Medical oncologists are responsible for overseeing the treatment of patients with cancer. This involves discussing therapeutic options, supervising systemic treatments and supporting patients through their care. Patients are living longer with more complex treatments and therefore the specialty is one of the fastest growing. Most consultants will specialise in up to three tumour types, and acute oncology allows specialist input and advice for acutely unwell patients.

"Medical Oncology is rewarding because we make a difference at a very difficult time in people’s lives. Many patients cannot be cured, however we do help them feel better and improve their quality of life so that they have more time to do the things that are important to them."

"Perfect balance of clinical and research interest. Epitomises bench to bedside care allowing the oncologist to be involved at every stage from the lab to the patient."

cancerphysicians.org.uk
Training in medical oncology involves rotating through and learning about the management of all the major types of cancer. This includes becoming competent in the supervision of systemic treatments, which incorporates chemotherapy, endocrine therapy and newer and exciting biological agents such as antibodies and immunotherapy. Furthermore, with the multi-disciplinary approach of cancer care, trainees learn the complex care pathways and multi-modality nature of treatments by working within a large team.

"I love medical oncology because it is a particularly exciting time with the expansion of targeted and immunotherapies. We have the opportunity to use these cutting edge treatments for patient benefit. There have been dramatic improvements in treatment and I’m excited to see that continuing"  
   Dr Eileen Parkes, Academic Clinical Lecturer & Medical Oncology Trainee

Find out more about Medical Oncology – cancerphysicians.org.uk and

rcplondon.ac.uk: search ‘Spotlight Medical Oncology’

Training pathway: jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/medical-oncology

Recruitment: st3recruitment.org.uk/specialties/medical-oncology