

University of Florida Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program

ACVS Surgical Oncology Fellowship

Program Director: Dr Carlos H de M Souza

Faculty in direct support of the program:

Surgical oncology

Carlos Souza, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology) Diplomate ACVS, ACVS Fellow of Surgical Oncology souzachm@ufl.edu

Judit Bertran, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, ACVS fellow of Surgical Oncology bertran.judith@ufl.edu

Elizabeth Maxwell, DVM, Diplomate ACVS, ACVS Fellow of Surgical Oncology emaxwell@ufl.edu

Medical oncology

Rowan Milner, BVSc (Hons), MMedVet, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM, DECVIM (Oncology)

Sandra Bechtel, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology)

Stacey Fox-Alvarez, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

Paulo Vilar-Saavedra, DVM, MS, DACVIM (Oncology)

Radiation oncology

Keiji Shiomitsu, DVM, Diplomate ACVR (Radiation Oncology)

Marilia Takada, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVR (Radiation Oncology)

Goals of the Program:

The goals of the program are to familiarize the fellow to all aspects of oncology with a strong emphasis in surgical oncology. A high exposure to complex oncologic cases is the main feature of this program. The fellow will interact with ACVS Surgical Oncologists, medical oncologists, and radiation oncologists to improve (or learn) all aspects of diagnostics, treatment, and prognosis of a variety of early and advanced cancers. The approach to multimodality treatments is strongly emphasized. At the end of the program the ACVS fellow is eligible to submit her/his credentials to the American College of Veterinary Surgeons for the title of Fellow of Surgical Oncology.

Requirements for Prospective Candidates:

The requirements for applicants are a DVM and completion of a 3-year Surgery Residency Program (approved by either ACVS or ECVS). The fellow will be responsible to keep a surgery log with all the cases she/he was involved during that year. The cases are divided into Level I or Level II as per a list of procedures provided by the ACVS. UF-Surgical Oncology performs an average of 12-14 surgeries/week (>650/year), 30-40% of these being considered major procedures.

Training capacity and previous history:

Our program is one of the oldest in the country and currently one of only 4 active programs in the world (CSU, UF, OSU and Auburn). We have been training fellows for more than 16 years and they moved to continuing their careers in both academic institutions (North Carolina State University, Ohio State University, University of Missouri, University of Minnesota, University of Zurich and University of Ghent), as well as specialty private practices.

Program Description:

This is an intensive program to immerse the fellow in most aspects of oncology and more specifically, surgical oncology. The fellow actively participates on all aspects of patient care related to surgical oncology. From the initial appointment and discussion of the case with clients, to patient care and discharges. Under the direct supervision of surgical oncology faculty, the fellow is directly involved (primary surgeon or first assistant) in nearly all surgeries and assist with patient care, client communication, evening and weekend care of patients and patient discharges. In all these duties, the fellow is supervised by the Surgical Oncology Faculty. There is no mandatory emergency duties. The fellow shares the weekend (patient care) with 2 Surgical Oncology interns. The fellow is exposed not only to the management of cancer cases, but also multiple other areas, common to general surgery, including:

- *Analysis of complex CT images*
- *Management of emergency and elective oncologic surgeries*
- *Planning and management of cases in need of reconstruction techniques*
- *Management of wounds, infection and critical patients.*
- *End-of-life discussion with clients*
- *Cadaver labs*
- *Literature discussion (Journal Club)*
- *Case rounds with medical and radiation oncology house officers and faculty*

Research:

A research project will also be a part of the program (usually a retrospective study), with a manuscript to be submitted for publication before the end of the fellowship program. The ACVS Surgical Oncology fellowship program is mostly clinical, but a publication will complete the ACVS requirements for the title of Fellow of Surgical Oncology.

Distribution of weeks:

The ACVS-surgical oncology fellowship program will consist of: 42 weeks of surgical oncology clinical service. Since most fellows are not boarded, the ACVS guidelines allows for 8 weeks of boards preparation in addition to 2 weeks of vacation. Some fellows have already achieved ACVS board status

by the beginning of their fellowship. In such cases, the fellow will still have 10 weeks off clinics, but this will be done in a way the off-clinics time is distributed homogeneously throughout the year.

Teaching rounds, Journal Clubs, Short Courses, etc:

The fellow is given the opportunity to attend a busy schedule of journal clubs, book reviews, “Morbidity and Mortality” rounds, Oncology rounds and JC, in addition to specific courses. This schedule helps maintain and increase the fellow’s knowledge in general surgery, in preparation for board exam.

Learning rounds

First week of the rotation

These rounds are created to widen the fellow’s understanding of tumor biology, literature, as well as keeping up with studying for ACVS boards preparation.

Monday: Orientation and management of case-transfers; Oncology JC “Reading Rainbow”

Tuesday: Tobias reading rounds (7-8am); Didactic rounds with students in Surg-Onc. The intern is expected to observe to one of each of these rounds for every topic. Eventually the intern will teach some among one of the surgery topics. (8:15-9am).

Wednesday: House officer seminar or minimally invasive orthopedic surgery.

Thursday: Case rounds, Oncology journal club, M&M rounds.

Friday: Surgery JC, Cadaver Lab (Various topics including oncology), Oncology JC.

Second week of the rotation:

Monday: Oncology JC

Tuesday: Tobias book reading (7-8am), Oncology teaching rounds (8-9am)

Wednesday: Resident seminar or minimally invasive orthopedic surgery course

Thursday: Case rounds or M&M rounds

Friday: Surgery JC, Cadaver labs, Case rounds, Oncology grand rounds (once monthly), Oncology JC, Oncology Clinician rounds.

Laboratories: The fellow will participate in various cadaver practices that strengthen anatomy and surgical technique. Some of these labs include, but are not limited to: Combined approach to the caudal maxilla, vaginectomy, hemipelvectomy, etc.

Interested candidates should contact:

Drs. Carlos Souza (program director); souzachm@ufl.edu

Dr. Judit Bertran; bertran.judith@ufl.edu

Dr. Elizabeth Maxwell ; emaxwell@ufl.edu

*Carlos Henrique de Mello Souza DVM, MS
Diplomate ACVIM (Oncology) Diplomate ACVS
ACVS Fellow of Surgical Oncology
Assistant Professor of Surgical Oncology Jean Imparato Professor in Canine Oncology Surgical Oncology
Service Chief
Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Florida
2015 SW 16th Ave
PO Box 10016
Gainesville, FL 32610
Phone: (352) 392-2235
Fax: (352) 846-2445
souzachm@ufl.edu www.vetmed.ufl.edu*