



DERMATOPATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

KEY INFORMATION:

Length of Fellowship	Primary Location	Number of Positions per year	Applications due	Time Breakdown (Teaching vs. Clinical vs. Research)	Call Requirements
1 year	Diagnostic and Scientific Centre 3535 Research Road NW	1	March 31 yearly (~18 months prior to July start)	25% vs. 55% vs 20%	No

Eligibility Requirements

All applicants for MD Post Graduate Fellowships must fulfill the following pre-requisites:

- ⇒ Royal College Certification in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology or Diagnostic and Clinical Pathology or equivalent
- ⇒ Eligibility for Royal College certification in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology or Diagnostic and Clinical Pathology
- ⇒ Legally allowed to work in Canada
- ⇒ Able to satisfy the eligibility requirements of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) for [Post Graduate Trainees](#)

Introduction/Background

The Dermatopathology Fellowship Program is directed by Dr. M. Abi Daoud, in collaboration with the other members of the Alberta Precision Laboratories Dermatopathology group, and in association with the Division of Dermatology, Department of Medicine, University of Calgary.

The Dermatopathology Specialty group serves the city of Calgary and the region of Southern Alberta with an approximate population of 1.7 million persons and see a wide variety of cases.

The program includes training in dermatopathology with regular exposure to clinical dermatology. The Fellow will be primarily located at the Diagnostic and Scientific Centre (DSC) and at Richmond Road Diagnostic and Treatment Centre.

Supervising Faculty

Program Director:

Marie Abi Daoud marie.abidaoud@albertaprecisionlabs.ca

Other Preceptors:

Ashley Flaman
Pavandeep Gill
Sarah Heaton
Charlene Hunter
Katherine Lach
Karen Naert
Crystal Xu
Shawn Zhu

Statement of Clinical Focus/Educational Purpose of the Fellowship

The purpose of the Dermatopathology Fellowship program is to provide focused post-graduate training to residents wanting to have expertise in skin pathology with the hope to practice primarily within this sub-specialty. The post-graduate trainee will receive focused training in an excellent breadth of Dermatopathology, both neoplastic and inflammatory conditions, in addition to knowledge within Dermatology as it relates to Dermatopathology. The trainee, at the end of the Fellowship, will be confident in their ability to sign-out skin cases in whatever job position they pursue.

Curriculum/Rounds

The Fellow is expected to attend and participate in the following Rounds:

- daily Dermatopathology multi-head microscope rounds
- weekly AJCCC cutaneous tumour board rounds
- quarterly Dermatology patient viewing rounds
- any additional rounds by request from clinical sub-specialties
- teaching both Pathology and Dermatology residents didactic and multi-head sessions

Specific Rotations

The Fellow will have the opportunity to organize clinical rotations with both the Academic and Community Dermatology clinicians

General Objectives

There are three main objections within the Dermatopathology Fellowship:

1. Develop excellent diagnostic skill with Dermatopathology cases, including neoplastic cases, inflammatory cases, melanoma sentinel lymph node excision, alopecia cases, and direct immunofluorescence biopsies
2. Attend Dermatology clinics with both Academic and Community Dermatologists
3. Start and finish at least one research project, with the objective of publishing a paper in a research journal and attend at least one Pathology or Dermatology conference to present the research
4. Develop excellent teaching skills within Dermatopathology for both Pathology and Dermatology colleagues

Evaluation/Assessment

The Fellow will be evaluated continuously through the year by the supervisors; ITER evaluations will be done at the 3-, 6- and 9-month points using feedback from rotation supervisors.

The Fellow will be required to complete a 4 (four) month probationary period as directed by the University of Calgary Post Graduate Medical Education Office.

A final evaluation by supervisor with the input from all teaching faculty members and project collaborators will be completed at the end of the Fellowship. Evaluations will be based on the CanMEDs competencies outlined in this document.

