



Clinical  
Oncology

The Royal College of Radiologists

## WHY I CHOSE A CAREER IN CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

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Dr Ganesh Radhakrishna; Consultant Clinical Oncologist

I am a Clinical Oncologist with a specialist interest in treating upper and lower gastrointestinal cancers. My job involves primarily treating patients with oesophageal; pancreatic and rectal cancer with a variation of oncological interventions ranging from systemic chemotherapy to highly sophisticated precision external beam radiation therapy and brachytherapy. I work closely with other specialties including radiology, surgery, medical oncology and palliative care, to name a few. This enables me to deliver a broad array of anti-cancer treatment options for my patients from palliative treatments for disease and symptom control to curative treatments. Consequently, I am able to deliver optimised individualised treatment options for my patients, and as a clinician, I find this extremely satisfying. Due to the nature of the disease and treatment delivery, I have over time, developed closer clinical relationships with the patients under my care, which is one of the most enjoyable aspects of the specialty, for me.

Although I do not have a formal academic role, I am very involved in the delivery and development of clinical trials, which provide me with opportunities to continue to learn and strive to improve clinical outcomes. I have a keen interest in clinical education and since clinical oncology is a small craft specialty, I have been able to further this interest further by studying the impact of varying teaching methods to improve training for the specialty at a regional and national level.

Clinical oncology seamlessly combines the technical and scientific aspects of medicine by integrating basic science (e.g. cancer biology) and therapeutics (e.g. applying advanced precision radiation and drug therapeutics) with the art of medicine, which involves delivering holistic individualised patient centred care throughout their cancer journey. This is one of the many reasons I enjoy working as a clinical oncologist.