Tracy Gieger

tracy.gieger@gmail.com

Submitter	Brendan Leahy
Submission Date	Jul 18, 2025 11:21 PM
By clicking below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the Radiation Oncology (RO) Residency Program Essentials Training Standards and Requirements.	I have reviewed the RO Residency Program Essentials Training Standards and Requirements.
Submission Date	Jul 18, 2025
Please select one of the following:	This is a reapplication for an existing program.
Program/Institution Name	Cornell University Hospital for Animals
Date of Initial Program Approval	Jul 1, 2002
Date of Last Program Reapproval	Jan 31, 2023
Do you currently have radiation oncology resident(s) in training?	Yes

Please list the resident(s) currently in training at your institution.

	Name	Email	Start Date	End Date	Note Here if New to Program or Transfer
Resident 1	Skylar Sylvester	srs289@cornell.edu	Sept 2024	April 2028	approved alternative program
Resident 2					
Resident 3					
Resident 4					
Resident 5					

	Name	Email	Start Date	End Date	Note Here if New to Program or Transfer
Resident 6					
Resident 7					
Resident 8					
Resident 9					
Resident 10					

Residency Director Name

Tracy Gieger

Residency Director Email

tracy.gieger@gmail.com

Primary Training Institution Address

930 Campus Road, Cornell University Hospital for Animals
Ithaca, NY, 14853

Radiation Oncologists in support of the program [must be Diplomate(s) of the ACVR]:

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Email	Phone	Number of weeks per year Diplomate is available to supervise * the resident
Tracy	Gieger	DVM, DACVR-RO, DACVIM (oncology and internal medicine)	tracy.gieger@gmail.com		
Josh	Henry (starting Sept 1, 2025)	DVM, DACVIM (oncology), DACVR-RO			

Please confirm that during the minimum 24 months of RO-specific activities, a Supervising Diplomate will be present on site to supervise the resident as defined above for 40 hours/week (4-5 days).

Yes

Comments:

Dr. Margaret McEntee retired June 30, 2025. Dr. Gieger started on May 5, 2025 and is the only RO until Sept 1, 2025, when Dr. Josh Henry will join the faculty. Dr. Gieger will be on clinics from July 1, 2025-Sept 28, 2025, when she and Dr. Henry will share clinical duties. At least 1 RO will be on clinics for 51 weeks/year (hospital is closed the last week of the year).

This application is for (check one):	Standard Program
What is the total length (in months) of the training program?	36
Number of months dedicated solely to radiation oncology-specific activities as defined in the ACVR-RO Residency Essentials Training Standards document:	24
Primary Training Site:	Cornell University
Hospital/University	Hospital for Animals
Department	Clinical Sciences
Address	930 Campus Road, Cornell University Hospital for Animals Ithaca, NY, 14853

Cooperating Institution(s) [if applicable]

Cooperating Institution (if applicable)	Hospital / University	Department	Street Address	City	State/Province	Postal/Zip Code
				Ithaca	NY	14850

Advanced Degree and Research/Publication Requirement

	Yes	No	Optional
Masters		●	
PhD		●	
Research Project	●		
Publication		●	

Documentation of residency completion is required to obtain Diplomate status. Is receipt of residency certificate dependent on completion of advanced degree/research/publication?	No
It is required that a residency in veterinary radiation oncology provide the trainee with experience in formulation of radiation treatment plans, dose calculation, and treatment administration for veterinary patients with cancer. This includes generation of both manual and computer-based treatment plans for	Yes

