

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
GI & HEPATIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP**

**Goals and Objectives with
General Competencies**

Goals

The overall goal of the GI and Hepatic Pathology Fellowship is to provide an organized educational experience that will expose the fellow to both the theoretical and practical applications of pathology of the tubular GI tract, pancreas, biliary tree and liver, including transplantation pathology. The secondary goal is to strengthen the trainee's approach as an adult learner, to enhance the trainee's ability to analyze personal strengths and areas of high competency and to identify areas of weakness, thus setting the framework for the trainee to develop individualized goals and objectives to enhance knowledge and skills both in training and after completion of the program, for lifelong learning and maintenance of competency.

Objectives

A number of specific objectives assist in meeting the overall goals. These objectives are presented below, organized along the general competencies defined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as expected of all residents and fellows.

Patient Care The fellow will demonstrate ability to:

- Assess the accuracy and relevance of clinical histories that accompany GI, pancreas, and liver specimens, and assess whether additional information is needed to complete the pathologic review.
- Gather appropriate and accurate clinical information.
- Interpret diagnostic information and test results within the clinical context for accurate diagnosis and case 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, including endoscopy, percutaneous and transjugular liver biopsy, endoscopic ultrasound, radiofrequency ablation, liver and pancreatic transplantation, gastrointestinal resections, endoscopic fine needle aspiration biopsy, four-phase computerized tomography of the liver, and abdominal MRI, and their medical application and correlation with pathology specimens.
- Knowledge of specialized diagnostic procedures including special staining techniques, electron microscopy, immunofluorescence and immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry, molecular diagnosis including hepatitis virus quantitation and genotyping, serologic tests for viral and autoimmune hepatitis and PBC, and FNA interpretation, as well as common special stains pertinent to GI and liver pathology, including Genta, PAS, PAS-D, reticulin, trichrome, HEABS (H&E, alcian blue, and safran) and liver stains, and stains for microorganisms.
- Knowledge of major genetic disorders of the GI and liver system, including appropriate tests.
- Ability to collect and evaluate medical evidence in the workup and diagnosis of GI and hepatic conditions, including common abnormal liver enzyme patterns.
- Ability to develop a differential diagnosis for polyps, neoplasms, metabolic and inflammatory conditions, including appropriate grading and staging systems.
- Ability to use a variety of resources to investigate clinical questions.
- Development of a personal strategy to maintain and update medical knowledge, including routine use of primary references and appropriate monographs in preparation of diagnostic reports, with citations, when appropriate, including use of references in preparation for weekly interdepartmental conferences.
- Regular participation in Frontiers in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, weekly GI Division Grand Rounds, including attendance at the programs on GI Emergencies presented during the summer.

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.

- Accurate documentation of quality issues that are discovered in preparation of cases for sign-out and for interdepartmental and intradepartmental conferences, and ability to transmit and to report the issues to the appropriate laboratory supervisor or managing pathologist.
- Ability to respond to clinical questions raised at interdepartmental conferences by transmitting the information to the appropriate laboratory directors to assist in developing enhanced diagnostic testing and/or refinement in application of diagnostic categories and clinical staging systems.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills The fellow will demonstrate:

- Ability to formulate succinct and accurate written diagnoses using accepted terminology and staging systems, where appropriate.
- Ability to write clear microscopic descriptions, using correct English sentence structure and spelling.
- Consistent legible handwriting, when not using word processor or typewriter.
- Ability to write Comments to Final Diagnoses, where appropriate, conveying qualifications or nuances that may enhance the information conveyed in the Diagnosis.
- Ability to communicate verbally and in writing with clinicians and pathologists who send case material as consultations and referrals; the Fellow will demonstrate ability to gather additional clinical history, as needed, and to convey preliminary opinions in a clear, appropriate and timely manner.
- Ability to make verbal presentations regarding pathology case material at intradepartmental and interdepartmental conferences, with clearly articulated and enunciated English sentence construction, with poised, focused and polished summary of key diagnostic points related to histopathologic features and special studies.
- Ability to function effectively as a member of the clinical care team with clinicians, nursing and laboratory staff, and administrative personnel.
- Ability to use appropriate modes of communication (direct, telephone, e-mail, written) in a timely manner with attention to appropriate documentation and protection of patient confidentiality.
- Ability to discuss diagnostic disagreements, or problems related to quality, with the appropriate and responsible personnel, with attention to quality assurance and to quality improvement.

Professionalism The fellow will demonstrate:

- Integrity in all aspects of work product, including forthright acknowledgment of any errors, of absence of knowledge, or of personal factors that might hamper timely delivery of high quality care.
- Awareness of personal role in health care delivery team, communicating to other members of the team in a timely fashion regarding issues or concerns regarding specific cases, laboratory procedures, personnel matters, or personal issues that may affect care or that may require alternate coverage arrangements.
- Knowledge and understanding of ethical and confidential issues affecting patient care, including behavior that demonstrates consistent stewardship of patient confidentiality.
- Knowledge of issues concerning cultural diversity in the patient population, including absence of bias in timeliness or care delivery, as well as attention to epidemiologic differences that might assist in developing an appropriate differential diagnosis.
- Respectful behavior towards all patients and medical personnel, including punctuality and courtesy.
- A professional demeanor in appearance and in interactions with others, including acceptance of responsibility, responding effectively to feedback.
- Ability to provide respectful feedback to medical students, residents, clinicians, laboratory personnel and attending pathologists with attention to quality improvement and to provision of timely patient care.

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 lab personnel 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, with annual involvement in internal inspections of the GI Histology laboratory as part of continuous readiness and preparation for CAP inspections.
- Understanding of basic reimbursement mechanisms and regulatory requirements, including regulations regarding kickbacks and compliance with Medicare/Medicaid "fraud and abuse" avoidance requirements.

- Demonstration of specific elements of billing compliance by attention to careful and accurate documentation of technical and professional effort in pathology reports, including timely preparation of addendum reports, as appropriate, when inconsistencies are detected.
- Understanding of effective managerial practices.

