

1-year Fellowship in Pediatric Palliative Medicine For South and Southeast Asia

Prospectus and Application Form

Important Dates:

Course start date: Jan 5, 2026

Course completion date: Jan 4, 2027

Orientation Weeks (full-time classes- require time away from clinical duties):
Jan 5-9 and Jan 12-16, 2026

Application Dates for Jan 2026 intake:

May 26, 2025- First day of Application Submission

July 14, 2025- Last Day of Application Submission

July 28, 2025- Request for Interviews will be sent to Candidates

Aug 4-15, 2025 - Interviews with Candidates

Aug 29, 2025- Declaration of results of selected Candidates

Three positions are available each year, starting in January. The fellowship is one year in duration.

Course Fee (if accepted): USD \$1000

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

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to announce that we will offer a one-year Pediatric Palliative Medicine Fellowship for physicians in South and Southeast Asia, including clinical and online training with a dedicated team of international, regional, and local palliative care experts and specialists. This training program is being offered jointly by the Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care and Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration.

This training program provides comprehensive subspecialty training in pediatric palliative care. After their training, trainees are expected to become leaders and specialists in this area.

Please find the program description and application process described below. We look forward to advancing the field of Pediatric Palliative Medicine and supporting the training of future specialists in this area.

Warmly,

Dr. Gayatri Palat

DA, DNB(Anesthesiology)
Consultant, Pain and Palliative Medicine
MNJ Institute of Oncology and RCC (Hyderabad)
Director, PAX Asia Program, Two Worlds Cancer
Collaboration, Canada
Director, Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care

Dr. Megan Doherty

Fellowship, Co-Program Director
MD, FRCPC (Pediatrics, Palliative Medicine)
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Worlds Cancer Collaboration
Program Director, Palliative Care, Children's
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Assistant Professor, University of Ottawa,
Canada

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 integral to 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).

Physicians, nurses, counselors, psychologists, play therapists, physiotherapists and a broad range of other healthcare 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
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 Pediatric Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

Aims:

- To build the capacity of physicians to provide palliative care services for children across South and Southeast Asia.
- To train physicians who will lead palliative care for children with serious illnesses in South and Southeast Asia.

Eligibility Criteria: Applicants must have a **post-graduate medical degree**, and preference will be given to those whose degree is in **Pediatrics**. If candidates have a postgraduate degree in another clinical specialty, they should 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.

Selection of Candidates: The selection will be done by a committee. Since the program focuses 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: USD \$1000 (includes institutional fees and other resources).

Background and Partners

Hyderabad PPC fellowship

This fellowship program builds on the established strengths of the Hyderabad-based clinical pediatric palliative care fellowship program, which has been running at MNJ Regional Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology and Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration (TWCC) for the past 5 years. This South/Southeast Asian fellowship program will allow trainees from outside of India to access the same level of teaching as is offered in the clinical fellowship without needing to leave their home facility for a whole year.

Through interaction with a large and diverse group of palliative care specialists and other experts from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Uganda, and the UK, the fellow will develop key clinical, research and leadership skills. The teaching and learning program will be complemented by in-person palliative care clinical exposures to adult and pediatric palliative care, as well as community-based program. The clinical placements will be determined in

consultation with local palliative care professionals and are dependent on the local palliative care situation in the fellow's home country.

Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration (www.twoworldscancer.ca/#home) is a Canadian non-profit foundation whose focus is to reduce the burden of cancer and associated suffering in resource-limited settings. TWCC supports the Pediatric Palliative Care Program through a partnership with MNJ Hospital and the Palliative and Pain Relief Society in Hyderabad, to provide inpatient and outpatient pediatric palliative care at MNJ as well as Kumudini Devi Hospice, home-care services, and services for children in rural areas.

Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care

This is a regional hub for the state of Telangana, India, and is a leading center in providing palliative care training for health care professionals from a variety of disciplines.

Other Training Courses include:

- 6-week Basic Certificate Course in Palliative Medicine (for MBBS doctors).
- 6-week Basic Certificate Course in Palliative Nursing (for BSc/Diploma holders in nursing).
- 4-week Advanced Certificate Course in Pediatric Palliative Medicine and Nursing (for doctors and nurses who have previously completed the 6-week course and desire more advanced training in pediatrics).

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 a preference for pediatric-trained candidates.

During the 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 illnesses 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 behaviors for effective patient-centered 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 professionally.

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 a more detailed structure.

