

Neuropathology Fellowship Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

SCOPE OF PRACTICE PGY – 5-6

The ACGME accredited two-year, full-time training program is offered to one applicant each academic two-year cycle. Matriculation in the Neuropathology Fellowship Program requires that the trainee must have completed an ACGME accredited residency in Anatomic Pathology, or Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. Trainees are responsible under supervision for post-mortem macroscopic examinations of brains, with microscopic evaluation of tissues. Trainees have the opportunity to assist in teaching medical students and residents and are expected to participate in conferences where difficult cases and subspecialty topics are discussed. Each fellow must participate in scholarly activity, including at least one of the following: evidence-based presentations at journal club or meetings (local, regional, or national); preparation and submission of articles for peer-reviewed publications; or research. While on clinical rotation the fellow is required to oversee the intra-operative consultation and cutting in of specimens that are submitted for neuropathology analysis. Fellows review the microscopic sections with the residents and attend daily sign-out sessions, at which time the microscopic sections of the pathology specimens are analyzed in the presence of the supervising attending physician. The attending physician will then review each of the reports and make any necessary corrections before verification. The fellow is also responsible for supervising the ordering of special studies and recut sections and for being sure that these special studies and recut sections are acquired in a timely manner and are reviewed with the attending physician on each case. The fellow is also responsible for communicating with the attending physicians who have requested the pathology consultation.

Objectives

1. Patient Care:
 - a. Gather essential and accurate patient information.
 - b. Contact clinicians, as appropriate, for information on patient history.
 - c. Make informed additional recommendations for special stains, immunostains, and molecular testing based on clinical information, cost-effectiveness and knowledge of available testing.
 - d. Advise health care professionals about the clinical ramifications of diagnoses.
 - e. Offer education and consultation services to health care providers.
 - f. Contact clinicians with diagnoses after consultation with attending neuropathologist.

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2. Medical Knowledge:
 - a. Demonstrate mastery of correlating clinical, radiologic, and histologic findings.
 - b. Demonstrate competence in their knowledge of established and evolving molecular sciences, and the application of this knowledge to neuropathology.
 - c. Demonstrate technical proficiency in intra-operative consultation.
 - d. Demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of laboratory management, including QC, QA, clinical test development and validation, budgeting, personnel requirements, regulatory agencies and requirements, ethical issues, and laboratory and patient safety.
 - e. Understand clinical implications of neuropathologic diagnoses.

3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement:
 - a. Demonstrate involvement in professional societies.
 - b. Demonstrate ongoing self-education in clinical neurosciences and neuropathology.
 - c. Demonstrate willingness to educate residents.
 - d. Demonstrate the ability to ask a definable question, search for relevant scientific information, appraise the information using principles of evidence-based medicine, and apply the results to clinical practice.

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills
 - a. Demonstrate effective working relationships with laboratory technical staff, departmental faculty and residents, extra departmental faculty and staff, and outside consultants as appropriate.
 - b. Develop effective verbal communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clinicians at appropriate level for the information being transmitted, the ability to explain test results clearly, precisely, and concisely, and the ability to communicate effectively with technical staff when problem solving and managing the laboratory.
 - c. Develop excellent written skills for communication of complicated test results when issuing reports, for the development and implementation of new laboratory policies and procedures, and for presentation of scientific research data, as appropriate.

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- d. Develop presentation skills that include selection of appropriate presentation materials and visual aids, good oral presentation, and the ability to answer questions effectively.

- 5. Professionalism
 - a. Demonstrate respect and compassion for the patient.
 - b. Conduct herself/himself with integrity and honor.
 - c. Actively assume responsibility and leadership roles.
 - d. Pursue continuing professional growth and educational opportunities.

- 6. Systems-Based Practice
 - a. Provide guidance to clinicians to ensure that neuropathologic diagnoses are used and integrated into patient care in an appropriate manner.
 - b. Demonstrate knowledge of the impact of laboratory management and activities on other health care professionals, organizations, and society.
 - c. Understand financial and economic systems in which the anatomic pathology laboratory operates, including billing, CPT coding, ICD 10 coding.
 - d. Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care.
 - e. Be an advocate for quality patient care and contribute to clinician education.
 - f. Demonstrate the ability to assess, understand, and use the resources, personnel, and health care systems necessary to provide optimal care.