megavoltage external beam irradiation. External beam planning experience must include both forward and inverse planning, even if only one of those types is utilized for treatment at the primary facility. Does the program fulfill these requirements?	
Comments:	The resident will be involved in the generation of both manual and CT-based computer plans. The Varian Edge linear accelerator has 6 MV photons, 6FFF, and 6-16 MeV electrons with Eclipse radiation treatment planning to be able to generate and deliver manual, SRS, SBRT, IMRT, and VMAT plans. Every treatment plan is reviewed by a DACVR(RO) as well as by a medical physicist.
It is required that a residency in veterinary radiation oncology provide the trainee with experience in primary case responsibility, including new referrals, ongoing radiation patients, and follow-up visits. This includes receiving patients, clinical rounds, client/referring DVM communications, and medical records keeping. Does the program fulfill these requirements as described on page 12 of the RO Essentials document?	Yes
Comments:	The resident will have primary case responsibility for new cases, rechecks and well as responsibility for managing current radiation patients. The resident will share the caseload with the RO faculty and all clinical activities will be supervised.
It is required that a residency in veterinary radiation oncology provide the trainee with a minimum of 1 week per year of radiation therapist activities to include daily linear accelerator quality assurance and warm up, patient positioning for treatment planning CT and therapy, radiation delivery (as allowed by the state/province), and acquisition of position verification imaging. Does the program fulfill these requirements?	Yes
Comments:	The resident at a minimum of 1 week/year will serve in the capacity of the RTT to perform morning machine QA and delivery of radiation treatments with image acquisition under the supervision of the RTT and/or radiation oncologist. Our institution has 2 RTTs, who will supervise the resident during this time (along with the RO on clinics).
How will the resident be trained in radiation biology? Please provide a description of formal and informal training experiences, or indicate time allotted for self-study.	Dr. Basran will teach a 24-week long (36 in-class hours) radiation biology class on an every-other-year basis, so that every RO resident will go the course once. Additionally, the resident will have time to independently review Hall's Radiobiology for the Radiologist. Radiation biology topics will also be the focus in RO journal club at least a few times per year.
Please provide instructors' names and credentials for radiation biology formal and informal training:	Parminder S. Basran, PhD, FCCPM, FAAPM Tracy Gieger, DVM, DACVIM (oncology and internal medicine), DACVR (RO)

Josh Henry, DVM, DACVIM (oncology), DACVR (RO) ** starting Sept 1, 2025

How will the resident be trained in cancer biology? Please provide a description of formal and informal training experiences, or indicate time allotted for self-study.

Training in cancer biology will correlate with the ACVIM (oncology) residency, since ACVIM requires 40 hours per year of exam preparation taught in a didactic format. This will vary from year to year; for example, in the academic year 2025-2026, the course is comprised of ACVIM on-demand Science of Oncology lectures and other oncology-specific basic science materials available on the ACVIM website.

Please provide instructors' names and credentials for cancer biology formal and informal training:

Tracy Gieger, DVM, DACVIM (oncology and internal medicine), DACVR (RO)
Cheryl Balkman, DVM, DACVIM (oncology and internal medicine)
Josh Henry, DVM, DACVIM (oncology), DACVR (RO) ** starting Sept 1, 2025
Skylar Sylvester, DVM, DACVIM (oncology) (** Dr. Sylvester is in an alternative RO residency program, Sept 2024 - April 2028)

Please provide instructors' names and credentials for didactic (non-clinical) medical physics formal and informal training:

Parminder S. Basran, PhD, FCCPM, FAAPM
Jeffrey Seeber, M.S., DABR

Medical physics training requires 1 week or 40 hours of clinical contact with a qualified medical physicist. Please provide a description of the training experience.

Dr. Basran works on-site at Cornell as a faculty member and provides clinical support (troubleshooting computer-based plans, reviewing manual setups, software support, provides advice about treatment plans) and attends RO-specific rounds approximately 4-8 hours per week. He is also the instructor of 3 courses that the resident will take - rad bio, physics, and an 8-hour lecture series provided every other year to the oncology residents and faculty (see attached syllabus).

Mr. Seeber is a medical physicist who does monthly and annual QAs and chart checks; he also reviews, provides advice on, and approves all computer-based treatment plans. He works for Cornell primarily remotely, with most communication via email (less commonly in person during the week). The resident will work with Mr. Seeber to gain a minimum of 40 hours of clinical contact during monthly and annual QAs (primarily done on site on weekends).

Medical Physicist(s) in support of clinical training in the residency program:

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Physicist on-site? Y/N
Parminder	Basran	PhD, FCCPM, FAAPM	Yes
Jeffrey	Seeber	M.S., DABR	No

A minimum of 1 hour of medical literature review with an ACVR-RO Diplomate is required monthly. Please describe this experience, and any additional formal or informal conferences available to the resident (including journal clubs, seminars, book reviews, etc.) that are not already listed above:

An RO-specific journal club will occur at least once monthly for 1 hour, and the RO faculty (Gieger, Henry, Basran) and the RO residents will take turns presenting articles.
The resident will also participate in weekly oncology journal club with all of the members of the section including the ACVR(RO) and ACVIM(O) faculty diplomates and all oncology house officers. Additional learning elements include: monthly neurology/pathology rounds with the pathologists and neurologists (residents and faculty); monthly surgical oncology rounds ("tumor boards"); and weekly hospital wide teaching seminars and rounds (which are designed to function as a board review for ACVIM specialities so do not always pertain to RO).

