

**FELLOWSHIP IN PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY
SEATTLE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER**

**Pediatric Pathology Fellowship
Educational Goals**

The overall goal of the Pediatric Pathology fellowship is to provide the trainee with an organized educational experience, including the basic skills required for the practice of pediatric pathology in an academic or community setting that will serve as the basis on which to build a career of independent learning and practice. It is recognized that education is a life-long process and that the field of pediatric pathology cannot be mastered in a year (or a lifetime). The mechanism for achieving this overall goal is through mentoring of the trainee by an excellent pediatric pathology faculty with diverse skills and interests associated with an abundance of clinical material and educational resources.

The fellow, having already completed a pathology residency, will know the essentials of anatomic (and clinical) pathology. They should be capable of practical problem solving while assimilating a large amount of information. Through exposure to the theoretical and practical applications of pediatric surgical, autopsy and clinical pathology, the fellow will acquire a solid foundation in this comprehensive subspecialty discipline. Published milestones established by the American College of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) serve as specific objectives for the training program and are used as the basis for fellow evaluations. Specifically, the fellowship provides training that enables the trainee to 1) perform an autopsy on a fetus, infant or child, 2) evaluate and make diagnostic assessment of surgical specimens, 3) utilize and interpret appropriate clinical tests in a holistic manner, and 4) understand and practice basic principles of laboratory management, safety and quality improvement.

Goals and Objectives with Core Competencies*

(*Abbreviations correspond to core competencies in the ACGME Pediatric Pathology Milestones)

Autopsy Pathology Goal:

The fellow is provided with training that will enable performance of an autopsy on a deceased child, infant or fetus, elucidate disease process(es), and identify those responsible for clinical deterioration and death.

Autopsy Pathology Milestones (Relevant Competency):

- Understand the principles of confidentiality, universal precautions, chemical hazards, and personal protective equipment
- Extract essential clinical information from existing medical records to accurately reconstruct the deceased patient's medical history
- Properly conduct systematic anatomic evaluation of a deceased person, including proper identification of the patient, thorough external examination, evisceration and dissection
- Describe and photograph autopsy specimens with demonstration of normal and abnormal anatomy
- Appropriately select material from normal and diseased tissues for microscopic examination
- Accurately interpret diagnostic information and test results within the clinical context to reach final understanding of processes responsible for disease and death
- Appropriately develop differential diagnosis and initiate, utilize and interpret ancillary testing, including special dissection procedures (i.e. posterior approach to brain; en-block GU tract removal)

- Write a final report, based on evidence, in a useful, clear, concise and timely manner, including a comprehensive clinical-pathological correlation
- Communicate with clinicians before and after autopsy about preliminary and final findings, including advice on appropriate follow-up for unexpected or unusual results
- Understanding of the role of the autopsy service in hospital quality control and quality assurance
- Ability to identify process improvements that may minimize opportunities for medical errors
- Effective safety procedures for prosector and observers in post-mortem room
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to practice associates' and patients' culture, age, gender and disabilities
- Respectful interactions with patients and health care professionals and staff
- Dependable commitment to optimal medical practices
- Regular and punctual participation in autopsy conferences
- Timely completion of autopsy report and related activities

Surgical Pathology Goal:

The fellow is provided with training that enables him/her/them to evaluate tissue samples removed from living patients and to make diagnostic assessments that will be used to guide subsequent care.

Surgical Pathology Milestones (Competency):

- Gather essential and accurate clinical information
- Properly examines, dissects and describes surgical specimens with demonstration of normal and abnormal anatomy
- Appropriately select material for microscopic examination including tissue sections and cytologic preparations
- Accurately interpret diagnostic information and test results within the clinical context
- Appropriately develop differential diagnosis and initiate, utilize and interpret ancillary testing including electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry, cytogenetics, microbiology and molecular diagnostics
- Conduct intraoperative (frozen section) examination including deciding when such studies are warranted, appropriate tissue selection, preparation and interpretation
- Knowledge of common clinical and diagnostic procedures and their medical application and correlation
- Knowledge of specialized diagnostic procedures and their application to treatment of pediatric malignancies in the context of national cooperative treatment trials (i.e. Children's Oncology Group, National Wilms Tumor Study, etc)
- Ability to utilize information technology (Medline, EPIC) to investigate clinical questions and support work-up and diagnosis
- Ongoing identification and remediation of gaps in personal medical knowledge and ability to appropriately capitalize on attending support
- Intellectual curiosity about mistakes in judgment or diagnosis and the ability to learn from mistakes
- 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
- Appropriate conference preparation and participation
- Communicate clearly and effectively with clinicians at various levels of training, pathology residents, medical technologist and other medical personnel
- Choose the appropriate mode of communication (direct, telephone, electronic)
- Prepare a comprehensive, relevant and concise verbal report that conveys the appropriate level of diagnostic certainty

- Prepare a comprehensive, relevant and concise written report with the appropriate level of diagnostic certainty
- Prepare and deliver effective formal presentations
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to practice associates' and patients' culture, age, gender and disabilities
- Respectful interactions with patients and health care professionals and staff
- Dependable commitment to optimal medical practices
- Timely completion of surgical pathology report and related activities
- Practice of cost-effective laboratory utilization that does not compromise quality care
- Understanding of the pathologist's role in the health care system and the importance of reliable and timely results
- Understanding of QA/QC and their role in CLIA, CAP, JCAHO certification
- Execution of HIPAA requirements
- Understanding of regulatory and compliance issues as they pertain to the laboratory
- Development of skills of organization and prioritization with timely performance of work

Laboratory Medicine Goal:

The fellow is provided with training that enables him/her/them to understand basic principles of clinical laboratory testing and utilization management, select appropriate laboratory tests in an evidence-based manner, and interpret results or seek out consultation, when indicated. In addition to experiences related to day-to-day practice, more in-depth training experiences are available during elective blocks, which are tailored to the fellow's background and career goals.

Laboratory Medicine Milestones (Competency):

- Acquire sufficient understanding of microbiologic, molecular genetic, cytogenetic, flow cytometric, chemistry, and transfusion medicine/coagulation tests to direct and interpret appropriate use in a pediatric hospital
- Be aware of the regulatory and compliance standards that govern laboratory management
- Participate in laboratory quality and safety improvement including formal practices related to utilization management
- Select appropriate ancillary tests to complement surgical or autopsy pathology evaluation
- Read and understand laboratory medicine reports, and recognize key principles that underlie accurate and effective reporting