeting/month)   | Completion of meeting form after each meeting             |
|                    | Quarterly Meeting with program director      | Program director is supervisor of overall academic program, Program director reports on fellow's progress to Residency Program Committee                                | Completion of self-evaluation form during each meeting    |
| <b>Clinical</b>    | <b>Overall</b>                               |   |   |
|                    | Local Clinical                               | Can be in adult or paediatric palliative care, in home country, paired with assignments to assess the services and how the meet patients' needs                         | Rotation Evaluation by clinical supervisor<br>Assignments |
|                    | International PPC Exposure (minimum 4 weeks) | Will be in pediatric palliative care at Canuck place (Vancouver)  | Rotation Evaluation by clinical supervisor<br>Assignments |
| <b>Assessment</b>  | <b>Overall</b>                               | Emphasis on EPA-focused assessments   | Final Assessment Document                                 |
|                    | Viva (12 per year)                           | Practice Viva station with assigned faculty member, provides structured clinical assessment of clinical skills (e.g. assessment of pain, communication with child, etc) | Completion of Viva Marking Document for each              |
|                    | Formative Exam (4 and 8 m)                   | SAQ and MCQ exam, twice during fellowship to provide fellows with feedback on their progress.   | Completion with passing score                             |

|  |                                  |   |   |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
|  |                                  |   |   |
|  | multi-source feedback<br>1/yr    | Receive feedback from multi-disciplinary team   | Written feedback                            |
|  | self-reflections (4 and<br>8 mo) | Written reflections by fellow about own learning and progress in achieving competency in PPC  | Submission of written self-reflection essay |
|  | teaching evaluations<br>2/yr     | Assessment by supervisor of teaching given by fellow, fellow develops skill in teaching PPC both to physicians, as well as nurses and allied health professionals | Teaching evaluation form                    |
|  | Final Exam                       | Written and Viva-mapped to EPAs/Objectives  | Passing Score on both exams                 |

## Appendix 2. Clinical Placements (may include)

### **Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care (and affiliated programs in Hyderabad, India)**

Fellows will spend 6 weeks on clinical rotations with the comprehensive model of PPC in Hyderabad, including inpatient and outpatient hospital care, hospice and home-based care. There is the option to observe rural palliative care programs.

### **Canuck Place Children's Hospice**

Canuck Place is a children's hospice facility in Vancouver. A multi-disciplinary team provides comprehensive palliative care services. There is an outreach program which supports children and families who are at home.

### **British Columbia Children's Hospital**

BCCH is a large publicly funded children's hospital in Vancouver. The PPC team provides inpatient palliative care consultation services, including symptom management, end of life care and facilitating transition home from hospital. After discharge, these patients may be referred for home care services. This setting offers fellows the opportunity to provide care to patients with palliative care issues in non-oncological diseases, as well as critically ill neonates and children (PICU and NICU) in addition to oncology.

## Appendix 3: Course Faculty and Qualifications

Qualifications and expertise levels of key faculty members are detailed below.

