

**ESMO Palliative Care Fellowship  
(1 September 2018 – 30 September 2018)**

**Natalie Sharpe**

**FINAL REPORT**

Home Institute: University Hospital of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica

Host Institute: University of Colorado Hospital, Aurora, Colorado, USA

Mentor: Dr. Jeanie Youngwerth

**Introduction**

I was a final year haematology/oncology fellow at a university-based hospital in Kingston, Jamaica. We are the largest oncology service on the island and the only teaching service. Given the significant financial constraints of the patients we serve, many treatments that are now standard care in other countries are out of reach for many of our patients. I had developed an interest in enhancing the delivery of oncology within my department by integrating quality palliative care.

**Goals or aims**

My aims were to observe an inpatient palliative care service and see how that team works along with other medical specialties to provide care. Communication between teams is critical when managing patients with advanced illnesses. I also wanted to be able to learn more about palliative care in conditions other than cancer.

**Description of the time spent at host institute**

- Daily participation in team meetings both at the beginning and end of the day.
- Shadowing physicians seeing new ward consults and follow ups.
- Attending tumour board meetings.
- Specialist palliative clinics for outpatients.
- Participation in educational activities for palliative care fellows.

**Conclusion**

The time spent at this institution was amazing. The dedication that they have to palliative care is commendable and the way that they operate as an integrated part of complete medical care is ideal. I particularly enjoyed seeing the different ways in which palliative care was offered. Not only the inpatient consultation team and the outpatient clinics, but the other novel ways that palliative care was being offered.

The Gynae Oncology service has their own attending who is palliative care trained and provides that support to her department. The Neurology team also has a model that provides palliative care right in their own space. For patients with progressive neurological diseases, a palliative care consult is embedded directly into a patient's initial visit as a way of introducing it early and this team is a part of the neurology service separate and apart from the hospital palliative care team. What I got most from this experience was seeing the different ways in which palliative care was being delivered and I have brought that knowledge back home with me to make it as adaptive here.

### Acknowledgments

I thank ESMO and the palliative care team at UC Hospital for this opportunity.

