



Interested In Pediatric Hematology/Oncology? Learn More!

What does a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist do?

Pediatric Hematology/Oncology is an expansive field that covers care of infants to young adults in an array of hematologic and oncologic diagnoses such as sickle cell disease, hemophilia, leukemia and stem cell transplant. It is far more than just “seeing patients” and remains intellectually intriguing, collaborative, and diverse career.

We have opportunities to:

- care for complex patients with complicated diseases
- participate in collaborative research to advance our knowledge and treatments
- have long-term continuity with our patients and their families
- be advocates
- teach the next generation of pediatricians and pediatric hematologists/oncologists

How do I become a Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologist?

The path into Pediatric Hematology/Oncology begins with a three or four-year residency in Pediatrics or Medicine-Pediatrics respectively followed by a three-year fellowship in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology. Further training in particular areas such as stem cell transplant, neuro-oncology, survivorship, and hemostasis as well as others can add an additional year of training.

Find a mentor

Ask a Pediatric Hematology/Oncology attending if they are willing to help explore your interest by mentoring you. Attendings can be a tremendous source of information and help guide you in your future career.

Why do we do it?

Ask individuals in pediatric hematology/oncology why they were drawn into the field. Ask questions like:

- What do you love about this field and its work?
- What makes you inspired to come to work every day?

Many are happy to share their driving purpose, cause or passion that brought them into Pediatric Hematology/Oncology.

The Art of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Through our empathy, compassion, and trust building, Pediatric Hematologist/Oncologists can have profound impacts on the patients and the families we care for and the journey we walk with them through their child's treatment.

Join the American Society for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO)!

A one-year membership is only \$52 for residents and \$36 for medical students! Members can gain full access to ASPHO, which includes a subscription to *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*, ASPHO webinars, ASPHO eNews, ASPHO *Advocacy Briefs* and ASPHO *News Briefs*.

Get involved in projects!

Ask attendings and others in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology divisions to be involved in writing case reports, presenting cases at conferences, or participate in their research projects or QI work.

Discover the field on your time

The ASPHO podcast, ASPHOCast, (<https://aspho.org/knowledge-center/products/aspho-cast>) and ASPHO Webinars are available with your membership. These are tremendous opportunities to learn more about the field and expand your medical knowledge!

But isn't it always sad?

No! There are many more happy days than sad. Not every child we care for faces a life-threatening condition. For those who do, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology is filled with many more success stories than tragic endings. Through advancements in care, more patients are living longer with a better quality of life. However, not every child will survive their disease and we play an important role in the end-of-life for the patient and their families.

The Future Is Bright and Undiscovered

Pediatric Hematology/Oncology continues to evolve. Targeted agents, genetic breakthroughs, and improvements in treatment modalities continue to offer cutting-edge, more effective treatments to offer more patients and families the chance at curative therapy with fewer side effects.

Access ASPHO's [PHO career overview](#) document to learn more about career opportunities in pediatric hematology/oncology.