The resident is required to present at least 2 lectures or scientific presentations during the course of the residency. Please describe how the program will fulfill this requirement:

The resident will be required to present a case/topic at least 2-3 times per year in tumor boards. They will also be required to give a research presentation (abstract) at ACVR or VCS or/and a lecture to the veterinary students and/or referring veterinary community.

Please list the manufacturer and model of the on-site

Varian Edge Radiosurgery System
6 MV photons; 6 FFF; 6,9,12,16 MeV electrons

external beam radiation therapy delivery system: Please list the manufacturer and model of the on-site radiation therapy treatment planning system(s). Please indicate whether they are capable of forward or inverse planning, or both, and whether or not they are used clinically to deliver treatments:	Eclipse v. 18.0. The system is capable of forward and inverse planning, and both will be used clinically to deliver treatments.
The residency program requires hands-on clinical experience to develop expertise and self-sufficiency in manual setups and manual treatment planning with photons. How does the program fulfill this requirement?	Manual set ups and treatment planning are done for a subset of palliative radiation therapy patients, primarily distal limb sites. Non-neoplastic/inflammatory diseases such as Feline Interstitial Cystitis are also typically treated with manual setups. The resident will have ample opportunity to gain expertise in this regard.
The residency program requires hands-on clinical experience to develop expertise and self-sufficiency in manual setups and manual treatment planning with electrons. How does the program fulfill this requirement?	Electron plans may be manual or CT-based computer plans and the resident will be trained and provided opportunities throughout the residency to practice manual set ups and treatment planning with electrons. We have a Cerrobend mold system to create custom electron cutouts, so the resident will gain experience with this and with QA of these devices prior to treatment.
The residency program requires hands-on clinical experience with forward planning for 3D conformal radiotherapy (non-IMRT). How does the program fulfill this requirement?	Forward planning for 3D conformal radiotherapy will be used to treat some of the patients. The resident will also have the opportunity to do both 3D CRT and IMRT/VMAT plans for comparison purposes.
The residency program requires hands-on clinical experience with inverse planning for IMRT. How does the program fulfill this requirement?	Inverse planning for IMRT/VMAT will be used routinely.
The residency program requires hands-on clinical experience in on-board imaging verification with MV or KV CT. How does the program fulfill this requirement?	The Edge has onboard kV CBCT used for positioning verification.
The residency program requires hands-on clinical experience in on-board imaging verification with kV digital radiographs. How does the program fulfill this requirement?	For manual set ups, BOTH kV and MV digital images will be acquired.
The residency program requires hands-on clinical experience in on-board imaging verification with MV portal imaging. How does the program fulfill this requirement?	For manual set ups, BOTH kV and MV digital images will be acquired.

Radiologist(s) in support of the residency program [Must be Diplomate(s) of the ACVR or ECVDI]

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N
Assaf	Lerer	Asst Clin Prof/DACVR	Yes

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N
Ian	Porter	Asst Clin Prof/DACVR	Yes
Peter	Scrivani	Professor/DACVR	Yes
Margret	Thompson	Clin Professor/DACVR	Yes
Amy	Todd-Donato	Asst Prof/DACVR	Yes
Christopher	Tolefson	Asst Clin Prof/DACVR	Yes

The residency program requires at least 26 weeks/year of on-site diagnostic imaging support from a ACVR or ECVDI Diplomate and availability for remote support for at least 45 weeks/year. How will the institution fulfill this requirement?

There is year round full coverage of diagnostic imaging in the hospital with typically at least 2 radiologists on duty at any one time.

How will the resident be trained in diagnostic imaging? Please provide a description of formal and informal training experiences as well as a description of the resident's role while rotating on a diagnostic imaging service:

The resident will participate in morning rounds in radiology when the service is reviewing images (faculty & residents). The resident may generate imaging reports at the discretion of the diagnostic imaging faculty. The resident will routinely review images with the imaging service for staging and radiation planning CTs and other imaging studies acquired for radiation patients.

The program must have on-site access to modern radiographic equipment, including digital or computed radiography, ultrasound, and CT. Does the institution fulfill this requirement?

