



Clinical Research Mentorship Program (CRMP)

Deadline is fast approaching - 15 August 2026!

The clinical research mentorship program is a year-long mentorship program designed for oncology residents in training with a focus in radiation oncology. Residents from training programs with the greatest need for access to an external mentor will be given priority. At the core of this program is the resident in training, supported by their local supervisor, matched with a mentor from a participating academic institution (Princess Margaret, MD Anderson or their collaborators). The goal is to complete a clinical research project of the residents' choice, leading to conference submission and manuscript publication.

The program was first piloted as a collaborative project between the Radiation Medicine Program (RMP), Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Canada and Korle Bu Cancer Center, Ghana (2015). It has since been collaborated with the Parirenyatwa Radiotherapy Center, University of Zimbabwe (2018) and in 2020, expanded to involve multiple centers coordinated by Association of Radiation and Clinical Oncologist of Nigeria, and in 2022 as an AORTIC initiative,

For 2026, AORTIC will again host this program in collaboration with Princess Margaret Cancer Center and MD Anderson Cancer Center. The program is under the stewardship of the Education & Training Committee

Interested residents are invited to apply.

Format

The mentorship program is for a one-year period (e.g. Sep 2026 – Aug 2027) with the following key features:

1. The program starts with an interested resident, identifying a local supervisor and a research idea/question that is feasible to complete in one year. The resident will submit his/her research proposal and supervisor supporting letter.
2. Accepted residents will be supported by their local supervisor, and an assigned mentor from a participating academic cancer center (e.g. Princess Margaret, MD Anderson) for the duration of the program.
3. The program begins with a clinical research methods seminar series. The seminar series will consist of fifteen 1.5 hours seminar, using telehealth. Students are expected to modify their proposal based on concepts learned throughout the seminar series. At the end of the seminar series, the final research design will be presented, ready for implementation.
4. Research methods seminar series is delivered using an inverted classroom format. Participants are expected to go through the pre-assigned reading materials and attend ready to discuss how it applies to their research proposal. The faculty will provide a 30-minute overview of the topic, with the remainder of the time reserved for interaction and discussion.
5. Supervisors and mentors are invited and strongly encouraged to participate in a mentoring the mentor discussion group (6 sessions) for sharing mentorship best practices within this setting.
6. New this year, the "mentoring the mentor" (6 sessions) will be repeated for the mentees facilitated in part by CRMP alumni

7. Throughout the year, the resident, supported by his/her mentor and supervisor will implement the research protocol, collect data and prepare an abstract suitable for submission to the AORTIC biennial cancer in Africa conference.
8. A stipend is available to go towards disseminate of research findings. This is accessible **only** upon successful acceptance of their abstract for presentation at the AORTIC conference (or equivalent).

Candidate's Responsibility

1. Seek permission from their residency training program to participate.
2. Identify a local supervisor who is agreeable to serve as a supervisor for the resident and mentor to participate in the program.
3. Accepted candidates need to attend all the classes and engage actively with his/her supervisors for the duration of the program.
4. Candidates are required to prepare an abstract for submission to AORTIC biennial cancer in Africa conference.

Eligibility

1. Residents enrolled in an African oncology training program during the proposed year of participation.
2. A resident in their year 2 or 3 of training (i.e. can complete their training before their final year of training is preferred).
3. Resident's supervisor, need to provide a letter of support for the application.
4. Residents are in good academic standing with their training program.
5. Research topic related to the practice of radiation oncology is preferred but any clinical research questions related to oncology is welcome

Selection Process and Criteria

Applicants will submit the application package by the deadline **15 August 2026**.

Applicants will be notified by **7 September 2026** whether their application has been accepted.
Target start date is end of September 2026.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Is the research question well-constructed?
2. Is the project feasible in the environment and timeline proposed?
3. Are the methods proposed appropriate?
4. Has the applicant identified a local mentor who has agreed to serve as a supervisor?
5. Is the research question likely to generate knowledge relevant to the research environment?

Applications will be evaluated by a panel of radiation oncology faculty

Please submit applications to Belmira Rodrigues

(Belmira.rodrigues@aortic-Africa.org)

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Please submit in that Application Package:

1. Curriculum Vitae of applicant
2. Cover Letter to the selection committee
3. Supervisor supporting letter
4. Application Form

Please submit in that order 🖐

Application Form (please use the following headings to prepare application)

About the Applicant	
Name of applicant	

Name of residency program supervisor	
Why are you interested in participating in this program? (max 250 words)	
About the Project	
Name of project supervisor Name: E mail: Address: Phone:	
Name of project	
Background (max 1 page)	
Methods (max 1 page)	
Future directions (max ½ page)	