



భారతీయ సాంకేతిక విజ్ఞాన సంస్థ హైదరాబాద్
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान हैदराबाद
Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad



Indian Institute of Head and Neck Oncology

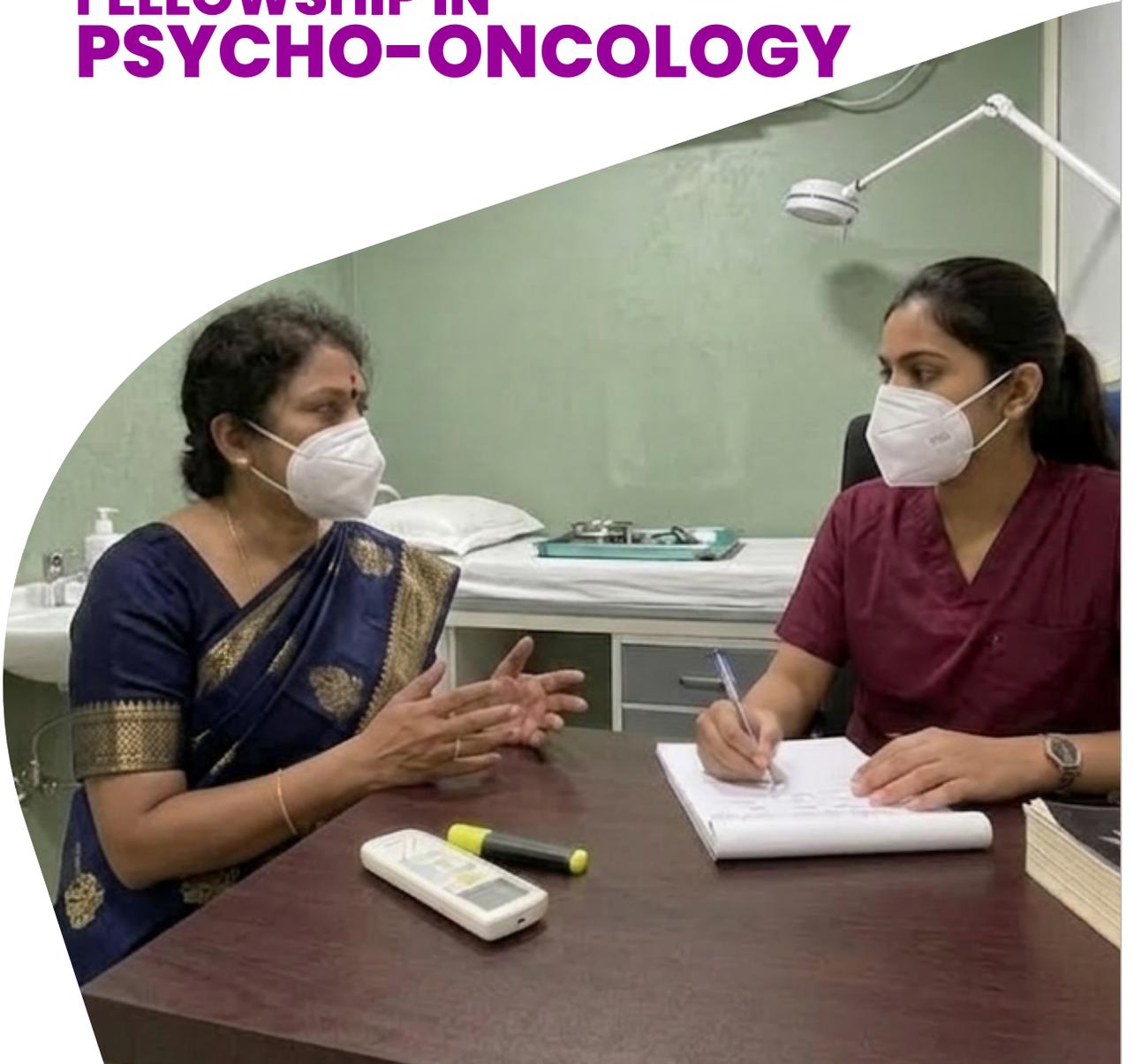
(A flagship project of the Indore Cancer Foundation Charitable Trust)

And

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH)

Jointly Present

FELLOWSHIP IN PSYCHO-ONCOLOGY



Why fellowship in Psycho-Oncology?

