

Adult Medical Autopsy Fellowship

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Calgary
Anatomical Pathology, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories

FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR: Dr. Amy Bromley, MD, FRCPC

FELLOWSHIP PRECEPTORS: Dr. Angela Franko, Dr. Adrian Box, Dr. Simon Walker, with participation from Ryan Healey, MSc PA (ASCP) and the pathologists' assistants on the autopsy service, and Dr. Jeff Joseph and the neuropathologists on the autopsy service.

DEFINITION

Adult Medical Autopsy Pathology is an area of enhanced competence within Anatomical and General Pathology concerned with the performance of autopsies on adults in the non-forensic, hospital/medical setting. This procedure includes a comprehensive review of the medical record, performance of the autopsy, interpretation of the macroscopic and histologic findings in the context of the clinical history, and creation of the final report. Adult Medical Autopsy plays an important role in obtaining accurate information regarding the terminal events on an individual patient level, as well as quality assurance and patient safety on a systems level.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS TO BEGIN TRAINING

Royal College certification in Anatomical Pathology or General Pathology or equivalent

OR

Eligibility for the Royal College certification in Anatomical Pathology or General Pathology

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To improve pathologists' abilities to competently perform adult medical autopsy, from review of the medical record, external examination, internal examination, histologic evaluation, and composition of a concise, complete report to communicate the findings to the clinical team
2. To improve pathologists' abilities to train and supervisor junior colleagues in the practice of adult medical autopsy
3. To contribute to the advancement of patient care by providing an opportunity for pathologists to contribute to patient safety/quality management activities and scholarly activity in the area of adult medical autopsy

FELLOWSHIP OVERVIEW

The Adult Medical Autopsy Fellowship Program is located at the Foothills Medical Center, within the Anatomical Pathology Division of the Department of Pathology. The fellowship consists of a minimum of NINE (9) four-week rotations on the autopsy service. The remaining FOUR (4) four-week rotations can be dedicated to scholarly activity, subspecialty pathology, or clinical rotations, or a combination of those areas. All rotations must be approved by the Fellowship Director.

Autopsy Service:

While on the autopsy service, the fellow will be responsible for the case load with graduated responsibility. The fellow will also be the primary contact for junior residents and other learners on the autopsy service, and take the lead role in teaching technical skills and report writing. The fellow will participate in systems quality assurance activities, such as morbidity and mortality reviews, and other quality assurance and educational opportunities as they arise.

Scholarly Activity:

Fellows are expected to conduct scholarly activity during the fellowship, with the expectation of a publication-ready manuscript by the end of the training period. Scholarly activity can be conducted in the area of autopsy

pathology, medical education, quality assurance, or an area of the fellow's choosing with the approval of the Fellowship Director.

Fellows are expected to present at least ONE (1) Departmental, or Province-Wide, or National presentation on a topic of their choosing related to the fellowship.

Additional Training Opportunities:

Fellows are encouraged to pursue additional training opportunities in an additional area outside of autopsy pathology, such as medical education, quality assurance, patient safety, or a complementary surgical pathology subspecialty, with the approval of the Fellowship Director.

Assessment:

Fellows will be assessed based on performance on a case-by-case basis, and by the Fellowship Director at the end of each four-week rotation on the autopsy service. For non-autopsy service rotations, the rotation preceptor will provide assessment. If the performance is unsatisfactory, the fellow will undergo learner support and remediation, as necessary, based on PGME guidelines for residency training.

Certification:

Upon successful completion of the fellowship, the candidate will be issued a formal certificate.