Yes

Please provide a list of the equipment that is available:

Computed and digital radiography systems, fluoroscopy, ultrasonography, nuclear medicine,1.5 T MRI, NAETOM Alpha photon-counting CT scanner

Medical Oncologist(s) in support of the residency program [Must be Diplomate(s) of the ACVIM, Specialty of Oncology]

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N
Cheryl	Balkman	Clin Professor/DACVIM	Yes
Skylar	Sylvester	Asst Professor/DACVIM	Yes
			Yes
			Yes

The residency program requires at least 26 weeks/year of on-site medical oncology support from an ACVIM (Oncology) Diplomate. How will the institution fulfill this requirement?

There is full coverage for the medical oncology service throughout the year, including oncology faculty backup on weekends and holidays.

How will the resident receive training in medical oncology? Please provide a description of

The resident will be a primary clinician for at least 8 weeks during the program; this will include client communication, primary patient care,

formal and informal training experiences as well as a description of the resident's role while rotating on a medical oncology service:

patient staging, and chemotherapy dose calculation. They will be directly supervised by a medical oncology faculty member. Medical and RO faculty and HO round together for at least 5 hours every week for case rounds, so the RO resident will gain significant exposure during that time as well.

Surgeon(s) in support of the residency program [Must be Diplomate(s) of the ACVS]

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N
Galina	Hayes	Assoc Prof/DACVS, DACVECC, PhD	Yes
Nicole	Buote	Assoc Prof/DACVS	Yes
Christian	Folk	Asst Clin Prof/DACVS	Yes
Ursula	Krotscheck	Professor/DACVS	Yes
Daniel	Lopez	Asst Prof/DACVS	Yes
Selena	Tinga	Asst Prof/DACVS PhD	Yes

The residency program requires at least 26 weeks/year of on-site surgical support from an ACVS Diplomate. How will the institution fulfill this requirement?

There is coverage by board certified ACVS diplomates for both soft tissue and orthopedics year round.

Pathologist(s) in support of the residency program [Must be Diplomate(s) of the ACVP (Anatomic or Clinical Pathology) or ECVP (Clinical Pathology)]

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N	Clinical or Anatomical
Gerald	Duhamel	Professor/PhD DACVP Anatomical	Yes	
Elizabeth	Buckles	Assoc Clin Prof/PhD Anatomical	Yes	
Tracy	Stokol	Professor/PhD Clinical	Yes	
Alina	Demeter	Asst Clin Prof/PhD DACVP Anatomical	Yes	
Mason	Jager	Asst Prof/PhD DACVP Anatomical	Yes	
Andrew	Miller	Assoc Prof/DACVP Anatomical	Yes	
Jeanine	Peters-Kennedy	Assoc Clin Prof/DACVP Anatomical	Yes	

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N	Clinical or Anatomical
Latasha	Ludwig	Asst Clin Prof/PhD DACVP Anatomical	Yes	
Julie	Webb	Asst Clin Prof/DACVP Clinical	Yes	
Ashleigh	Newman	Assoc Clin Prof/ACVP Clinical		

The residency program requires at least 45 weeks/year of anatomic and clinical pathology support by ACVP Diplomates. If not on-site, a letter of support must be submitted. How will the institution fulfill this requirement?

There is full support of the hospital by a full complement of both anatomic and clinical pathologists.

At least 1 week or 40 hours in a clinical rotation or rounds with a clinical pathologist are required during the residency program. If off-site, a letter of agreement must be submitted. How will the institution fulfill this requirement?

The resident will spend 1 week with the clinical pathology service, attending rounds and reviewing clinical cases.

Anesthesia Specialists in support of the residency program [Must be Diplomate(s) of the ACVAA or ECVAA, or Veterinary Technician Specialists (VTS)]

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N
Joaquin	Araos	Assoc Prof/PhD DACVAA	Yes
Jordyn	Boesch	Assoc Clin Prof/PhD DACVAA	Yes
Luis	Campoy	Clin Professor/DECVAA, MRCVS	Yes
Manuel	Martin-Flores	Assoc Prof/DACVAA	Yes
			Yes

The residency program requires two 1-week (40-hour per week) clinical rotations (80 hours in total) in anesthesia with an Anesthesia Specialist, as defined above. Please provide a description of this training experience and the resident's role on this rotation.

The resident will rotate through the anesthesia service, attend rounds, and be responsible for developing anesthetic protocols for patients, induction, monitoring and recovery of patients in CUHA undergoing anesthesia for various imaging and surgical procedures.

