

Fellowship in Oncopathology

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 Professor
 Department of Pathology
 Rohilkhand Medical College
 Bareilly.

Fellowship in Oncopathology

Detailed Course Module Document

1. Program Overview

Name	:	Fellowship in Oncopathology
Duration	:	1 Year (Full-Time)
Intake	:	1 seat per academic year (1 st July to 30 th June)
Location	:	Rohilkhand Medical College and Cancer Institute
Mode	:	On-campus with clinical training and research

Program Objective:

To develop advanced competency in diagnostic oncopathology, enabling fellows to accurately diagnose and classify neoplastic diseases using histopathology, cytopathology, immunohistochemistry, and molecular techniques.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- MD/DNB in Pathology or an equivalent postgraduate medical degree recognized by the Medical Council of India or National Medical Commission.
- Registered with the appropriate medical council/license to practice.
- Good academic record and demonstrated interest in oncopathology.
- Candidates with any prior disciplinary issues or ethical violations are not eligible.

3. PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES (PEOs)

The fellow should be able to:

- PEO1: Independently perform and interpret histopathology, cytology, and hematoncology reports.
- PEO2: Lead cancer diagnostics in a hospital or laboratory setting.
- PEO3: Participate actively in multidisciplinary tumour boards and clinical meetings.
- PEO4: Conduct meaningful research, audits, and contribute to academic work publications.
- PEO5: Demonstrate leadership in quality assurance and lab accreditation processes.

4. PROGRAM OUTCOMES (POs)

Upon successful completion of the program, the fellow will be able to:

- PO1: Analyse tumour samples using WHO classification, CAP and AJCC staging systems.
- PO2: Apply immunohistochemical markers to solve challenging diagnostic cases.
- PO3: Integrate molecular pathology tools such as PCR into routine diagnostics.
- PO4: Effectively communicate with clinical teams and present findings at tumour boards.
- PO5: Maintain quality control and standard operating procedures in line with NABL/NABH.
- PO6: Participate in academic teaching and mentoring of postgraduates.

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Sharma
Professor
Department of Pathology
Rohilkhand Medical College
Bareilly.

5. PROGRAM SPECIFIC OUTCOMES (PSOs)

- PSO1: Diagnose common and rare cancers in breast, GI, GU, gynae, lung, and head-neck systems, etc.
- PSO2: Evaluate hematolymphoid neoplasms through bone marrow and lymph node interpretation.
- PSO3: Prepare comprehensive pathology reports integrating histology, IHC, and clinical data and other specialized tests.
- PSO4: Use academic and diagnostic software, digital microscopy tools, and molecular databases.
- PSO5: Conduct audits, maintain logbooks, and contribute to quality improvement work.

6. COURSE OUTCOMES (COs)

At the end of the course, the fellow will be able to:

- CO1: Classify tumours per WHO and CAP guidelines.
- CO2: Select and interpret relevant IHC panels.
- CO3: Report bone marrow and lymphoma cases with full diagnostic work-up.
- CO4: Understand and implement quality practices in pathology labs.
- CO5: Draft a research/academic work and publish an original research paper in indexed journal.

7. COURSE CONTENT MODULES

Module 1: Introduction to Oncopathology

- Tumour biology and pathology foundations
- Histopathological techniques and grossing skills

Module 2: Solid Tumour Histopathology

- Breast, colon, lung, prostate, renal, liver, head & neck, gynaecological cancers

Module 3: Haemato-Oncology

- Blood smear evaluation, bone marrow aspiration and biopsy, lymphoma diagnosis

Module 4: Immunohistochemistry

- Principles, marker panels, troubleshooting, interpretation, and reporting

Module 5: Molecular Diagnostics

- PCR, FISH, NGS principles and indications
- Tumour mutation profiling

Module 6: Cytopathology & Exfoliative Samples

- FNAC, PAP smears, serous fluid cytology

Module 7: Tumour Boards & Clinical Correlation

- Weekly tumour boards
- Path-radiology-clinical integration

Module 8: Quality Control & Lab Accreditation

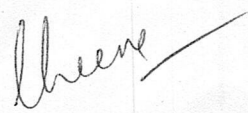
- NABL documentation, SOPs, internal and external QC/QA

Module 9: Research Methodology

- Study design, data analysis, poster/paper writing

Module 10: Teaching & Professional Skills

- Presentations, CME coordination, ethics, communication


Professor
Department of Pathology
Rohilkhand Medical College
Bareilly.



