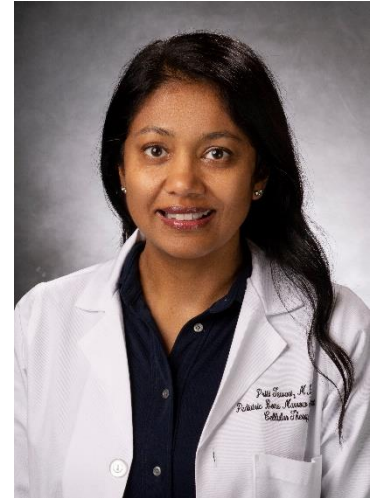


## ASPHO Career Path Spotlight

### Priti Tewari, MD



#### Career Description

1. **Current position:** Associate Professor, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellowship Program Director, Pediatric Stem Cell Transplantation/Cellular Therapy Section Chief, *Ad Interim*
2. **Institution:** University of Texas at MD Anderson Cancer Center
3. **Years at institution:** 10
4. **Did you complete additional post-fellowship training? Was it an important factor in your current position?** Yes, following my Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellowship training at Children's Hospital at Montefiore, I had the amazing opportunity to do an additional Bone Marrow Transplantation Fellowship at Duke University Medical Center under the guidance of Dr. Vinod Prasad, Dr. Joanne Kurtzberg amongst other mentors. This was an extraordinarily important factor in my current position and career pathway. It allowed me the time and experience to dive into this niche and focus on learning about further clinical care, latest research and network within the field. This additional training subsequently opened potential job opportunities across the country. Leaving Duke, I fortunately had multiple career opportunities and was able to choose my position based on my goals at the time.
5. **Years out of Fellowship:** PHO Graduation: 2009, BMT fellowship Graduation 2010
6. **Type of institution: (Academic center, clinical center, private practice, Research facility, Industry, Non-profit)** Academic Center
7. **Approximate number of attendings in your PHO department/division:**  
At our cancer center we have a unique division. We have over 50 faculty with various clinical and research backgrounds who all focus their career on the Pediatric/Adolescent and Young Adult Hematology-Oncology populations. We more specifically have approximately 25 Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Clinical Attendings.
8. **How do you allocate your effort? (\*Please provide a % for each area)**  
**Clinical, Scholarship, Education, Administration, Other**  
Clinical: 45%  
Scholarship: 5%  
Education: 45%  
Admin: 5%

## ASPHO Career Path Spotlight

### 9. Position Specifics (Please give a brief description of your current responsibilities in these areas)

#### **a. Clinical activity**

My Clinical activities and responsibilities include taking care of patients who are candidates for and need Stem Cell Transplantation and/or Cellular Therapies. While our practice is more malignant disease focused at our center, we also take care of patients needing non-malignant disease transplants as well. Clinical responsibilities include inpatient service, outpatient service (clinics, infusions), and consults. In addition, specific unique procedures include bone marrow harvest, stem cell apheresis, bone marrow and cellular therapy infusions.

#### **b. Scholarship/Research**

My major areas of scholarship within stem cell transplant/cell therapy have been supportive care for patients along with trainee and team education. I helped create a unit-wide mobility incentive program for all of our inpatient service which helped increase overall patient activity and I am currently PI on a supportive care Stem Cell Transplant mobility incentive study which is currently open at 2 centers. I also serve as center PI on multiple multi-center cellular therapy studies. The continuous progress and translation of cellular therapies have been a very exciting recent evolution in our field and that has been very rewarding to see and be a part of.

#### **c. Education/Teaching:**

I have had a long-standing interest and involvement with trainee and team education. I have helped set up team educational systems for Bone marrow transplant teams, led simulation-based education on evidence-based management of Veno-occlusive disease of the Liver, and Car T toxicities, had led educational sessions for FACT (Foundation of Accreditation of Cellular Therapies) internationally and created a board prep series for our trainees. In addition, I have been serving as the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Fellowship program director since 2018. Through this role I have had the honor of working with and supporting our future generations of Pediatric Hematologist Oncologists. My foundation dogma within this role has been to create a program culture which cultivates leaders and embraces continuous program evolution.

#### **d. Administration**

I am the Pediatric Stem Cell Transplant/Cellular therapy (SCT/CT) medical director, and currently the institutional Graduate Medical Education Committee Chair. These are two very diverse roles. As the medical director of SCT/CT I help develop and update standardized operating procedures, and work to maintain our program in adherence with FACT (Foundation of Accreditation of Cellular Therapies) guidelines. Leading the institutional GME has allowed some key networking throughout the institution along with the experience of managing educational systems much more broadly.

#### **e. Other- n/a**

## ASPHO Career Path Spotlight

### Career Perspectives

- 1. What were important factors in your taking on this role (e.g., professional interest, family, geography, spousal profession)? What made this career path appealing?**

I did my early training in NY and then on the East coast. Following training my family (which included an infant at the time) was looking for a city and institutions that would support an academic career for someone with a young family.

My main professional goal for my job was to be at a center where my professional growth could be continuous and in an environment that fostered learning on multiple levels. MD Anderson is an extraordinarily collaborative environment; it has certainly fulfilled my professional institution goals.

- 2. Is there specific training or experience that helped you obtain this position?**

I have been fortunate to have had phenomenal mentors, patients, and in turn a strong early training foundation. Building steadily on a foundation allows easy focus on medical care and scholarly opportunities while learning each new working environment along with stage of career.

- 3. Is this career path what you expected? Please explain.**

No! First: we thought we would never leave NY (NYC). That move was likely instrumental in finding the right place to foster and perhaps catapult my professional career growth and opportunities.

I also did not expect so many leadership opportunities along the way. Personally, I really just worked hard and showed up to work and do the right thing for patients, their families, my colleagues and team members and it seems from those opportunities presented.

- 4. What do you find most rewarding about your current professional role?**

Relationships. This includes relationships with patients and their families, but immensely relationships with all of our interdisciplinary team members. It is a challenging career that it is an honor to be a part of, and many join us in that journey. I do think those team relationships are key for our success and sustainability.

- 5. What do you find most challenging about your current professional role?**

Time! It is very difficult to find time for everything. Over the years I have prioritized my patients and my own children, the last few years I have been learning how to prioritize myself as well. (Working on it!)

- 6. What do you see yourself doing in 5 years and 10 years?**

One concrete professional goal is to continue my personal development as an educator and an education leader over the next several years.

While holding some leadership roles both in education and cellular therapy, it has become very evident how important it is to cultivate the next generation of leaders as well. Some of my goals over next several years include to continue to support the next generation of leaders which includes providing opportunities, guidance, and sponsorship. This allows for team building along with solid succession planning.

Life naturally evolves, and I currently have 3 awesome kids who are currently 12, 10 and 7 so more than ever I have been working to maintain a healthy balance and awareness based on my goals as a physician, in my leadership roles and as a mom. As one of my mentors told me a few years ago: there are only 24 hours in a day.