



Department of Pathology

Residency Training Program Overview

The pathology residency training program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) is designed to provide broad, comprehensive competency-based training in anatomic and clinical pathology for physicians planning for a career in either academics or private practice. We are accredited for a four-year combined anatomic pathology (AP) and clinical pathology (CP) residency program (APCP-4). Resident participation in clinical and/or basic science research is strongly encouraged, and faculty members with a broad range of expertise are available to residents interested in research projects.

Our program consists of a 48-month curriculum comprised of a minimum of 18 core months of anatomic pathology and 18 core months of clinical pathology, with the remaining 18 months divided between the two. Goals and objectives are provided for all rotations, which are structured according to the six general ACGME competencies, which include: 1) Patient Care, 2) Medical Knowledge, 3) Practice-based Learning and Improvement, 4) Interpersonal and Communication Skills, 5) Professionalism and 6) Systems-based Practice. Elective rotations are available for PGY2 through PGY4 residents, with a maximum of 5 months of free elective time (AP or CP), 3 months of CP electives and two months of surgical pathology electives.

The AP and CP rotations are built around the robust and diverse clinical service at UMMC and are supplemented with extramural rotations at Dermatopathology Associates, Mississippi Blood Services and the Mississippi State Medical Examiners' Office. The program is structured so that for each year of the 48-month curriculum, residents are exposed to both AP and CP rotations, with more AP rotations weighted in the PGY1 and PGY2 years. Graduated responsibility is expected and encouraged as residents progress through the program.

While a resident is on a given rotation, work responsibility will be confined primarily to that area; however, attendance and presentations at various intra-/and interdepartmental conferences is expected. Residents are evaluated by faculty on a monthly basis, utilizing a competency-based system which assesses performance by using subjective as well as objective means. The departmental Clinical Competence Committee meets at least twice a year to discuss the performance of all residents, and together with the feedback from the program director, their recommendations form the basis of the resident semi-annual evaluations. All residents take the annual In-Service Pathology Exam (RISE) at the completion of each academic year.

By the end of the training period residents are expected to have satisfactorily completed all rotation requirements and to have demonstrated sufficient professional ability and competence to the level expected of a new practitioner. He/she should have gained adequate expertise and



Department of Pathology

experience to pass the pathology boards, make a good scientific/medical presentation to his/her colleagues, interact well with the physicians in other specialties, and have the ability to prepare a scientific manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.