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Memorial Sloan Kettering  
Cancer Center

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## ABOUT US

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## FOR THE MEDIA

Our fellowship is unique because our intensivists have training in diverse specialties. Our intensivists come from backgrounds in internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, anesthesiology, infectious disease, nephrology, and palliative medicine.

## Critical Care Medicine at MSK

For more than three decades, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) has been ranked among the top two cancer institutions in the United States, renowned around the world not only for exceptional patient care but also for its latest diagnostics, surgical expertise, excellence in radiation and chemotherapy, nursing, and supportive care.

MSK has one of the world's most recognized cancer research programs, offering hope to thousands of people with rare or late-stage cancer.

Our faculty, fellows, advanced practice providers (nurse practitioners and physician assistants), and residents provide daily care to patients in our modern 20-bed adult medical-surgical Intensive Care Unit

(ICU) and throughout our 514-bed inpatient hospital.

Two teams of clinicians, a house staff team, and an advanced practitioner team supervised by board-certified intensivists, care for patients admitted to the ICU. A Consultation/Rapid Response Team provides consults and rapid response visits for acutely ill inpatients throughout MSK, and a Critical Care Center Stepdown Team cares for patients in the Medical Step-down Unit (SDU) and provides consultation in the Neurological Advanced Care Unit.

Our ICU maintains a high level of activity throughout the year. In 2024, a total of 1,305 patients were treated in the ICU, while 595 patients received care in the SDU. Additionally, the department received 1,841 requests for CCM consultations and managed 2,611 rapid response calls during the same period.

## **Critical Care Medicine Faculty and Staff**

[Our current CCM faculty](#) consists of 21 intensivists with training in internal medicine, pulmonary, anesthesiology, infectious disease, nephrology, and palliative medicine. Our CCM faculty have appointments in the Departments of Medicine and Anesthesiology at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center (NYP-Cornell).

In addition to the CCM fellows, the ICU is staffed with anesthesiology residents from NYPH-Cornell. Medical students from Weill Cornell Medical College and other medical schools rotate through the ICU. Our advanced practice provider team includes 42 NPs and PAs, and our respiratory therapy team includes 60 therapists.

Additionally, the CCM Service has a dedicated research nurse, nutritionist, social worker, patient care representative, computer programmer, and informatics specialist.

## **Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program**

The CCM fellowship has 12 fellows each year, with a mix of one- and two-year fellows. Each fellow's educational background usually includes primary specialties in internal and emergency medicine and secondary internal medicine subspecialties in pulmonary, nephrology, and infectious disease. The academic year is divided into 13 4-week blocks. This includes 1 block of vacation and 12 blocks of clinical rotations.

One-year CCM fellows spend a total of 12 blocks of clinical rotations at four separate hospitals: MSK (8 blocks), NYP-Cornell and Columbia University Medical Center for experience in cardiothoracic surgery and mechanical circulatory support (1 block), surgical critical care (1 block), and the New York Presbyterian Queens for a community-based medical ICU rotation (1 block) and neurocritical care (1 block).

Two-year CCM fellows spend clinical time as outlined above, and the second year is designed to give the senior fellows more opportunities for directing the ICUs and mentoring first-year fellows, as well as elective time to expand their clinical experience. Two blocks of dedicated research time are provided to complete research projects initiated during the first year and expand their clinical experiences. Available clinical electives are listed below.

Fellows participate in research, present at local and national conferences, publish peer-reviewed articles, and contribute to patient safety and quality-improvement projects.

## **Curriculum**

### **Didactic Sessions**

- Monthly conferences are categorized by organ systems and presented twice a week by attending physicians from MSK, regional institutions (NYP/ Weill Cornell Medical Center, NYP Columbia Medical Center, The Mount Sinai Hospital and others) and national institutions such as Cleveland Clinic, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and others.
- Ground rounds/Journal clubs presented by CCM and PCCM Fellows
- Weekly ventilators workshops
- Weekly ultrasound workshops (including advanced cardiac, abdominal, and thoracic ultrasounds)
- Weekly board review sessions
- Chief Seminars are held quarterly to provide an open forum discussion with the Chief of Service.
- The Career Development Curriculum aims to guide fellows through the stages of job hunting and support career growth.

