



DERMATOPATHOLOGY

Resident training in dermatopathology includes a monthly glass slide conference at UMMC and a required one-month rotation at Dermatopathology Associates PLLC, both taught by Drs. Buu Duong and Jennifer Schulmeier, board-certified dermatopathologists. In addition, residents will sign out skin cases with the surgical pathology faculty when rotating on general surgical pathology at UMMC.

Objectives for Six General Competencies

Skill level 1

1. Patient Care

- A. Understand proper collection and processing of skin specimens.
- B. Be familiar with various methods of cutting skin specimens, with particular attention to surgical margins and how to best represent the gross lesion.
- C. Correlate clinical information with gross/microscopic findings.
- D. Know circumstances in which the clinician should be contacted for additional information.
- E. Know when and how to order special stains.
- F. Be familiar with various fixatives.

2. Medical Knowledge

- A. Be able to recognize and diagnose common skin conditions on skin biopsies.
- B. Be able to recognize a biopsy as representing an uncommon skin condition which might merit subspecialty referral.
- C. Be able to discuss the etiology, pathogenesis and treatment of common skin neoplasms, including melanoma, squamous cell carcinoma, basal cell carcinoma, etc.

3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- A. Be able to enumerate the elements of satisfactory histologic sections and stains.
- B. Correlate current cases with previous histologic material.
- C. Be able to determine the adequacy of tissue sampling, the clinical information provided, and the need for re-biopsy or excision to obtain additional diagnostic material.

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- A. Learn to write a clear, concise report on dermatologic cases.
- B. Learn to elicit relevant clinical information from and provide diagnostic information to clinicians via telephone or in person.
- C. Learn to interact constructively and negotiate effectively with others on issues requiring resolution.
- D. Learn to effectively exchange information with other pathologists and lab personnel.

5. Professionalism

- A. Demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity.
- B. Consistently perform duties in a dependable, responsible manner.
- C. Learn which cases require the highest priority when signing out.
- D. Demonstrate the ability to effectively work with other pathologists and lab personnel.
- E. Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision of patient care, confidentiality of patient information and business practices.

6. Systems -Based Practice

- A. Understand the basic principles of cost-effective health care. Learn to apply charge codes to dermatologic cases.
- A. Learn the basic principles of informatics and computer networks.

Recommended Reading:

Histopathology of the Skin, Lever, current edition

Skin Pathology, Weedon, current edition

Outcomes Assessment:

A standard competency-based evaluation form will be completed by the dermatopathology faculty at the end of the rotation. Attendance at monthly dermatopathology unknown slide conference will be expected.

Skill Level 2:

Objectives for Six General Competencies

Patient Care

1. Learn procedures for locating a missing specimen and resolving questions of specimen identity.
2. Learn to manage workflow in the gross room, provide accurate gross descriptions of routine and complex skin specimens and practice safety in the dermatopathology laboratory.



Medical Knowledge

1. Learn the common grading and staging systems applied to malignant skin tumors, particularly melanoma.
1. Learn to report the histopathologic aspects of routine and complex cases, with attention to organization of diagnostic format, development of differential diagnosis, and insertion of comments or notes.
2. Learn when to order special stains and to interpret/report the results of those stains.
3. Learn about special techniques as they relate to skin pathology: molecular testing, immunofluorescence, etc., and learn to understand the results.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

1. Learn about quality control pertaining to histologic sections and special stains, including troubleshooting mistakes in accessioning, labeling, and misidentification of specimens.
2. Learn the mechanisms for obtaining, reviewing, and returning outside referral slides.
3. Maximize the utilization of information technology for the education of self/others.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

1. Learn to effectively construct a complex dermatopathology report.
2. Learn to incorporate grading and staging systems into the report.
1. Learn to to construct necessary amendments and/or addenda for surgical pathology reports.

Systems-Based Practice

1. Review the literature related to litigation or potential litigation, especially the missed diagnosis of melanoma, which is one of the most common lawsuits.
1. Computer Informatics: new technology, systems at other labs, ways to improve health care

Outcome Assessment

Subjective evaluation: A surgical pathology competency-based evaluation form will be completed at the end of each 1-month dermatopathology rotation. Dermatopathology is considered an integral component of general surgical pathology.

Skill Level 3 (one-month, off-site senior rotation at Dermatopathology Associates, PLLC)

Training Objectives the same as for Skill level 1 and 2, with the following additions:

Medical Knowledge

1. Review the skin slide study sets prepared by Drs. Walker, Duong and Schulmeier.

Schulmeier

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2. Review chapters in Lever's textbook or other dermatopathology texts.
3. Understand the indications for and the technique involved in Mohs surgery frozen sections.
4. Be able to provide a complete differential diagnosis and the criteria for diagnosing common skin lesions.

Systems-based Practice

1. Observe and understand the business and management aspects of a private laboratory as compared to the University setting (cost-effectiveness, turn-around time, billing practices, etc.).
2. Become familiar with informatics as it relates to Dermatopathology Associates, PLLC.
3. Understand the utilization of equipment, laboratory personnel, courier services, and ancillary staff in a private laboratory.
4. Understand the inspection requirements of a private dermatopathology laboratory.

Outcome Assessment:

Dr. Duong and Dr. Schulmeier will complete a competency-based surgical pathology evaluation form at the completion of the month.