



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. Billy Walker 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. Elective rotations at the senior level are also available with Drs. Walker and Schulmeier.

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. Familiarity with various fixatives
- G. Know the indications for, and be able to manage, frozen sections on skin specimens.

2. Medical Knowledge

- A. As part of the monthly unknown skin slide conference, read each chapter in *Lever's Histopathology of the Skin*
- B. Thoroughly evaluate unknown glass slides prior to the monthly conference, to include differential diagnosis, clinical presentation, prognosis, and treatment.
- C. Recognize and diagnose common skin conditions on skin biopsies
- D. Recognize a biopsy as representing an uncommon skin condition which might merit subspecialty referral. Obtain consultation from Drs. Walker and Schulmeier
- E. Discuss the etiology, pathogenesis and treatment of common skin neoplasms, including melanoma, SCC of skin, 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 deduce the adequacy of tissue with regard to sampling, quantity, clinical information provided, and need for re-biopsy or additional material.
- D. Familiarity with regulatory/safety requirements of various organizations (CAP, JCAHO, OSHA, etc)
- E. Locate and interpret scientific literature and utilize information technology



4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- A. Demonstrate ability to write a clear, concise report on dermatologic cases.
- B. Elicit relevant clinical information from and provide diagnostic information to clinicians via telephone or in person.
- C. Demonstrate ability to interact constructively and negotiate effectively with others on issues requiring resolution.
- D. Demonstrate ability to prepare and deliver effective presentations.
- E. Demonstrate ability 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. Know which cases require highest priority when signing out.
- D. Demonstrate 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. Apply charge codes to dermatologic cases.
- A. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of informatics and computer networks.

Recommended Reading:

Histopathology of the Skin, Lever, current edition

Surgical Pathology, Ackerman, ninth edition

Histologic Diagnosis of Inflammatory Skin Diseases, Ackerman

Skin Pathology, Weedon, 2nd edition

Outcomes Assessment:

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

Skill Level 2:

Objectives for Six General Competencies

Patient Care



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



1. Frozen sections

- a. Demonstrate proficiency in digital imaging techniques and assist junior residents with photos.
- b. Maximize turn-around-time of skin cases.
- c. Demonstrate the steps for preparation of consultation reports on outside slides and/or paraffin blocks, and transmittal of those reports to responsible clinicians and/or referring pathologists.

Medical Knowledge

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the common grading and staging systems applied to malignant skin neoplasms (Clark's and Breslow's staging system of melanoma).
1. Be able to independently 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. Independently order special stains and interpret/report results.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of special techniques as they relate to skin pathology: electron microscopy, molecular testing, immunofluorescence, etc. and understand the results and incorporate results into the report

Recommended Reading (in addition to previously listed):

Current AJCC Cancer Staging Handbook

CAP website, [www. cap.org](http://www.cap.org). “**Cancer Protocols and Checklists**”

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

1. Demonstrate knowledge of quality control pertaining to histologic sections and special stains, including trouble-shooting of mistakes in accessioning, labeling, and misidentification of specimens.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the mechanisms for obtaining, reviewing, and returning outside referral slides.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the performance improvement goals reported at the monthly PI meeting.
4. Maximize the utilization of information technology for education of self/others.
5. Ability to teach and assist junior residents in the gross room

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

1. Demonstrate the ability to effectively construct a complex dermatopathology report.
2. Demonstrate the ability to incorporate grading and staging systems into the report.
1. Demonstrate the ability to construct necessary amendments and/or addenda for surgical path. reports.
2. Demonstrate increasing levels of independence in overseeing and reporting intraoperative consultations.

Professionalism

1. Maximize ability to organize and assimilate all data effectively.





1. Maintain a high level of responsibility, achieving a level in keeping with that of a senior resident/junior faculty.

Systems-Based Practice

1. Review literature related to litigation or potential litigation, especially with regard to the missed diagnosis of melanoma, which is one of the most common lawsuits.
2. Assist other health care professionals in dealing with system complexities.
2. Computer Informatics: new technology, systems at other labs, ways to improve health care.

Outcome Assessment

Objective evaluation: The PIP assignments they are a component of general surgical pathology periodically include skin cases. Refer to Surgical Pathology section, under PIP assignments and written test assessment for details. Each resident is also required to submit his/her answer sheet on the Thursday "blue box" surgical pathology unknown slide cases, which periodically include dermatopathology. PIP scores and Blue Box answer sheets are kept in each resident's file.

Subjective evaluation: A surgical pathology competency-based evaluation form will be completed at the end of each 1 or 2-month surgical pathology 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 and Schulmeier
2. Re-review chapters in Lever's textbook or other dermatopathology texts
3. Understand the indications and technique of Mohs surgery frozen sections.
4. Be able to provide complete differential diagnosis and criteria for diagnosing skin lesions.
5. Assist junior residents with unknown skin slides and bring interesting skin cases to the UMMC daily Consultants' Conference.

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. Familiarity with informatics as it relates to Dermatopathology Associates, PLLC.
3. Understand utilization of equipment, lab personnel, courier services, and ancillary staff in a private laboratory.
4. Understand the inspection requirements of a private dermatopathology laboratory.

Outcome Assessment:



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