



GYNECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY 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	Foothills Medical Centre 7 th Floor McCaig Tower 3134 Hospital Drive NW	1	March 31 yearly (~18 months prior to July start)	10% vs. 70% 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 OR eligibility for Royal College certification in Diagnostic and Molecular Pathology or Diagnostic and Clinical Pathology OR equivalent.
- ⇒ 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 Division of Anatomic Pathology and Cytopathology is committed to the timely delivery of accurate, complete pathology reports and consultative opinions, and to the teaching and research mission of Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) and the University of Calgary. Many of the pathologists and laboratory scientists working at Alberta Precision Laboratories hold full time or clinical faculty appointments with the University of Calgary. This joint arrangement allows sharing of facilities and expertise between APL and the Faculty of Medicine, resulting in enhanced strength in service, education and research. APL performs subspecialty pathology service. There are currently seven gynecological pathology within APL in Calgary serving as intradepartmental consultants and on the weekly Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board Rounds (TBR).

The weekly Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board Rounds (TBR) is held Thursday morning at Arthur Child Comprehensive Cancer Centre (ACCC, optional virtual call in, which is the preferred option for fellows). At this conference, gynecological oncology cases are presented and the relevant pathology from each case is reviewed and discussed in order to facilitate management of patients. Tumor board is attended by gynecologic oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, support staff from the gynecologic oncology clinic, fellows, residents and medical students.

The Department of Pathology at the Foothills Medical Center is equipped to facilitate the teaching of residents/fellows. The residents' room is located within the Department with a capacity to accommodate 19 residents and up to 4 fellows. Each trainee is provided with a microscope and computer with access to the internet and electronic patient record. An up-to-date library is also provided in the residents' room.

There are 2 multi-headed microscope teaching rooms (13 head and a 10 head). The microscopes in each of these rooms have the ability to project through a high-definition television screen for teaching purposes.

Dr. Lee has a large collection of teaching slides in gynecologic pathology and gynecologic cytology, and these materials are made available to the trainee upon request. Additional teaching sets are available within the Department.

For technical assistance, the Department has multiple well-established and well-maintained labs, including onsite histology, molecular lab, and flow cytometry. Cytology and immunohistochemistry labs are located at the Diagnostic and Scientific Center.

Supervising Faculty (Gynecological Subspecialty Pathologists)

Dr. Martin Koebel (Fellowship Director)
 Dr. Travis Ogilvie
 Dr. Sandra Lee
 Dr. Nicholas Wiebe
 Dr. Eun-Young Kang
 Dr. Zainab Al-Shamma
 Dr. Kyo Farrington

Statement of Clinical Focus/Educational Purpose of the Fellowship

Over a one-year period, the trainee will develop knowledge and medical expertise in the field of gynecologic pathology. The training will promote the CanMEDs competencies with emphasis on the categories of “medical expert” and “scholar” as outlined below.

Upon completion of training, the fellow will have acquired the knowledge and skills necessary to approach, diagnose, and report pathologies of the female genital tract, conduct research in the discipline, and develop the professional attitudes expected of a medical expert in the field of gynecologic pathology.

Curriculum/Rounds

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

- Thursday weekly Gynecologic Oncology rounds at Foothills Medical Center (07:30-08:30)
- Friday academic half-day activities relevant to Gynecological Pathology (academic half-day runs from 08:00-12:00)
- Monday biweekly resident teaching rounds (16:00-17:00)
- Tuesday monthly gynecologic pathology diagnostic rounds (13:00-14:00)

Attendance by the Fellow at the following Rounds is suggested:

- Thursday continuing medical education rounds (16:00-17:00)

In the above-mentioned rounds, if a case with pathologic diagnosis is presented, the fellow may be expected to present the pathologic findings and discuss the case with the clinicians.

The fellow may be asked to give presentations at the residents’ academic half-day and continuing medical education rounds.

Specific Rotations

Foothills Medical Centre, South Health Campus

Curriculum

1. Intended Caseload – the intended caseload is unknown at this point but is estimated to be >1000 cases within one year of training consisting of a combination of both consultative and non-consultative gynecologic surgical pathology cases.

General Objectives

Clinical responsibilities

- Be accessible to be paged by the attending staff to provide support for intraoperative consultation of gynecologic cases during daytime on workdays when onsite at Foothills Medical Center.
- On request of the attending staff provide support with respect to complex or rare gynecological specimen (e.g. pelvic exenteration, radical vulvectomy, radical hysterectomy).
- Gross a certain number of rare gynecological specimens, which the fellow proactively identifies from the OR schedule or gross room on workdays when onsite at Foothills Medical Center (keep a logbook).
- Provide comprehensive reports for gynecologic pathology/cytology cases and conduct literature searches and organize additional testing when appropriate.
- Will be included in the rotation of intradepartmental consultations (IDCs).
- The fellow is expected to discuss the interesting cases and the relevant literature with the staff at the time of sign-out. All cases will be reviewed with staff before sign-out.

