

Dermatopathology Fellowship Goals and Objectives with General Competencies

Goal

The overall goal of the Dermatopathology Fellowship is to provide an organized educational experience that will expose the fellow to both the theoretical and practical applications of dermatopathology. Fellows coming from a pathology residency will spend 50% of their time in clinical dermatology and those from dermatology will focus on pathology in a similar time frame to insure a comprehensive knowledge base in both disciplines.

Objectives

A number of specific objectives subtend the overall goal. These objectives are presented below, organized by the general competencies defined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and the Dermatopathology Residency Review Committee (RRC) as expected of all residents.

Patient Care

The fellow will demonstrate ability to:

- Communicate with patients and family members with compassion and courtesy
- Gather appropriate and accurate clinical information in both pathology and dermatology settings
- Interpret diagnostic information and test results within the clinical context for effective patient management
- Use clinical decision-making concepts and techniques in interpreting results
- Advise clinicians on the choice of clinically appropriate, cost-effective tests
- Advise clinicians on appropriate follow-up for unexpected test results

Medical Knowledge

The fellow will demonstrate:

- Knowledge of common clinical and diagnostic procedures and their medical application and correlation
- Knowledge of specialized diagnostic procedures including special staining techniques, electron microscopy, immunofluorescence and immunohistochemistry, and dermatologic surgical skills
- Ability to collect and evaluate medical evidence in the dermatopathology population
- Ability to use a variety of resources to investigate clinical questions
- Development of a personal strategy to regularly maintain and update medical knowledge

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

The fellow will demonstrate:

- Ongoing identification and remediation of gaps in personal medical knowledge
- Understanding of and ability to apply the principles of quality control and quality assurance

- Ability to identify process improvements that may minimize opportunities for medical errors
- Understanding of principles of disease prevention in the dermatopathology population

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

The fellow will demonstrate:

- Ability to counsel and educate in a clear and effective manner with patients and family members
- Ability to function effectively as a member of the clinical care team with fellow clinicians, nursing and laboratory staff, and administrative personnel
- Ability to use appropriate modes of communication (direct, telephone, e-mail, written) in a timely manner
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively in written documents (including legible handwriting)
- Ability to prepare and deliver effective presentations

Professionalism

The fellow will demonstrate:

- Knowledge and understanding of ethical and confidential issues affecting patient care
- Knowledge of issues concerning cultural diversity in the patient population
- Respectful behavior towards all patients and medical personnel including punctuality and courtesy.
- Maintain a professional demeanor in appearance and interactions with others including acceptance of responsibility, responding effectively to criticism and taking initiative.

Systems-based Practice

The fellow will demonstrate:

- Understanding of the role of the diagnostic clinician in the health care system, and the importance of reliable, cost-effective and timely results in clinical decision-making
- Ability to work with clinicians, administrators and others to determine the role of diagnostic testing in specific situations to optimize patient outcomes
- Understanding of CLIA, CAP, JCAHO and HIPAA requirements for practice management
- Understanding of basic reimbursement mechanisms and regulatory requirements, including kickbacks and compliance with Medicare/Medicaid "fraud and abuse" avoidance requirements
- Understanding of effective managerial practices.