

ACGME Competencies

The Gastrointestinal and Hepatic (GI-Hep) Pathology Fellowship will integrate the following ACGME Competencies into the following services:

- GI-Hep Academic/Biopsy (BX)
- GI-Hep Conference/Consults (C&C)

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:

- assessing the accuracy and relevance of clinical histories that accompany GI, pancreas, and liver;
- advocating for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems;
- communicating pathology results, including directly to patients;
- educating others in the knowledge, skills, and abilities related to patient care in Gastrointestinal and Hepatic Pathology;
- preparing and presenting pathology material at clinicopathologic correlation conferences and/or tumor boards;
- providing appropriate and effective consultations to physicians and other health professionals, both intra- and inter- departmentally.

Consultations will include providing medical advice on the diagnosis and management of patients whose specimens are received and interpreted on the anatomic pathology or clinical pathology service, as applicable to the identified area of the program.

Fellows will be able to perform all medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered essential for the area of practice.

Fellows will participate in performing the patient and laboratory procedures for which they will be expected to supervise ancillary staff members.

Fellows will demonstrate competence in:

- gross examination of specimens;
- histologic examination and diagnosis of common and uncommon diseases;
- intra-operative surgical pathology diagnostic consultations;
- interpretation of the results of laboratory assays routinely used in anatomic pathology, including histochemical, immunohistochemical, and molecular and genomic assays;
- generating timely, integrated reports for complex cases;
- generating a nuanced comment that includes the language of uncertainty and complex recommendations.

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 expertise in the following areas:

- pathology of common and uncommon gastrointestinal and hepatic diseases;
- histochemistry, immunohistochemistry, and molecular and genomic techniques;
- operation and management of surgical pathology and relevant laboratories, including assay development, laboratory regulations, quality control procedures and quality improvement activities;
- common clinical and diagnostic procedures, including endoscopy, percutaneous and transjugular liver biopsy, endoscopic ultrasound, radiofrequency ablation, liver/small bowel/pancreatic transplantation, gastrointestinal resections, endoscopic fine needle aspiration biopsy, four-phase computerized tomography of the liver, and abdominal MRI, as well as their medical application and correlation with pathology specimens;
- 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;
- major genetic disorders of the GI and liver system, including appropriate diagnostic tests;
- ability to collect and evaluate medical evidence in the workup and diagnosis of GI and hepatic conditions, including common patterns of abnormal liver enzymes;
- ability to develop differential diagnoses for polyps, neoplasms, metabolic and inflammatory conditions, including appropriate grading and staging systems;
- regular participation in Frontiers in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, weekly GI Division Grand Rounds, including programs on GI emergencies;
- ability to assess and manage requests for simple intraoperative consultations (IOCs) and plan workflow, and, with assistance, address requests for more complex IOCs;
- ability to procure tissue for diagnosis and prepares quality slides for complex specimens in a timely manner;
- ability to interpret and report routine IOCs.

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 the 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 prior to completion of the program.

Fellow experiences will include:

- supervision of residents, and with graduated responsibility, including independent diagnoses and decision-making;
- laboratory management, quality assurance activities, and committee service; and,
- use of laboratory information systems and database management.

The didactic curriculum will include teaching conferences and journal clubs as well as joint conferences with clinical services involved in the diagnosis and management of patients

- Didactic topics will include new technologies in GI-Hep pathology.
- Fellows will actively participate in conferences, at least once per month on average; Fellows will present a minimum of two conferences per year; and will be evaluated in their presentation skills.
- Fellows' clinical experience will be augmented through didactic sessions, review of the relevant medical literature, and use of study materials for unusual cases.
- Fellows will 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,
- clinical or basic science research projects.