Educational Responsibilities

- The fellow will help to supervise residents whom are doing a Gynecologic Pathology rotation at Foothills Medical Center.
- The fellow should strongly consider participating in resident journal club and suggesting appropriate articles related to Gynecologic Pathology for review.

Research and Publications

- Participation in a research project with subsequent presentations at conferences and residents' research day is strongly encouraged.
- The fellow is encouraged to submit at least one research paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal as first author (this may be after the fellowship is complete derived from data gathered during the fellowship).

Evaluation/Assessment

1. The fellow will be evaluated continuously throughout the year by the supervisors. Official evaluations will be done at the 3-, 6- and 9-month point with a final evaluation by the program director with input from all teaching faculty, members and project collaborators. Evaluations will be based on CanMEDs competencies outlined in this document. Evaluations will also be verbally discussed with the Fellowship Committee.

Fellow Responsibilities/Specific Objectives

Research activity and publications:

The fellow is expected to participate in at least one research project, and at least one research paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal for which the candidate will be the first author is a desired outcome. (See "fellow duties and responsibilities").

Terminal Objectives/Outcome

Upon completion of the fellowship, the fellow will:

- Be prepared with the knowledge and skills to assess and diagnose gynecologic pathologies and communicate these findings effectively to clinicians
- Be aware of the current literature in the field of gynecologic pathology and how to fulfill the role of a pathologist consultant
- Have acquired knowledge about relevant clinical standards in gynecologic pathology and foster the spirit of inquiry and original research.
- Have developed skills in undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing medical education

Additional Training Opportunities

Recommended Activities

- Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pathologists (CAP)
- Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP)

Resources and Recommended Reading

Teaching collection

We are in the process of digitizing a large, comprehensive gynecologic teaching collection and developing a digital gynecologic pathology teaching bank for the University of Calgary, which will be available online.

Essential Reading

1. World Health Organization: Tumors of the Breast and Female Genital Organs, IARC Press-WHO
2. Atlas of gynecological Pathology, Clement and Young, Saunders

CanMeds Objectives

Medical Expert

1. Be familiar with the clinical and imaging presentations of gynecologic pathology
2. Gain competency in assessing both gynecologic biopsies and larger specimens with the consideration of the clinical presentation, imaging findings, and microscopic assessment
3. Gain competency in the systematic application of ancillary techniques, and be familiar with their uses, procedures and results including reflex immunohistochemistry and molecular studies
4. Be familiar with the management guidelines for neoplastic conditions of the gynecologic and the implications of risk factors in reporting these cases on biopsies and large specimens
5. Be knowledgeable about the staging system of the female genital tract and the diagnostic challenges that occur when staging

Communicator

1. Listen and communicate questions and ideas effectively
2. Communicate effectively with technical and pathology staff
3. Communicate effectively with clear and complete diagnostic reports and consults
4. Communicate effectively with other clinicians and surgeons at frozen section and interdisciplinary rounds

Collaborator

1. Be involved as part of the clinical team at various interdisciplinary rounds (attendance at ACCC Gynecologic TBR once a week, gynecologic pathology rounds biweekly, and gynecologic diagnostic rounds once a month)
2. Take on the role of a consultant to the technical staff, residents and pathology staff by providing advice and guidance on surgical cases
3. Participate in gynecologic pathology research activities within the department

Leader

1. Understand important aspects of quality control and quality assurance in gynecologic pathology
2. Effectively utilize resources when reviewing cases for consultation and diagnosis
3. Be aware of the costs and the best use of resources for each test

Health Advocate

1. Demonstrate understanding and compliance with safety guidelines in the gross room
2. Be thorough in the examination of the gynecologic specimens at the time of gross inspection
3. Be up to date with current literature and issues in gynecologic pathology

Scholar

1. Identify gaps in their knowledge and develop a self-learning strategy
2. Facilitate the learning of gynecologic pathology with residents, pathologists and clinicians by sharing/presenting cases at gynecologic pathology rounds, ACCC gynecologic TBR, gynecologic diagnostic rounds and Friday Unknown slide rounds

3. Search relevant literature for up-to-date information
4. Review available gynecologic pathology teaching sets and help in the preparation of creating a digital set

Professional

1. Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal behaviour
2. Be aware of their own limitations
3. Practice gynecologic pathology in an ethical manner and strive to deliver a high degree of quality of care to the patient

Certification

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