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Introduction

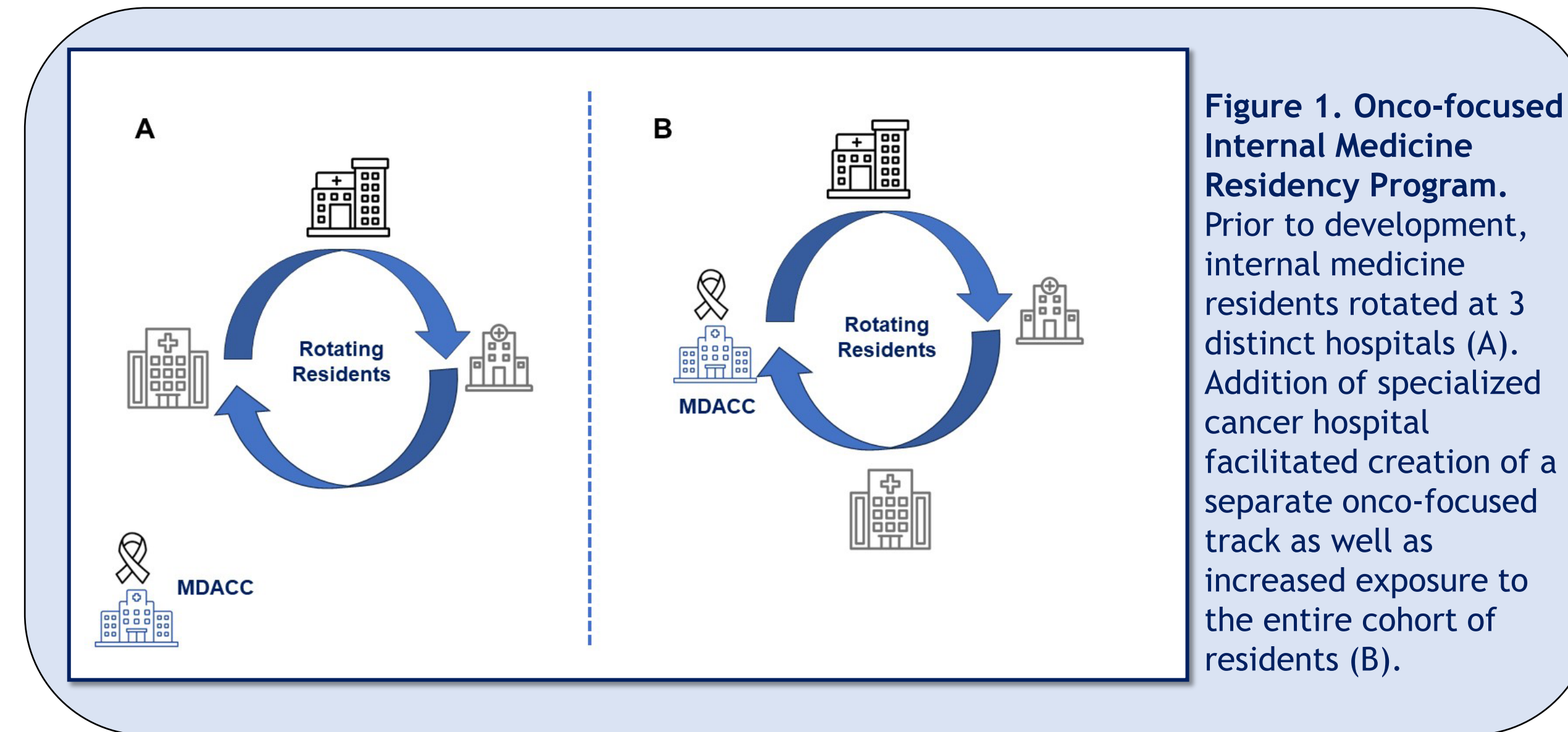
- **Cancer incidence has been increasing worldwide.** Possible etiologies include improved methods for cancer screening, use of molecular biomarkers for treatment, and the emergence of novel immune and targeted therapies. Furthermore, **73% of cancer survivors will be age 65 and older by 2040.**¹
- A 2022 study revealed that 22% of oncologists were nearing retirement and an estimated shortage of 1487 oncologists in the United States is projected.²
- Thus, there will be a **crucial need for internists with expertise in cancer screening, diagnosis, oncologic therapies and sequelae, as well as cancer survivorship.**
- We have previously described our novel oncologic-focused internal medicine residency program. We describe **outcomes of our oncologic-focused internal medicine residency program.**

Methods

- The Division of Internal Medicine (DOIM) at MD Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC) partnered with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) residency program in June 2015 to develop a **joint internal medicine residency with a separate oncologic-focused track.**
- The three-year program has **5 trainee slots per year for 15 trainees at any time.**
- Trainees spend **one-third of their time at MDACC and the rest at the 3 other BCM-affiliated hospitals** providing MDACC track trainees with broad exposure to non-oncologic medicine.
- The **combined structure facilitated exposure to both non-oncologic and oncologic-focused medical care (Figure 1).** Non-track trainees from BCM also had rotations at MDACC

