THE METHODIST HOSPITAL

Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine

Post-Sophomore Fellowship

Description: The Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine at The Methodist Hospital, Houston, offers an annual Post-Sophomore Medical Student Fellowship in Pathology. The Department currently has ~40 residents and fellows, and an outstanding training environment located in the heart of the Texas Medical Center. The fellowship will include rotations in anatomic and clinical pathology and will allow the trainee to be involved in a research project.

Anatomic pathology training involves the examination of human tissues from surgical and autopsy material, including routine, frozen and biopsy specimens. First, the trainee performs gross examination and dissection of tissues, followed by examination of histologic slides that the student fellow will review prior to sign-out with a faculty member. The trainee and faculty member then discuss the pertinent aspects of each case during sign-out sessions held at a double-headed or multi-headed microscope.

Service responsibilities are important components of training in anatomic pathology, where first-hand experience is the cornerstone of a complete understanding of the pathology of disease.

The Department provides anatomic pathology study packets for every organ system. Currently over 500 slides are available in study sets for review by residents and students. Daily microscopic review conferences, frequent unknown frozen section conferences, subspecialty conferences, didactic teaching sessions, grand rounds, and journal club meetings are among the educational opportunities that the student fellow will attend with residents and fellows in the department.

Clinical pathology, also known as laboratory medicine, requires extensive knowledge of disease, medical practice, diagnostic technology and laboratory practice. The broad discipline of clinical pathology will include rotations in subspecialty diagnostic laboratories which will prepare the student fellow for third and fourth year medical school clinical rotations. For example, the trainee will rotate through the molecular diagnostic service, currently one of the fastest growing areas of medicine. Generally, initial orientation to each of the laboratory sections will be accompanied by didactic lectures and reading exercises to build the fund of knowledge required for effective practice of clinical pathology. In addition, the trainee will learn laboratory procedures and receive training on diagnostic instruments. The trainee will learn to serve as a consultant in each subspecialty, providing test interpretation, control test utilization, and implement diagnostic strategies. Each subspecialty has its own assays that require interpretation by a pathologist. Trainees will participate in these activities with an emphasis on the development of graduated responsibility and the development of appropriate managerial skills. The student fellow will also receive training through participation in occurrence investigation, utilization review, interaction with clinical medical staff and house staff, interaction with technical staff, interaction with other pathologists, and independent study. Student fellow training will be provided under the direct supervision of the clinical pathology staff.

Student fellows will carry out the responsibilities of a PGY1 resident in the Department and will have frequent opportunities to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the training program, the faculty, and their resident/fellow colleagues.

Requirements: Applicants must have completed at least two years in an accredited medical school prior to the fellowship.

Stipends: $30,000 per year. Insurance benefits are provided.

Applications: For information and applications, contact: c/o Leah Jozwiak, Coordinator; Suzanne Z. Powell, MD, Director, Residency Program and Neuropathology, The Methodist Hospital, Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, 6565 Fannin Street, M227, Houston, TX 77030

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