India being a culturally more collectivistic rather than individualistic set-up; and cancer as a grave diagnosis, physically impacts one, but emotionally, logistically and psycho-socially impacts the entire family. Along with the physical battle, the journey of treatment also entails emotional and psychosocial challenges. With more than 450 Tertiary Cancer Centres across India, we have less than 100 Mental Health Professionals working to cater to patients' and caregivers' emotional and psychosocial well-being. Psycho-Oncology as a stream stands for, and with patients beyond the diagnosis. Empirical approaches of counselling are used to determine a better quality of life for the patients, rather than the focus being on just the quantity of life. For the same, super specialised training is required in Psycho-oncology, which equips Mental Health Professionals to enhance their counselling skills and use them to work in cancer care.

How will the fellowship be useful for me?

The on-the-job-training of 13 months will be an extensive exposure for you to apply the learnt theoretical knowledge and enhance their skills in order to identify, assess, and manage psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual concerns of patients and their families. Right from learning about basics of oncology, to assessing and managing distress, to pre-op & post-op counselling, to conducting support groups, to getting introduced to research in cancer care, the fellowship will result in enhancement of your knowledge and skills about many more such sub-sects of the field. Psycho-oncology is still a budding field in India, with a great amount of untapped work opportunities. The fellowship will also give you an insight on how to tap onto such opportunities, and will ultimately make you job ready by preparing you to work as a Psycho-oncologist, who will be well trained to work independently if given an opportunity.

What are the modules covered in the fellowship?

1. Introduction to Oncology
2. Introduction to Psycho-Oncology & Research
3. Specialised Groups
4. Therapeutic Interventions
5. Research Work
6. Self Health Care and Colleagues work
7. Career development

What are the highlights of the fellowship?

- It is a 13 months fellowship, divided in two semesters, and a semester break of two weeks in-between.
- After each module, assessment will be done, along with assessments at the end of each semester.
- Weekly clinical discussions will take place, where cases from psycho-oncology standpoint will be discussed for a better understanding of work done and further scope.
- Each module will be facilitated by expert faculty in Psycho-Oncology.
- Fellows will get exposure to all departments of oncology by their respective experts, to encapsulate a holistic understanding of an oncology set-up and the role of a psycho-oncologist in the same.
- Reading material for each topic will be provided to the fellows in forms of soft copies, and hard copies when needed.

How will the fellowship be organised?

- The fellowship will begin on August 3rd, 2026 and will kick-off with a one week of orientation.
- For each week that follows, the division of the entire week will be done in observing cases, dissemination of theoretical knowledge, reading days, and clinical work days.
- At the end of each module, fellows will be evaluated via presentations, and personal and professional learnings of the covered module.
- At the end of each semester, certain required case studies in a pre-given format will have to be submitted along with research assessments.
- Each module will be assessed by the faculty/faculties teaching the same.
- A minimum attendance of 80% will be required along with submission of all the given assignments (with 65% minimum scoring in each) to be eligible for certification.

Who will be the expert faculties teaching in the fellowship programme?



Dr. Dignpal Dharkar
(Surgical Oncologist; Founder
& Honorary Secretary, ICF)



Dr. Mahati Chittem
(Professor, Health & Medical
Psychology, Dept. of Liberal Arts,
IIT Hyderabad)



Dr. Shweta Chawak
(Assistant Professor, Health &
Medical Psychology,
Dept. Of Humanities & Social
Sciences, IIT Bombay)



Ms. Palav Kamdar Gandhi
(Psycho-Oncologist, HOD, Dept. of
Psycho-Oncology, IIHNO)

What is the eligibility criteria to apply for the fellowship?

- A student awaiting result for M.A. OR M.Phil in Psychology / Clinical Psychology / Counselling Psychology.
- A mental health professional with a degree in M.A. OR M.Phil in Psychology / Clinical Psychology / Counselling Psychology
- Minimum of 50% in the finals of the above mentioned degree courses. If the candidate is awaiting their final result, they can submit the previous semesters' mark-sheets. Selected candidate will be given a provisional position only. If in the final scoring of their degree course, the cut-off is not met, the candidacy will be rejected. The position will be given to the next in the waiting list.