Discussion

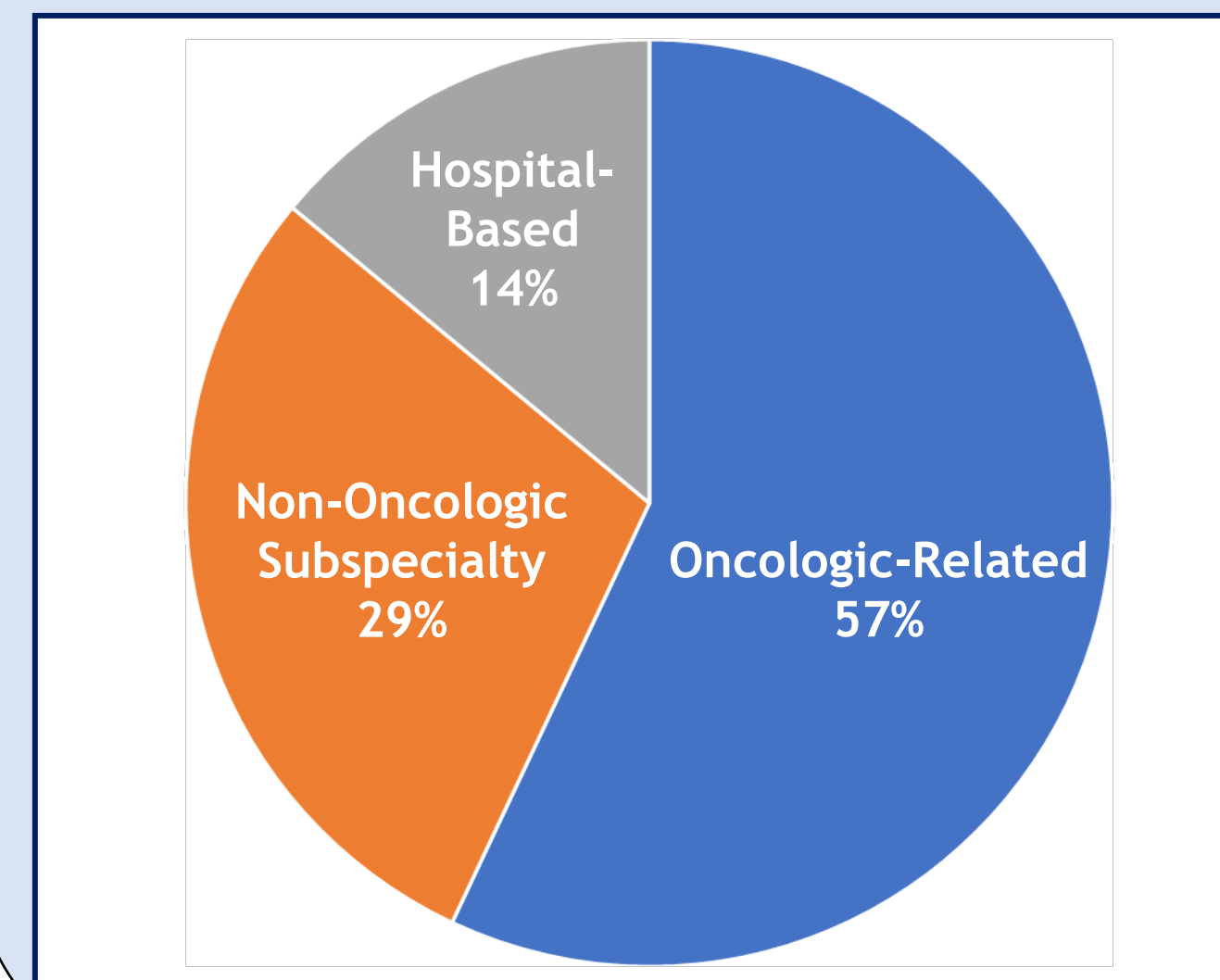
- **Cancer care is becoming more complex due to:**
 - Increasing cancer incidence
 - Development of new therapies for malignancy
 - Potential for a broad spectrum of treatment-related toxicities
 - Greater number of cancer survivors requiring treatment of the sequelae of cancer and cancer treatment and multiple comorbid conditions
- Due to the projected shortage of oncologists, the care of many cancer patients will have to be assumed by trained internists.
- We have developed the first internal medicine residency program to **equip trainees with expertise in the internal medicine care of cancer patients and survivors.** Our novel program demonstrates:
 - **Robust interest in oncology** from applicants
 - **Most graduates pursue careers in cancer care**
 - **Enhanced oncologic exposure for entire cohort** (aside from MDACC track)
- Given these encouraging results, **our training program can continue to serve as a model** for developing similar training programs worldwide.



Results

- Since inception, there has been a significant demand for the oncologic-focused track.³
- **By July 2024, 35 residents will have graduated from this novel oncologic-focused track, and 57% will have opted for career pathways in oncology and/ or in a cancer center (Figure 2).** These included hematology/oncology fellowship (15), hospitalist (4), and ambulatory (1).
- Non-oncologic subspecialty training included: cardiology (5), pulmonary & critical care (2), gastroenterology (1), palliative (1), rheumatology (1). Hospital-based position included hospitalist (3) and chief resident (2).

Figure 2. Career Pathways for Graduates since Inception. Most graduates selected an oncologic-related career (57%), while some (29%) opted for non-oncologic subspecialty training and others (14%) chose a hospital-based position.



References

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3. Manzullo E, MASCC/ISOO 2022, Annual Meeting on Supportive Care in Cancer 30:S39 (#EDUCA-12), 6/2022. e-Pub.