

Johns Hopkins Hematology/Oncology Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I double board in both hematology and medical oncology?

The fellowship places incoming fellows into either the medical oncology or hematology track, and most fellows single board within that pathway. That said, a limited number of fellows per class can pursue double boarding when it fits their long-term career goals.

Double boarding is more demanding — here's what it adds:

- An extra 6 months of intensive clinical training in the complementary track (year 2)
- 2–3 additional months of clinical rotations in year 3
- Participation in both hematology and oncology call pools during years 2 and 3
- Two half-days of outpatient continuity clinic per week (one hematology, one oncology) throughout years 2 and 3

While the schedule is certainly more demanding, fellows who choose this pathway gain broad exposure across both specialties and are well positioned for careers that bridge malignant hematology, transplantation, and solid tumor oncology.

What does the call structure look like?

Call responsibilities differ by track and year. Here's a quick breakdown:

Medical Oncology Call

Med onc fellows cover the outpatient oncology center (“center call”) overnight and on weekends. Urgent inpatient oncology consults are handled by the oncology triage attending.

First year	~5–6 weekends (Friday night through Sunday morning)
Second year	Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday nights (~16–20 total) + 24-hr Sunday call (5–6 total)
Third year	Monday nights only (5–6 total)

Call primarily involves triaging urgent outpatient issues, including helping patients decide between the ED and oncology urgent care, managing symptoms related to disease or treatment, and handling time-sensitive medication refills.

Hematology Call

Hematology fellows on the inpatient consult service take overnight calls, primarily to triage urgent inpatient consults from the ED and inpatient units. Common call topics include requests for anticoagulant reversal, evaluation of suspected thrombotic microangiopathy/HUS, and acute sickle cell complications. Outpatient hematology calls are less frequent and typically involve critical lab results or other time-sensitive issues.

First year	MWF or TThS (~14 weeks/year total)
Second & third year	Tuesday and Thursday (varies)

Double Boarders

In year 1, double boarders follow the call structure of their matched track. Starting in year 2, they participate in both the hematology and medical oncology call pools.

Is there a fellow continuity clinic?

Medical Oncology Continuity Clinic

Incoming medical oncology fellows inherit approximately 15–20 patients from graduating senior fellows, mostly patients on surveillance or endocrine therapy, with some still on active treatment.

As fellows rotate through disease-specific outpatient clinics during year 1, new patients are added to their continuity panel, with a disease-specific attending serving as the longitudinal attending. By the end of year 1, most fellows are following approximately 50 patients longitudinally.

First year clinic	Friday afternoons
Second year (± third year)	Thursday afternoons

One of the most rewarding parts of training

Continuity clinic is where you build lasting relationships with patients, learn to order chemotherapy and immunotherapy, and manage treatment-related toxicities. It is often the longitudinal experience fellows remember most fondly.

Hematology Continuity Clinic

Hematology fellows begin continuity clinic after completing their first year of inpatient training. The clinic is based at Bayview Medical Center. At the start of year 2, fellows inherit a panel from a graduating senior fellow and follow those patients throughout fellowship, including both new consultations and follow-up visits for benign hematologic conditions.

Clinics are usually held on Monday afternoons or Wednesday 11:45am until ~3pm. Wednesday clinic ends by 3:00 PM so fellows can join virtual Coagulation Rounds from 3:30–4:30 PM, where interesting coagulation cases are discussed.

Double Boarders

- Fellows who start in **medical oncology** build and maintain their oncology continuity panel during year 1, then add hematology continuity clinic in year 2.
- Fellows who start in **hematology** begin hematology continuity clinic in year 2 and build their oncology panel during outpatient oncology rotations that same year.

During years 2 and 3, double boarders typically have **two half-days of continuity clinic per week**, one in hematology and one in oncology.

How does mentorship work?

Fellows identify a primary research mentor during the spring of year 1, within their disease group and area of interest.

The process is intentionally structured:

- In the fall of year 1, dedicated curricular activities help fellows reflect on research goals and explore career pathways.
- Fellows then meet individually with faculty in their subspecialty of interest to discuss mentorship opportunities and potential projects.
- From those conversations, fellows select both a primary mentor and a research project aligned with their goals.

Beyond the primary mentor, every fellow builds a mentoring committee of four or more faculty who meet quarterly to review research progress, career development, and long-term planning. Many fellows also develop additional mentorship relationships organically, across divisions and disease groups, as fellowship unfolds.

Are there opportunities to teach?

Absolutely! Teaching is woven throughout all three years. Fellows work closely with residents and medical students on inpatient services and have frequent opportunities for both bedside and didactic teaching.

Structured teaching opportunities include:

- Weekly Thursday morning case-based teaching sessions led by first-year med onc fellows during outpatient rotations (201cclubhouse cases201d), with senior fellows facilitating and highlighting teaching points
- Leukemia and lymphoma conferences, where fellows on inpatient hematologic malignancy services present interesting cases and clinical pearls
- Noon conferences in the second half of the year, where first- and second-year fellows give formal presentations on a topic of their choice

Where do fellows live in Baltimore?

Baltimore has a lot more to offer than most people expect. The most popular neighborhoods among fellows and trainees:

Lively & walkable	Fells Point, Canton, Harbor East, Little Italy — restaurants, coffee shops, waterfront, nightlife
Quieter & residential	Hampden, Towson, and surrounding suburbs — great for families or those who prefer more space

Fellows tend to find their community, regardless of what they are looking for. The city offers a wide range of living options depending on commute preferences, family needs, and lifestyle, and rent is generally affordable compared with peer cities.