### **Simulation and Workshops**



Dr. Prabalini Rajendram demonstrates intubation using a bougie at the advanced airway workshop.



Dr. Prabalini Rajendram demonstrates intubation using a portable video laryngoscope, with ET tube, over the bougie.



Demonstration on the use of adjunctive airways at the annual airway workshop.



Dr. Khayala Balabayova teaches a fellow the proper technique of acquiring cardiac windows during an ultrasound workshop.



Senior fellow, Dr. Zaryab Umar, facilitates the cardiac station at the ultrasound workshop.



Assistant nurse leader and nursing staff participate in a simulation at the annual CPR workshop.



Dr. Elena Mead teaches a critical care medicine fellow the appropriate technique to acquire lung windows.

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- Procedural workshops
- Basic and advanced airway workshops
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation workshop
- Bronchoscopy workshop
- Ultrasound workshop
- Critical Care case scenarios
- Communication workshop designed to guide fellows about supportive and palliative care, and end of life discussions

## **Clinical Electives**

- Operating room (one-month rotation aimed to gain expertise in airway management)
- Nutrition
- Infectious disease
- Nephrology
- Interventional pulmonology
- Pulmonology
- Echocardiogram

## **Research**

The CCM Service conducts clinical trials in sepsis/septic shock, pneumonia, and acute respiratory distress syndrome as well as collaborative studies with national and international critical care networks.

The CCM Service also performs “homegrown” projects exploring novel biomarkers in the critically ill, outcome studies of chemotherapy, and ethics consultations in an oncologic ICU, rapid response teams, and ICU readmissions.

Our faculty includes experts in chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy complications, immune checkpoint inhibitor complications requiring critical care, sepsis, integrated critical care organizations, use and cost of CCM in the United States, and ICU design.

## **Campuses for Clinical Rotations**

New York Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell Medical  
Center

New York Presbyterian/ Columbia University Medical  
Center

New York Presbyterian Queens  
Hospital

## **Postgraduate Opportunities**

Our two-year internal medicine or emergency medicine–CCM and one-year internal medicine subspecialty-trained fellows have secured positions as critical care attendings in community teaching and

university-affiliated hospitals throughout the country.

Over 200 fellows have completed fellowship training since 2000. Several pulmonary–CCM graduates have proceeded to pursue additional fellowships in sleep medicine and interventional pulmonology at prestigious medical centers including the Cleveland Clinic, Johns Hopkins, Mayo Clinic, and Henry Ford Hospital.

Additionally, our graduates have become ICU directors, associate program directors of residency or fellowship programs, and departmental chairs as well as intensivists in large hospitals or private groups.

## **Application Process**

### **Who Can Apply?**

The CCM Service welcomes applicants trained in internal medicine and medical subspecialties (pulmonary, renal, and infectious disease) and emergency medicine.

Our training program is designed to equip trainees with a holistic approach to Critical Care Medicine where they feel comfortable and competent to care for critically ill patients with various diseases.

Our faculty is dedicated to teaching and providing advanced subspecialty training, and our trainees are highly qualified candidates who come from across the United States for this unique learning experience.

We appreciate your interest in our program and encourage you to apply to become part of our team.

### **Length of Program**

1 or 2 years

### **Number of Positions**

12

### **Program Eligibility**

To apply, you must have a minimum of three years of ACGME residency training in internal medicine or emergency medicine in the United States.

### **How to Apply**

Our program participates in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). ERAS will be used to

transmit applications, letters of recommendation, transcripts, and other supporting credentials from applicants. We will be participating in program signaling. To apply for our fellowship, please complete [an application through ERAS](#) .

Interviews are conducted from August through early October.

The following items must be in your ERAS Common Application before your application will be reviewed:

- Three letters of recommendation and USMLE results
- Personal statement
- Research experience/publications/presentations

All CCM trainees are selected through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). To participate in this program, you must register [online](#) through the NRMP service. For additional information, please contact our program coordinator, [Erickson Pinales](#) .

## **Contact Us**

### **Program Director**



[Prabalini Rajendram, MD](#)

## **GME Coordinator**

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