| Location  | Name                        | Specialty/<br>Qualifications                                     | Nature of Interaction<br>with Fellow<br>(e.g. clinical,<br>teaching, research) |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| Two Worlds Cancer<br>Collaboration and<br>Children's Hospital of<br>Eastern Ontario, Canada | Dr. Megan Doherty           | MD, FRCPC<br>Pediatrics and<br>Palliative Medicine<br>Specialist | Clinical, teaching,<br>research, supervision                                   |
| Hyderabad Centre for<br>Palliative Care, India  | Dr. Gayatri Palat           | Anesthesia and<br>Pain Medicine                                  | Teaching, research,<br>supervision   |
| Two Worlds Cancer<br>Collaboration  | Dr. Stuart Brown            | Palliative Medicine  | Supervision, teaching  |
| Hyderabad Centre for<br>Palliative Care, India  | Dr. Spandana<br>Rayala      | Pediatric Palliative<br>Medicine Specialist                      | Clinical, teaching,<br>research  |
| Hyderabad Centre for<br>Palliative Care, India  | Dr Mohammed<br>Tayoob Ishak | Pediatric Palliative<br>Medicine                                 | Teaching   |
| Hyderabad Centre for<br>Palliative Care, India  | Anaradha                    | Counsellor/Social<br>Worker                                      | Teaching   |
| Hyderabad Centre for<br>Palliative Care, India  | Swarup I                    | Nurse Educator   | Teaching   |
| BJ Wadia Hospital,<br>Mumbai, India   | Dr. Veronique<br>Dinand     | Pediatric Oncology<br>and Palliative Care                        | Research, teaching   |
| BJ Wadia Hospital,<br>Mumbai, India   | Dr. Smriti Khanna           | Hematoncology<br>and Palliative Care                             | Research, teaching   |
| Canuck Place and BC<br>Children's Hospital  | Dr. Peter Louie             | MD, FRCPC  | Clinical, teaching   |
| Canuck Place and BC<br>Children's Hospital  | Dr. Natasha Dato            | MD, FRCPC  | Clinical, teaching,<br>research  |
| Canuck Place Children's<br>Hospice  | Camara Van<br>Breemen       | Nurse Practitioner   | Clinical, teaching   |
| Canuck Place and BC<br>Children's Hospital  | Melanie Hameluck            | Nurse, Pediatric<br>Palliative Care                              | Clinical, teaching   |
| Canuck Place and BC<br>Children's Hospital  | Nikki Davies                | Nurse, Pediatric<br>Palliative Care                              | Clinical, teaching   |
| Canuck Place Children's<br>Hospice  | Laura Fielding              | Child Life   | Clinical, Teaching   |
| Vancouver Coastal Health  | Anthony Lau                 | Pharmacist   | Clinical, teaching   |
| Vancouver Coastal Health  | Fatima Ladha                | Pharmacist   | Clinical, teaching   |
| BC Children's Hospital  | Dr Matthew<br>Carwana       | MD, FRCPC<br>(Pediatrics)  | Research   |

|   |                            |  |                                    |
|---|----------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| BC Children's Hospital                              | Dr Mia Remington           | MD, FRCPC<br>(Pediatrics)  | Research, QI                       |
| Victoria Inner City Health                          | Dr. Fraser Black           | MD, Palliative Care<br>Specialist  | Clinical, teaching,<br>supervision |
| Hummingbird House,<br>Brisbane, Australia           | Dr. Ross Pinkerton         | Professor, Pediatric<br>Oncology and<br>Palliative Care, and<br>Medical Director | Clinical, teaching                 |
| Two Worlds Cancer<br>Collaboration                  | Dr. Gillian Fyles          | Adult Palliative<br>Care, global PC  | Teaching, clinical                 |
| Institute for Palliative<br>Medicine, Kerala        | Dr. Suresh Kumar           | Community based<br>PC, public health<br>approach                                 | teaching                           |
| Roger Neilson House,<br>Pediatric Hospice           | Kathryn Brooks             | Recreational<br>Therapy  | Teaching                           |
| Children's Hospital of<br>Eastern Ontario, Canada   | Dr Michelle Mullen         | Clinical Ethicist  | Teaching                           |
| Children's Hospital of<br>Eastern Ontario, Canada   | Dr Stephanie Van<br>Zanten | MD, FRCPC,<br>Pediatrics, clinical<br>palliative care                            | Teaching                           |
| Kanti Children's Hospital,<br>Nepal                 | Dr. Sudhir Sapkota         | Pediatric Oncology<br>and Palliative Care  | Teaching                           |
| Kanti Children's Hospital,<br>Nepal                 | Ram Pukar Sah              | Pediatric<br>Psychologist  | Teaching                           |
| International Children's<br>Palliative Care Network | Joan Marston               | Nurse, Pediatric<br>Palliative Care  | Teaching,<br>mentorship            |
| International Children's<br>Palliative Care Network | Julia Downing              | Nurse, Pediatric<br>Palliative Care  | Teaching,<br>mentorship            |

There is an annual faculty development workshop which provides faculty with ongoing support and education about the expected level of training for the fellowship program. The topics for this workshop include assessment framework, assessment tools, expectations for fellows and educational/teaching techniques. All new faculty members are provided with an overview of the fellowship, the knowledge and skill level of fellows and other aspects of the training program.