Fellow Responsibilities/Specific Objectives

1. Participate in sign-out of routine dermatopathology cases
2. Review Consult and Rush cases
3. Participate in review of immunofluorescence cases
4. Regularly participate in afternoon multiheaded microscope rounds
5. Attend monthly Dermatology rounds
6. Review Dermatopathology Course notes and teaching slides
7. Prepare a minimum of four personal learning projects on a dermatopathology subject
 - Identify a question, idea, innovation, tip, or pearl from dermatopathology practice
 - Critically appraise the information through a review of the literature and/or discussion with colleagues
 - Assess the application of the learning derived from step 2 to your practice of dermatopathology
8. Propose a research question relevant to dermatopathology, and develop a simple proposal to solve the research question
9. Review pathologists' personal teaching sets
10. Read and review dermatopathology textbooks and literature to obtain an understanding of common skin inflammatory and neoplastic conditions
11. Achieve basic understanding of clinical dermatology, pertaining especially to clinical diagnosis and differential diagnosis, and to treatment options.
12. Participate in dermatology clinics and other learning opportunities in dermatology on a regular basis

Terminal Objectives/Outcome

Upon completion of the fellowship, the fellow will be:

- Prepared with the knowledge and skills to assess and diagnose skin pathologies and communicate these findings effectively to clinicians
- Will be aware of the current literature in the field of dermatopathology and how to fulfill the role of a pathologist consultant
- Will have acquired knowledge about relevant clinical standards in skin pathology and fostered the spirit of enquiry and original research.
- Will have developed skills in undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education

Additional Training Opportunities

If there is an elective the Fellow would like to pursue, such as out of country elective or another rotation such as molecular pathology that would support their training, this can be discussed with the supervisor.

Resources and Recommended Reading

1. Weedon's Skin Pathology
2. McKee's Pathology of the Skin with Clinical Correlations
3. WHO Blue Book on Cutaneous Tumours

CanMeds Objectives

Medical Expert

The Fellow should demonstrate a basic understanding of...

- Normal skin anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, and molecular biology
- Genetic basis for skin disease
- Normal microscopic appearance of skin at different anatomic sites and patient ages
- Basic skin ultrastructure: keratinocytes, melanocytes, Langerhan's cells, Merkel cells
- Immunology of the skin
- Gross dissection of skin specimens
- Microscopic appearance and pathobiology of common skin disorders
- Use of immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence
- Use of molecular diagnostics
- Use of special stains

Communicator

- Listen, and communicate questions and ideas effectively
- Communicate effectively with laboratory staff
- Communicate effectively in written form, specifically in pathology reports

Collaborator

- Contribute effectively to interdisciplinary team activities (communication with dermatologists, attendance at monthly dermatology rounds; participation in dermatology outpatient office practice)

Leader

- Understand important aspects of quality control and quality assurance in dermatopathology

Health Advocate

- Identify the important determinants of health affecting patients
- Contribute effectively to improved health of patients and communities
- Recognize and respond to those issues where advocacy is appropriate

- As members of a multidisciplinary team of professionals responsible for individual and population health care, the trainee will understand the need to ensure that laboratory practices and test selection are regularly evaluated to determine that they meet these community needs
- The Trainee will be able to recognize and respond to situations where health advocacy and application of health resources are required. This will include the introduction of improved instrumentation and methodology to augment individual and population health

Scholar

- Develop a personal continuing education strategy in dermatopathology
- Propose a research question relevant to dermatopathology, and develop a simple proposal to solve the research question (see specific objectives)
- Participate in dermatopathology teaching sessions for Residents in Anatomic Pathology and in Dermatology (University of Calgary).
- Develop a personal continuing education strategy in dermatopathology
- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviour
- Act as an appropriate role model to colleagues and laboratory staff
- Understand the importance of consultation and seeking of appropriate second opinions

Professional

- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviour
- Act as an appropriate role model to colleagues and laboratory staff
- Understand the importance of consultation and seeking of appropriate second opinions
- Deliver highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion
- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours
- Practise medicine ethically consistent with obligations of a physician
- Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes relating to gender, culture and ethnicity pertinent to Dermatopathology
- Demonstrate a professional attitude to colleagues, students, other health professionals, and laboratory support staff
- Have an appreciation of the crucial role of the pathologist in providing quality patient care. This will include knowledge of individual professional limitations and the necessity of seeking appropriate second opinions.
- The Trainee will demonstrate professional behaviour in regard to confidentiality, respect for others, conflict of interest, codes of conduct, personal and professional boundaries and informed consent

Certification

Upon successful completion of the fellowship, the candidate will be issued a formal certificate from the Post Graduate Medical Education Office of the University of Calgary