
HOUSTON METHODIST HOSPITAL
Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine
Neuropathology Fellowship

Description: Houston Methodist Hospital, Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, in Houston, Texas an affiliate of Weill Cornell Medical College, offers an ACGME-accredited neuropathology fellowship for physicians who have completed pathology, neurology, or neurosurgery specialty training and are interested in pursuing a career in neuropathology, neurology, or neurosurgery and related research. Located in the heart of the Texas Medical Center, The Methodist Hospital is a 950-bed private adult teaching hospital with a 1.6 million square foot outpatient center that registers over 310,000 annual outpatient visits. The hospital offers a full range of services from primary to tertiary care, including a multi-organ transplant center and cancer center.

Two two-year fellowship positions are available every academic year under the directorship of Suzanne Z. Powell, MD. In addition to Houston Methodist Hospital, the fellowship includes rotations at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Texas Children's Hospital, Ben Taub General Hospital, and the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences.

The first year of the program focuses on preparing fellows for the subspecialty board examination from the American Board of Pathology. An extensive and busy surgical neuropathology service at the participating institutions evaluates approximately 2300 brain tumors (788 at Methodist, 1400 at M. D. Anderson) annually, including in-house surgical cases and referral consultations. Fellows receive excellent exposure to neuro-ophthalmic pathology while at Methodist with an internationally recognized ophthalmic pathologist who receives cases for all of the institutions in the Texas Medical Center. The autopsy service at Methodist also provides good training experience to fellows as its cases are heavily weighted toward the examination of neurodegenerative diseases. At M.D. Anderson, training focuses on neoplastic disease with extensive consultative services as well as molecular diagnostic neuropathology. The rotation at the Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences provides fellows with in-depth exposure to neurotrauma and the opportunity to gain proficiency in evaluating gross neuropathology specimens from adult and pediatric populations with a board certified neuropathologist on site. Rotations at Texas Children's Hospital and Ben Taub Genreal Hospital provide additional experience in both adult and pediatric neuropathology, including muscle and nerve biopsies. Fellows will also gain experience with CSF cytologies on all cases at Texas Children's Hospital, particularly for patients with a history of medulloblastoma.

The second year of the program focuses largely on investigative neuropathology. A minimum of 6 months during the second year is dedicated to research. During the program, each fellow must participate in at least one research project that results in a publication. The participating institutions provide ample opportunities for research. At Methodist, there are opportunities for participation in Alzheimer's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) research with the Neurological Institute and Baylor College of Medicine. All contemporary laboratory research approaches are available and utilized in brain tumor research at M.D. Anderson, including genomics (cDNA arrays), proteomics (protein lysate arrays), molecular and cell biologic techniques, experimental and clinical translational gene therapy techniques and high-density tissue microarrays.

Training in laboratory management, information systems, and quality assurance is included in the program. Fellows are responsible for several case conferences including brain cutting conferences and neuropathology case conferences at all program sites, as well as Texas Medical Center-wide conferences. The fellowship program is supervised by 11 board-certified neuropathologists, a board certified cytopathologist, and a board certified pathologist with expertise in ophthalmic pathology.

Requirements: Candidates must be board certified or board eligible in anatomic pathology, anatomic/clinical pathology, or have completed training in neurology or neurosurgery. Candidates must be eligible for a Texas Physician In Training Permit or hold a Full Physician Texas Licensure.

Stipends: Commensurate with the level of post-graduate training.

Staff: **Kenneth D. Aldape** MD, PhD Professor, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Neuro-oncology and molecular genetics of brain tumors; **Janet M. Bruner** MD Professor, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Neuro-oncology, Chair of Pathology; **Gregory N. Fuller** MD, PhD Professor, Chief of Neuropathology, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Neuro-oncology and molecular genetics of brain tumors; **Lauren L. Langford** MD Associate Professor, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Neuro-oncology, education and electron microscopy; **Sozos Papasozomenos** Professor, Chief of Neuropathology, University of Texas, Houston, Neuromuscular diseases; **Suzanne Z. Powell** MD Professor, Weill Medical College, The Methodist Hospital, Neurodegenerative

diseases and forensic neuropathology.

Applications: Applications for consideration must be received by December 31 at least eighteen months prior to the start of the intended fellowship year which begins July 1, unless a candidate is interested in an AP/NP combined program and thus applies through ERAS. Application inquiries are to be directed to: Suzanne Z. Powell, MD, Co-Director, Neuropathology, Houston Methodist Hospital, Department of Pathology and Genomic Medicine, 6565 Fannin Street, M227, Houston, TX 77030

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