Neurologist(s) in support of the residency program [Must be Diplomate(s) of the ACVIM, Specialty of Neurology or ECVN]

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N
Peter	Early	Clin Prof/DACVIM(neuro)	Yes
Yael	Merbl	Asst Prof/DECVN	Yes

First Name	Last Name	Title/Credentials	Diplomate on-site? Y/N
Jonathan	Wood	Asst Clin Prof/DACVIM(neuro)	Yes
Sissy	Hong	Assistant Clinical Professor/DVM, MVM, MS, DACVIM-Neurology, CCAT	Yes

The residency program requires a 2-week clinical rotation supervised by a Diplomate of the ACVIM (Neurology) or ECVN. Please provide a description of the training experience and resident's role on this rotation.

The resident will be on service and attend rounds and see cases for workups and rechecks supervised by the faculty on the service. The resident is not expected to participate in surgical cases in the OR.

Please list all additional board certified specialists in direct support of the residency program. [e.g., ACVIM(internal medicine, cardiology), ACVO, etc.] If offsite, please explain relationship:

Name	Certifying College/Board	Subspecialty (if applicable)	Explain Relationship if offsite
Weihow Hsue	ACVIM Cardiology		
Shana Mintz	ACVIM Cardiology		
Romain Pariaut	ACVIM Cardiology		
Bruce Kornreich	ACVIM Cardiology		
Nadine Fiani	DAVDC	dentistry	
Santiago Peralta	DAVDC	dentistry	
Alexandra Wright	DAVDC	dentistry	
Mitzi Clark	DACVD	dermatology	
Heather Edginton	DACVD	dermatology	
Daniel Fletcher	DACVECC		
Jethro Forbes	DACVECC		
Tim Hackett	DACVECC		
Nathan Peterson	DACVECC		
Sarah Robbins	DACVECC		
Gretchen Schoeffler	DACVECC		
Armi Plgott	DACVECC		
Kelly Knickelbein	ACVO		
Eric Ledbetter	ACVO		
Erin Scott	ACVO		

Name	Certifying College/Board	Subspecialty (if applicable)	Explain Relationship if offsite
Alyssa Chandler	ACVIM internal medicine		
Meredith Miller	ACVIM internal medicine		
Jennifer Prieto	ACVIM internal medicine		
Kenneth Simpson	ACVIM internal medicine		
Michael Merkahssine	ACVIM internal medicine		
Elyse [illegible]	ACVSMR	sports medicine	

Evaluation of resident performance and progress must be documented every 6 months through appropriate techniques, including faculty appraisal, or oral or written tests, or a combination of these. Institutional resident evaluation forms should be submitted as part of the residency application. How will the program fulfill this requirement?

Residents are evaluated every 6 months using the standard ACVR-RO RSEC form and the attached Cornell-specific form that includes discussion and input from the other faculty members in oncology.

If applicable, please list the residents who have completed the training program within the last five years, including the year that each individual's training program ended. If possible, provide the status of each individual with respect to the board certification process.

Dr. Joshua Henry 2023 completed residency and became board certified.

Please list any additional information of interest in support of this residency application.

Sr90 ophthalmic applicator is available and the resident will be trained and have the opportunity to treat patients.

CVs

Biosketch_Sylvester_RO Residency 2025.pdf
34.02 KB

Biosketch_Henry.pdf
139.71 KB

Scrivani_Biosketch-NIH_06_24_2025.docx
38.35 KB

AT Faculty CV - abbreviated 2page.pdf
194.84 KB

Balkman_CV_modified 2025.doc
55 KB

July2025_NIH biosketch gieger.doc
54 KB

Biosketch_Thompson_2024.docx
36.08 KB

LERER.RESUME2024 (1).pdf
157.19 KB

Porter Biosketch.docx
42.12 KB

Tollefson CV.docx
26.92 KB

Resident Calendar

Cornell_ACVR-RO-RSEC-Calendar-Tem... .pdf
102.15 KB

Letter of Agreement from Medical Physics Support for Clinical Training

Basran_CV_5138.doc
84 KB

Resident Evaluation Forms

Radiation Oncology Resident Evaluation ....doc
65.5 KB

Syllabi for Coursework

Syllabus.docx
14.88 KB

Radiation Physics 2025 Syllabus.pdf
49.15 KB

RadBio Syllabus 2026.pdf
154.26 KB

2025-2026 rounds schedule_draft_TG_J....pdf
246.32 KB