

UC Davis Pathology and Lab Medicine

GI/Liver Pathology Fellowship Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the UC Davis GI/Liver Pathology Fellowship is to prepare the candidate for independent practice in surgical pathology. The fellowship is based on a model of practice under supervision, rather than a program of didactic and practical exercises.

Objectives

1. Increase experience with diagnosis of non-neoplastic diseases of the GI tract, liver, and pancreas
2. Increase experience with GI, pancreatic, and hepatic tumors, their precursors, and mimics
3. Develop an understanding of the clinical features of GI, hepatic, and pancreatic diseases, including diagnostic evaluation of patients, treatment algorithms, tumor staging, and other prognostic indices
4. Develop an understanding of special techniques in the diagnosis of these diseases (e.g., immunohistochemistry, molecular testing)
5. Increase experience with intra-operative consultations (e.g., frozen sections)
6. Maintain exposure to other surgical pathology subspecialties
7. Develop an appreciation of the multidisciplinary team approach to treatment of patients
8. Enhance teaching and communication skills through interaction with clinicians, pathology trainees, and medical students
9. Develop proficiency in querying and analyzing published literature to address diagnostic dilemmas

GI/Liver Pathology Fellowship Rotations and Graduated Responsibilities

GI/Liver rotation	3-4 months
ENT, GU, GYN, Breast/Lung, +/- Bone/soft tissue	2 months
Frozen Section service	1 month
Junior Attending (GI/liver service)	4-6 months
Optional research/Transition to Career rotation	1 month

The fellow will select the non-GI pathology services they will rotate on. After the fellow's first month on the GI/Liver service, they will be responsible for representing the Pathology department at the weekly GI tumor board and the Adult GI conference (except when on the frozen section service).

While rotating on the GI/Liver service, fellow responsibilities include:

1. Triaging cases (slides) based on clinical urgency
2. Previewing cases and entering complete diagnoses, comments, and synoptic tables
3. Working-up cases referred by clinicians (obtained at outside hospitals) and GI consults
4. Grossing (documenting all essential data elements, appropriate use of grossing templates, providing detailed but concise gross descriptions, capturing appropriate digital images)
5. Teaching and oversight of residents
 - a. Ensuring all assigned cases are grossed on time

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- b. Assisting resident(s) with orientation of specimens, grossing technique
 - c. Previewing cases with the resident(s)
- 6. Fielding service-related questions and resolving problems in accordance with department policies and procedures to the extent possible, and informing the appropriate attending pathologist in a timely manner of major issues and any actions taken

Lifelong Learning

The fellow is expected to attend the following presentations and meetings:

- 1. Department Grand Rounds (generally held on the first and third Monday of each month) and the annual Highman, Stowell, and Vogt lectureships
- 2. The Residency Program Director meetings (to facilitate communication of information related to graduate medical education)
- 3. Monthly Liver Pathology conference (first Thursday of the month)
- 4. Monthly IBD conference (usually last Thursday of the month)
- 5. Twice monthly Rectal Tumor Board (first and third Tuesdays of the month)

Professional Responsibility to Patient Care

Vacation and other leaves of absence should be communicated in writing to the fellowship director and fellowship coordinator at least 30 days in advance. For any unplanned absences (less than 30 days in advance), the fellow will inform the fellowship director and the relevant attendings and will be responsible for arranging coverage of service responsibilities during the planned absence.

Junior Attending Experience

At the end of the first 6 months, the fellow may be allowed to serve as a junior attending for the GI/liver service - with full sign-out privileges. This opportunity is offered at the discretion of the fellowship director and is contingent upon approval from hospital credentialing. The junior attending will be expected to serve as faculty in all respects while on service in this capacity. A GI/liver pathology faculty member will be assigned as “proctoring attending” for all weeks the fellow serves as junior attending. The junior attending is expected to consult the assigned faculty member for any questions and for co-signature of certain reports (e.g., rectal cancer resections). As a quality assurance measure, random cases will be reviewed periodically by an assigned pathology faculty member, after the junior attending has signed out the case. Any discrepancies will be brought to the attention of the junior attending for corrective action.

Quality Assurance and Scholarly Work/Research

The fellow will be expected to undertake a continuous quality improvement (CQI) or research/scholarly project, depending on their career goals. The fellow will work with a GI pathology faculty member of their choice. Competitive funding for research projects (up to \$10,000) is available through the department’s Resident/Fellow Mentored Research Grant

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program, based on availability of funds and merit of the project. If a specific research or CQI project has not been declared prior December 1, a project will be assigned by the fellowship director. Note: The project must be approved by the fellowship director prior to initiation.

Teaching

The fellow will be expected to teach residents and medical students while on clinical service. In addition, the fellow will be responsible for representing the UCD Pathology department at the weekly GI tumor board and at the weekly Adult GI conference held for the gastroenterology fellows. The fellow will also give a 30-minute departmental Grand Rounds presentation during the second half of the year. The Grand Rounds topic must be focused on pathology, either diagnostic or research-oriented, and approved by the fellowship program director.

Optional “Transition to Career” rotation

If the fellow will be joining a professional practice (e.g., academic, community-based, industry) immediately after completion of the GI/liver pathology fellowship, the fellow may be allowed to utilize the last month of the fellowship to hone other pathology-specific skills necessary for their upcoming professional position (e.g., additional frozen section experience, neuropathology, renal pathology, dermatopathology, etc.). These activities must occur within the department. Any remaining vacation time may be used during this month. While the fellowship director will strive to provide as much flexibility as possible, the fellow is encouraged to plan early and carefully in order to make the most of this privilege. This month may also be used to complete a scholarly or quality assurance project.

The fellowship aligns with the 6 ACGME core competencies:

Patient care	All months. Fellowship is centered on work-up of active patient cases
Medical knowledge	All months. Fellow masters concepts essential to diagnosis and communication of all relevant diseases/conditions and extends their knowledge through review of reference material and medical literature. Fellow receives continuous feedback, both informal daily feedback and formal monthly evaluations. Fellow delivers a Grand Rounds presentation on a pathology topic of their choice.
Practice-based learning and improvement	Months 1-6 are practice-based in a team setting (attending signs out cases); Months 7-12 consist of independent practice (i.e., fellow has sign-out privileges, with proctoring)
Interpersonal and communication skills	All months. Fellow interacts with rotating

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	medical students, pathology residents, other pathology fellows, pathology faculty, and clinicians while covering clinical and educational conferences and when communicating critical values to clinical teams
Professionalism	All months. Fellow applies and hones professionalism skills during teaching, independent sign-out, and clinical and educational conferences
Systems-based practice	All months. Fellow represents Pathology in multidisciplinary clinical and educational conferences and communicates critical values to clinical teams

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