Clinical rotations in the Program are distributed between local palliative care service delivery sites and external pediatric palliative care programs from a variety of income and service settings (both high and low-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 Manager: Ms. Rizwana Hussain

Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration

programsprojectmanager@twoworldscancer.ca

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the duration of the PPC Fellowship program?
 - The fellowship is 12 months in duration and starts in January each year.
2. Who is eligible to apply? Can non-pediatricians apply?
 - Applicants must have a post-graduate medical degree and preference will be given to those whose degree is in Pediatrics.
 - Applicants must be living and working in South and Southeast Asia; applicants from other regions will not be considered.
 - Applicants should be pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists (e.g. pediatric oncologists, etc)
 - Applicants without post-graduate training in pediatrics should clearly mention in their statement of interest how their previous work and experience demonstrate that they have sufficient knowledge of pediatrics to complete this fellowship
3. How do I apply? What documents are required to apply?
 - Interested applicants should carefully review the [fellowship prospectus](#) and submit all of the following documents:
 1. Curriculum vitae (CV)
 2. A statement of purpose (maximum 500 words) outlining your reasons for pursuing the training and how you plan to apply the knowledge in your future career.
 3. Application form
 4. 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
 - All documents should be submitted together and incomplete applications will not be considered
4. Is there a fee to join the program? Is financial assistance or a scholarship available?
 - The fellowship course fee is \$1000 USD.
 - Candidates with financial hardship are encouraged to apply for a course scholarship, details will be provided with the acceptance package
5. Will I receive a certificate, and is it internationally recognized?
 - Fellows who successfully complete all fellowship requirements will receive a certificate of completion, from the Hyderabad Centre for Palliative Care and Two Worlds Cancer Collaboration
 - The fellowship has been endorsed by the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health (UK) and this is also noted on the certificate
6. What is the structure of the training? Is it fully online or in-person?
 - The fellowship combines both online learning and in-person clinical training.

- There are 4 months of in-person clinical rotations, including 2 months in your home country and 2 months in Hyderabad, India
- There are 4-6 weekly teaching sessions online, sessions are generally in the morning or evening (Indian Standard Time)

7. What is the expected outcome of the fellowship?

- Upon successful completion of the fellowship, fellows will be able to:
 - Demonstrate the medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional attitudes needed to provide specialist-level pediatric palliative care for children (0-18 years) with serious or life-threatening illnesses and their families, in all relevant locations, including inpatient (hospital and hospice), outpatient, and community settings
 - Develop and conduct clinical research relevant to pediatric palliative care
 - Describe and reflect on the development of pediatric palliative care in their country and globally, including identifying barriers and next steps to ensure palliative care development for children in their country.

General Structure of the Fellowship:

8. What is expected from fellows during the program?

Fellows are expected to:

- Attend all online teaching sessions
- Prepare for and participate actively in online teaching and discussions
- Prepare clinical case presentations for teaching sessions as required
- Satisfactorily complete all written assignments, research milestones, examinations, and assessments
- Work independently on research project, under the supervision of research mentor
- Successfully complete all clinical rotations

9. What are the technical requirements for participating?

- The fellowship requires a computer and high-speed internet connectivity

10. What is the language of instruction?

- English is the primary language of instruction.
- The ability to communicate effectively in English (written and spoken) is required

11. Can I continue working during the fellowship?

- Yes, fellows may continue their clinical work part-time during their fellowship
- The fellowship is designed to be part-time for 8 of the 12 months, the 4 months of clinical rotations are full time and require leave from your institution
- Additionally, the first 2 weeks of the fellowship are dedicated Orientation Weeks, which include more frequent online sessions for 5-6 hrs daily, institutional leave is required
- Upon acceptance, you must submit a signed agreement from your institutional indicating their support for your fellowship where the institutions acknowledges that you will be required to complete 4 months of clinical rotations and they will provide you with flexibility to ensure you can attend the online classes

- Note that some of the online teaching sessions may be during your work hours based on your time zone.

12. How much time should I expect to commit weekly to the fellowship?

- Aside from during clinical rotations, fellows will have 5–6 hours per week of online classes, an additional 3-4 hrs per week is expected to be spent in independent study, completing assignments, and conducting your research project
- During clinical training, full-day commitment is required.
- Support from your workplace and supervisor is essential.

Clinical Rotations:

13. What is the duration of clinical training?

- There are 4 months of mandatory clinical training in palliative care, include 2 months in your home country and **2 months in Hyderabad, India**

14. Are there clinical rotations in other countries?

- Yes, fellows are required to complete 2 months of clinical training in Pediatric Palliative Care in Hyderabad, India
- This rotation will include training on the provision of inpatient and outpatient hospital-based pediatric palliative care, pediatric hospice, and home-based palliative care.

15. Are these rotations mandatory?

- Yes, all of the clinical rotations are a mandatory component of the fellowship. There are no exceptions made for this requirement.

Research Project:

16. Can I choose my research topic?

- Yes, projects are individualized in collaboration with your supervisor and aligned with program goals.
- Guidance will be provided by your research supervisor about how to structure your research to advance pediatric palliative care in your setting, by describing and characterizing the need for pediatric palliative care

17. Does the project need ethics committee approval?

- Yes, ethics committee approval from your local institution is required before conducting your research.
- The Fellowship Research Director and an individual research supervisor will provide guidance and support to develop and submit your research proposal for ethical approval

18. What is the expected outcome of the research project?
- Fellows are expected to develop a project proposal, successfully receive ethical approval and then conduct their research project
 - The final outcome should be a manuscript which is submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.
19. Are there specific research deliverables, and will there be regular progress reviews?
- Yes. There will be specific research deliverables with structured milestones, including the submission of a proposal, an annotated bibliography, an abstract, and several presentations at monthly research rounds.
 - Ongoing supervision and regular feedback will be provided to ensure steady progress and adherence to the research timeline.
20. What kind of support will I receive for my research project?
- Fellows will receive supervision from our Research Director and an assigned individual research supervisor to support project design and implementation.
 - Research supervisors will support fellows throughout the writing, editing, and submission stages.

