

CYTOPATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES WITH GENERAL COMPETENCIES

GOALS

The overall goal of the cytopathology fellowship program is to provide an organized educational experience that will expose the fellow to both the theoretical and practical applications of cytopathology. The cytopathology fellow will learn how to correctly interpret all gynecologic, non-gynecologic, and fine needle aspiration (FNA) cytologic specimens while at HMC, developing their diagnostic skills to the point that they should be able to act as an independent interpreter of all cytologic specimens with the responsibilities of a junior attending staff.

Fellows should be able to recognize the limitations of their diagnostic abilities and seek consultation from the attending staff or others as necessary.

Fellows should learn how to correctly assess FNA specimens and learn the technique of ultrasound-guided FNA's at HMC endocrine clinic.

Fellows should obtain an understanding of basic cytopreparatory techniques while familiarizing themselves with the cytopreparatory laboratory.

Fellows will be partly responsible for teaching the fundamentals of cytology to residents, as well as helping out with the medical student pathology labs as required. They will assist in the weekly cytology consensus conferences, lead the resident "blue box" conference, and review cytology cases with residents.

Fellows will present relevant cytopathological findings at all applicable interdepartmental conferences, as well as present cases at HMC tumor board, as required.

Fellows are encouraged to be involved in at least one research project during the year which would be appropriate for presentation at an annual pathology conference (such as American Society of Cytopathology or USCAP) and/or publication in a peer review journal (Cancer Cytopathology, Diagnostic Cytopathology, etc.).

Fellows are responsible for learning about issues in laboratory management and federal, and state laws governing cytopathology laboratories, CAP requirements, and quality assurance issues.

Fellows are required to attend all staff meetings and participate in self-assessment programs in which the department of cytopathology at HMC is enrolled.

Fellows should learn how to improve patient care through enhanced communication and consultative skills with clinicians and patients.

RECOMMENDED READING (Current editions or their equivalent)

1. Cibas, ES and Ducatman, BS, Cytology: Diagnostic Principles and Clinical Correlates, WB Saunders, Edinborough, fifth edition, 2021.
2. DeMay, M, Practical Principles of Cytopathology, ASCP, Chicago, revised edition, 2007.
3. Nayar, R and Wilbur, DC, The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology, Springer,

Switzerland, third edition, 2015.

4. Ali, SZ and VanderLaan, PA, The Bethesda System for Reporting Thyroid Cytopathology, Springer, Switzerland, third edition, 2023.
5. Wojcik, EM, Kurtycz, DF, and Rosenthal, DL, The Paris System for Reporting Urinary Cytology, Springer, Switzerland, second edition, 2022.
6. Pitman, MB and Layfield, LJ, The Papanicolaou Society of Cytopathology System for Reporting Pancreaticobiliary Cytology, Springer, Switzerland, 2015.
7. Faquin, WC and Rossi, ED, The Milan System for Reporting Salivary Gland Cytopathology, Springer, Switzerland, second edition, 2023.

ACGME Competencies

The program will integrate the following ACGME Competencies into the curriculum:

Professionalism

Fellows will demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and an adherence to ethical principles

Patient Care and Procedural Skills

Fellows will be able to provide patient care that is patient- and family-centered, compassionate, equitable, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Fellows will demonstrate competence in:

- communicating cytopathology results, including directly to healthcare professionals;
- communicating effectively with patients while performing FNA biopsies;
- immediate assessment of FNA and touch preparation specimens from a variety of organ sites as demonstrated by the degree of agreement between immediate evaluation and final diagnosis;
- performing specimen collection, specimen screening, and cytopreparation, including liquid-based preparation;
- the integration of additional diagnostic adjuncts, including flow cytometric analysis, immunocytochemistry, and molecular testing; and,
- providing appropriate and effective consultations to physicians and other health professionals, both intra- and inter- departmentally.

Consultations should include providing medical advice on diagnosis and management of organ sites and diseases sampled by cytologic methods, and effectively interacting with patients and families during performance of FNA procedures.

Fellows will demonstrate diagnostic competence:

- Fellows will evaluate at least 2000 cytology specimens, to include at least 500

gynecologic specimens, 500 non-gynecologic specimens, and 500 FNAs.

- These must represent a variety of organs and a spectrum of pathologic entities.
- Fellows will be able to perform all medical and diagnostic procedures considered essential for the area of practice.
- Fellows will demonstrate competence in performing FNA procedures.
- Fellows will document all FNA procedures they perform in the ACGME Case Log System.

Medical Knowledge

Fellows will demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, including scientific inquiry, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Fellows will demonstrate competence in their knowledge of:

- pathogenesis, diagnostic techniques, and prognostic factors and targeted therapies for disease processes commonly sampled by cytologic methods;
- standardized reporting terminology for various gynecologic, non-gynecologic, and FNA cytologic samples, cervical cancer screening and management; and,
- laboratory accreditation requirements and federal regulations related to cytopathology laboratories and personnel.

Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Fellows will demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Fellows will demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.

Systems-based Practice

Fellows will demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, including the structural and social determinants of health, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources to provide optimal health care.

Curriculum Organization and Fellow Experiences

The curriculum will be structured to optimize fellow educational experiences, the length of the experiences, and supervisory continuity. These educational experiences include an appropriate blend of supervised patient care responsibilities, clinical teaching, and didactic educational events.

Fellow experiences will be designed to allow appropriate faculty member supervision such that fellows progress to the performance of assigned clinical responsibilities under oversight, in

order to demonstrate their ability to enter the autonomous practice of cytopathology prior to completion of the program.

Fellow experiences will include:

- supervision of trainees and/or laboratory personnel, and with graduated responsibility, including independent diagnoses and decision-making; and,
- educational activities specific to cytopathology, review of the medical literature in the subspecialty area, and use of study sets of unusual cases.

The didactic curriculum will include teaching conferences in cytopathology, journal clubs, and joint conferences within the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, as well as with clinical services involved in patient diagnosis and management utilizing cytopathology.

- Fellows will participate in conferences, on average, at least once per month
- Will give a minimum of two presentations per year, including formal presentations (tumor boards, journal clubs, and educational conferences).
- Fellows should participate in laboratory quality assurance activities and inspections.

Fellow Scholarly Activity

Each fellow will participate in scholarly activity, including at least one of the following:

- evidence-based presentations at journal clubs or meetings (local, regional, or national); preparation and submission of articles for peer-reviewed publications or research