OVERVIEW

Residents may choose a research elective which can last up to eight to twelve-weeks in duration. Projects must be chosen and developed by the resident and program director with input from research mentor Dr. Luther Brady to meet specific goals, as determined in advance.

OBJECTIVES: (Will differ depending upon specific research project. Final approval of projects will not be given until objectives for that project are completed and reviewed with program director/research mentor).

- To learn to develop a research question.
- To learn to access, appraise, and assimilate the current medical literature pertaining to the research topic.
- To gain an understanding of the scientific method by designing and writing a research protocol.
- To learn about research ethics, informed consent, and the regulatory approvals process by completing HIPAA compliance training and by obtaining necessary approval for the conduct of the proposed research project.
- To conduct the research, and to acquire any skills necessary to do so such as laboratory techniques and computer skills.
- To learn basic biostatistics and data analysis as appropriate to the project.
- To demonstrate communication skills by presenting research results to medical colleagues at the Drexel Discovery Day and/or other appropriate conference(s). Residents will be encouraged to present at national meetings and to write papers for publication in medical journals.
- Understand the principles of research and manuscript writing for specific projects as determined by the resident and program director.
REQUIREMENTS:

To receive elective credit for research, the resident must complete the following minimum requirements:

- Identify a faculty research mentor and proposed project (Dr. Luther Brady unless otherwise specified).
- Submit a brief (1-2 page) summary of a proposed research project and a research plan with study design and timeline, to be approved by Dr. Komarnicky and the research mentor.
- Obtain regulatory approval for the project, as appropriate. In most cases this will include writing and submitting a protocol to the IRB.
- Present findings at the Drexel Discovery Day.
- Submit a final product to the Program Coordinator. Examples include an abstract, a poster presentation, the draft of a paper, or a publication.

DIDACTIC COMPONENT

- Residents will be expected to utilize resources as needed, specific to the chosen or assigned project, which are available in the medical library and on-line computerized resources maintained throughout the institution.

SCHEDULE

- Residents granted a research elective rotation will have no clinical duties during their research block (aside from call). However, the expectation is that residents will work a similar number of hours during their research block as they would in any other clinical block. A detailed schedule will need to be approved by Dr. Brady. As a part of the schedule, residents will meet weekly with Dr. Brady to review progress. Location of the research elective will depend upon the specified project(s) and will be approved by Dr. Brady. Vacation may be taken during the research elective, but must go through the typical process as stated in the resident handbook.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Note that use of the term “research” may be interpreted broadly to encompass a range of scholarly pursuits. Dr. Brady is available to help residents identify potential research mentors and scholarly projects. Residents have access through the Radiation Oncology Department and the Cancer Center to many resources ranging from grant-writing support, computer classes, seminars on clinical investigation, and statistics assistance.
- The requirements listed above are only minimal requirements. It is anticipated that participating residents will also take advantage of the research elective opportunity to develop new skills, present at national meetings, and submit the results of their research for journal publication.