Certification

This fellowship will be jointly certified by Indian Institute of Head and Neck Oncology (IIHNO) and Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH). A certificate of successful completion of **Fellowship in Psycho-Oncology** will be given to the fellows meeting the criteria of attendance and assessments.

Process of Applying

- The admission form has to be filled and submitted as a PDF, along with the supporting documents. Details of both of which (submission process and supporting documents) is given in the admission form. One can download the form from this prospectus.
- The cost of each admission form will be Rs. 250/-.
- The selection process will be of a total of the eligibility cleared, Statement of Purpose (SOP) submitted by the candidate, and the final in-person interview at IIHNO. The division of the weight-age of marks of each of the sections will remain with the selection panel. Fees (para ñ no visual)
- Upon selection, Rs. 1,27,440 (inclusive of Fellowship fees: Rs. 1,00,000, administrative fees: Rs. 8,000, and 18% GST: Rs. 19,440) will have to be paid. The fee can be paid via NEFT transfer or a cheque. Details of the same will be shared with the selected candidates.
- Required documents (the list of the same will be provided on the interview day) will have to be submitted along with the fees to secure the admission in the fellowship programme within 7 days of the selection announcement.

Fees

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Dates of Importance (2026-2027)

Last date of application submission- May 31st, 2026

Personal Interview date- July 1st, 2026
(tentative, if any changes the candidates will be informed well in advance)

Selection announcement- July 5th, 2026

Course Commencement date- August 3rd, 2026

Semester Break- Feb' 1st, 2027 – Feb' 13th, 2027

Final Evaluation- August 2027

For any queries, contact-



Call

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(Ms. Palav Kamdar Gandhi- HOD, Pyscho-Oncology, IIHNO)



Mail

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(Ms. Palav Kamdar Gandhi, IIHNO)

mahati@la.iith.ac.in

(Dr. Mahati Chittem, IITH)



Website

<https://indorecancerfoundation.org>

<https://sites.google.com/a/iith.ac.in/dr-mahati-chittem/>



Address

Indian Institute of Head and Neck Oncology

Pigdambar Road, Rao, Next to IIM Indore,
Indore, Madhya Pradesh- 453331

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PAYMENT**



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Admission Form -**



About the Institutes

Indian Institute of Head and Neck Oncology

(IIHNO – A flagship project of the Indore Cancer Foundation Charitable Trust)

Indore Cancer Foundation Charitable Trust is a not-for-profit Charitable Organisation set up in 1988. IIHNO is a flagship project of ICF, started in 1995, with the focus on India's most common cancer in men – head & neck cancers. It runs as a tertiary cancer centre, with focus on head & neck cancers and allied malignancies. The institute provides free and highly subsidised, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and surgical oncology services, especially to economically disadvantaged patients from Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring regions. IIHNO also stands apart for its decision to start early integration of supportive care in cancer treatment – the effort is to not only offer scientific cancer treatment, but also to proactively manage its side effects and where possible prevent them. An early integration team comprising of a supportive care physician, psycho-oncologist, counsellors, dietician, and physiotherapist work with the treating oncologist to manage side effects of cancer treatment. This is important because side effects pre-empted/handled in time improves the quality of life, and ensures better treatment compliance, thus improving treatment outcomes. While the advantages of this approach are self evident, the ground reality is that most cancer treatment facilities in India do not adopt this approach despite the fact that it is not cost intensive. The assessment is that this is due to lack of awareness and shortage of trained staff. Thus was born the decision to do everything to increase awareness of the efficacy of this approach as well as increase availability of trained manpower.

Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IITH)

IIT Hyderabad is an institute of national importance established under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961. The department of Liberal Arts at IIT-H has been working in areas focused on Psycho-Oncology, psychosocial endocrinology, and health behaviour change. With more than 15 years of research work in communication skills in oncology and related topics, evidence-based and culturally attuned tools for teaching communication skills have been developed for medical care practitioners in India.