Application Instructions:

Instructions: Please submit all of the following documents to Ms. Rizwana Hussain (Program Manager, programsprojectmanager@twoworldscancer.ca)

- 1) **Statement of purpose**- a brief statement on why you wish to pursue this training program and how you would use the training in your future career (maximum of 500 words).
- 2) **CV**
- 3) **Application Form**

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 (post-graduate training program): _____

Names of Professional References:

Reference #1

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Employer: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number _____

Reference #2

Name: _____

Job Title: _____

Employer: _____

Email: _____ Phone Number _____

[illegible]

Appendix 1

Component of Fellowship	Item	Description	Assessment Techniques
Transition to Discipline	Orientation weeks (2 weeks)	Provide an introduction to PPC, determine research project mentor, location of clinical placements, and supervision mentor	Successful completion of assignments, selection of mentors, clinical placement locations, & research project
Formal Teaching/Learning	Overall	Expected to require 8hrs/week	
	ECHO (1.5h/week)	Fellows will participate in Project ECHO on PPC, this course includes 25 x 1 hr sessions, plus additional self-study (reading and watching videos) -expected to require 1.5 hours/week	Attendance, participation in discussions, and completion of assignments
	Academic Teaching and Study (3h/week)	Faculty will provide suggested learning materials and engage in learning sessions with fellows. Will include case presentations, discussions, and formal teaching.	Completion of discussions with faculty related to specific EPAs
	Journal Club (2-4 x year)	The fellow will present at least twice per year	Journal Club Evaluation Form
	ECHO PPC for their country (or another setting) - 6 sessions (3 hrs/wk x 6 weeks)	The fellow will take on a leadership role in a shorter ECHO course during the second half of the fellowship, will assist with organization and leadership as well as the teaching program -Maybe for the home country	Completion of facilitator training, participation in the leadership team, conducting sessions as a facilitator
Scholarly Activity (Research or QI)	Overall	Will be assigned a research/QI project supervisor, who will meet quarterly	Completion of the project with a presentation during the final week of the fellowship 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 project at the end of their fellowship, as well as at a national or international conference (poster or presentation)	Submission of final research report Poster presentation at a conference
	Research in Progress Rounds (4x/year)	Fellow will present twice per year (once at the beginning with an initial project idea and once near the end) to receive feedback on their presentation	Research in Progress Evaluation Form
Supervision	Monthly meeting	The fellow will be assigned a professional supervision mentor (1 meeting/month)	Completion of the meeting form after each meeting
	Quarterly Meeting with the program director	The program director is the supervisor of the overall academic program, The program director reports on the fellow's progress to Fellowship Program Committee	Completion of self-evaluation form during each meeting
Clinical	Overall		
	Local Clinical Exposure (2 months)	Can be in adult or pediatric palliative care, in the home country, paired with assignments to assess the services and how they meet patients' needs	Rotation Evaluation by the Clinical Supervisor Assignments
	International PPC Exposure (2 months)	Will be in pediatric palliative care at a regional Centre of Excellence for PPC	Rotation Evaluation by the Clinical Supervisor Assignments
Assessment	Overall	Emphasis on EPA-focused assessments	Final Assessment Document
	Viva (12 per year)	Practice Viva station with the assigned faculty member, provides a structured clinical assessment of clinical skills (e.g. assessment of pain, communication with a child, etc)	Completion of Viva Marking Document for each

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 Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health
 (United Kingdom)

	Formative Exam (4 and 8 m)	SAQ and MCQ exam, twice during the fellowship to provide fellows with feedback on their progress.	Completion with passing score
	multi-source feedback 1/yr	Receive feedback from the multi-disciplinary team	Written feedback
	self-reflections (4 and 8 mo)	Written reflections by fellows about their own learning and progress in achieving competency in PPC	Submission of a written self-reflection essay
	teaching evaluations 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 Scores on both exams

Appendix 2

Clinical Placements:

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

Fellows will spend 8 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.

Local Palliative Care Services

Two local placements will be conducted by the fellow, each for 1 month duration. During the orientation week, the fellow will identify the local adult and pediatric palliative care services in their country, where they will be placed for clinical placements to understand how palliative care is delivered in their own country. The fellow will observe and participate in these services and will reflect on how the services are adapted to the local situation and resource constraints. The fellow will identify and describe the roles and training of all team members to further explore the needs of a skilled palliative care workforce. The third placement should focus on community-based care and include hospice and home-based palliative care, if available. Alternative community placements may include primary health programs in slums or remote/rural areas, programs for children with disabilities or chronic conditions, or other community-based programs as determined in consultation with local contacts and the fellowship program directors.