

# Health Career Observer



The Official Newsletter of the WNY R-AHEC

January 2024

## Oncologists

An Oncologist is a medical doctor who has a deep desire to change the course of the disease for patients with cancer. They cure where possible and when a cure is not possible, they help to extend and improve the quality of life. There are three main types: A medical oncologist will treat cancer with chemotherapy, hormone therapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy. A radiation oncologist will treat cancer with radiation therapy. A surgical oncologist uses surgery to remove tumors.



*"Providing care that makes a difference in the lives of so many people is truly gratifying."*

Hasan Rizvi, MD.

## How Do I Become an Oncologist

**PROJECTED JOB  
MARKET GROWTH:  
3%  
FROM 2022-2032**

It takes 14-16 years of school to become a medical oncologist. The first four years are spent completing a bachelor's degree, followed by four years in medical school. Medical oncology requires four to six years in an internal medicine residency.

**Average Annual Pay:  
\$229,300**

## What Does an Oncologist Do ?



Diagnose cancer and identify and develop personalized treatment options



Order medical tests like biopsies, blood tests, CT scans and MRI's



Read medical test results and work on collaborative care for their patient



Oversee your treatment and manage post-treatment care



Address patient concerns, answer questions and offer emotional support



Focus on quality of life and comfort



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## A Professional Account

Hasan Rizvi, MD.

Hematologist / Oncologist Olean General Hospital

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

*"Being a medical oncologist/hematologist is not just my job, but it is truly a passion. The most rewarding part of working with patients in this specialty is being able to feel a sense of gratification and purpose. Caring for patients who are facing physiological and emotional struggles is not easy, but being able to provide care during a time of need, it creates a genuine sense of purpose."*

### What is the most challenging?

*"There are many challenging factors that play a role in caring for oncology and hematology patients. However, I have found that coordinating collaborative care in a rural area can be very challenging. I believe that I am practicing cutting edge medicine to the best of my ability given the resources that I have available. I am very fortunate to be working for Roswell Park Cancer Institute in a rural area. If I cannot provide necessary care locally due to lack of facility resources, then I have the ability to access Roswell's resources and facilities. Providing top notch, compassionate care to all patients is the goal."*

### What do you wish you knew back in school that you know now?

*"I wish I knew the importance of having your family, friends and health. When we are young, we don't realize what having good health means or how important it is to spend time with those we love. An individual's health can change quickly. We see that every day working in oncology. Being proactive about your health and seeing a doctor when something doesn't seem right is more important than many people realize. Time is often taken for granted. Making your health, family, and friends a priority within that time is something we all should be doing."*

### Anything else you want to share?

*"I feel very fortunate to be part of Roswell Park Cancer Institute and to be able to practice medicine in a rural area. The patients in this area are genuine and heartfelt people. Providing care that makes a difference in the lives of so many people is truly gratifying."*

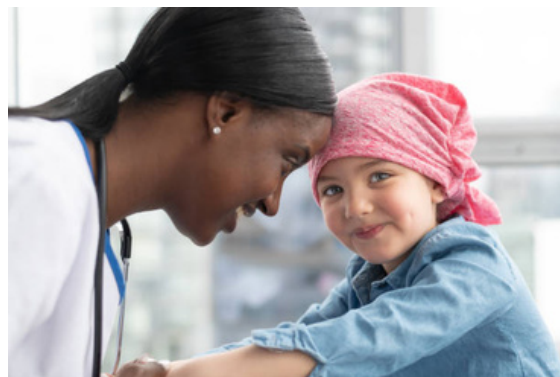


Click on the image for  
Day-in-the-Life of a  
medical professional in  
Hematology and  
Oncology.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8UzMq9QefE>

Scan Me



Click on the image  
for a Perspective  
of a Pediatric  
Oncology.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6tksEozfTVE>

Scan Me



For more information visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/physicians-and-surgeons.htm>

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Please use QR code for the Health Careers Resource Guide

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[MULTI-AGENCY-COLLABORATION-RAISE-SCHOOL-AGE-YOUTH-MENTAL-HEALTH](https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-multi-agency-collaboration-raise-school-age-youth-mental-health)