8. Curriculum Structure

9. Teaching and Learning Methods

- Didactic lectures and seminars
 - Case-based learning
 - Interactive tumour board discussions
 - Hands-on laboratory training
 - Research presentations
 - Regular formative assessments
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10. Clinical Exposure

- Diagnosis and reporting of cancer biopsy specimens
 - Fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) clinics
 - Participation in multidisciplinary tumour boards
 - Exposure to surgical/medical oncology and radiotherapy departments
 - Interaction with oncologists, radiologists, and surgeons for integrated diagnosis
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11. Research Project

- Each fellow will undertake 1-2 original academic works related to any field of oncopathology under course director.
 - Encouragement to publish original research in indexed journals.
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12. Assessment and Evaluation

- Continuous formative internal assessment via case discussions/lab work/log book/etc (30%)
 - Mid-term practical/viva exam (10%)
 - Final examination comprising (30%)
 - Theory exam (essay and short notes)
 - Practical/viva voice exam (slide interpretation, gross specimen evaluation)
 - Academic work submission (30%)
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13. Code of Conduct Policy

- Fellows must maintain professional ethics in all academic and clinical activities.
 - Timely attendance and active participation are mandatory.
 - Disclosure of any conflict of interest related to diagnostics, research, or patient care is required.
 - Fellows involved in unethical behaviour or malpractice may face disciplinary action.
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14. Career Opportunities

- Consultant Oncopathologist in cancer centres and hospitals
 - Academic faculty positions in medical colleges
 - Diagnostic laboratory leadership roles
 - Cancer research scientist positions
 - Opportunities in pharmaceutical and biotech companies focusing on oncology diagnostics
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Heer
Professor
Department of Pathology
Rohilkhand Medical College
Bareilly.

15. Timetable

Month	Activity	Details
1-3	Histopathology and Immunohistochemistry	Grossing, microscopic diagnosis, IHC panel practice, Begin academic work as per course director
4	Cytopathology and Hematopathology (Bone marrow examination)	FNAC, bone marrow
5	Molecular Oncology Diagnostics	PCR, karyotyping, molecular testing
6-7	Histopathology and Immunohistochemistry	Grossing, microscopic diagnosis, IHC panel practice, Submission of Draft of academic work as per course director. Mid-term assessment
8-9	Central Lab Hematopathology	Bone marrow, lymphoma diagnosis, coagulation, HPLC, etc
10-11	Histopathology and Immunohistochemistry	Grossing, microscopic diagnosis, IHC panel practice, Submission of final academic work as per course director
12	Molecular Oncology Diagnostics	PCR, karyotyping, molecular testing

16. Faculty Profiles:

- Dr. Cheena Garg, MD (Pathology), UICC Fellowship Oncopathology, Course Director
Expert in oncopathology with 15+ years of experience in cancer diagnostics and research.
- Other Faculty: Clinical and other Experts from surgical oncology, hematopathology, molecular diagnostics, etc.

17. Conflict of Interest & Ineligibility

To maintain the academic integrity and ethical standards of the Fellowship in Oncopathology, the following candidates shall not be eligible to apply:

- Employment/Age Conflicts**
 - Individuals already holding a full-time appointment that prevents them from fulfilling full-time academic responsibilities during the fellowship.
 - Candidates enrolled in any other fellowship, residency, or academic program simultaneously.
 - Candidates who already have enough work experience in oncopathology as a faculty/staff member shall be ineligible.
- Professional Misconduct**
 - Applicants who have faced disciplinary action, suspension, or license cancellation by a medical council or any competent regulatory authority.
- Financial or Ethical Conflict**
 - Candidates with ongoing legal or ethical investigations related to laboratory practices, patient misdiagnosis, or clinical fraud.
 - Any applicant with declared or undeclared financial interest in competing private pathology ventures, labs, or referral incentives that may pose a bias in training or evaluation.
- Academic Dishonesty**
 - Prior record of plagiarism, data falsification, or unethical research conduct disqualifies participation

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Nitah M. Shen

Professor & Head
Deptt. of Pathology
Rohilkhand Medical College
Bareilly

Chena
Professor
Department of Pathology
Rohilkhand Medical College
Bareilly.