

GYNECOLOGICAL PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

**The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine Calgary Health
Region and Calgary Laboratory Services Calgary, Alberta**

TYPE OF FELLOWSHIP:

One-year Gynecologic Pathology Clinical Fellowship

LOCATION:

Foothills Medical Centre
1403 29th Street NW
McCaig Tower, 7th Floor
Calgary Alberta, Canada T2N 2T9

PROGRAM INFORMATION:**• Number of fellowship positions requested:**

One

• Academic affiliation:

University of Calgary, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

• Name of hospitals involved in training:

Foothills Medical Center, DSC , PLC, South Campus

• 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 Calgary Laboratory Services and the University of Calgary. Many of the pathologists and laboratory scientists working at Calgary Laboratory Services hold full time or clinical faculty appointments with the University of Calgary. This joint arrangement allows sharing of facilities and expertise between CLS and the Faculty of Medicine, resulting in enhanced strength in service, education and research.

Weekly Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board is held on Thursday morning at Foothills Medical Center. 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

- **Research activity and publications:**

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

- **Mission and objectives:**

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 knowledge, skills necessary to approach, diagnose, report pathologies of the female genital tract, conduct research in the discipline and developed the professional attitudes expected of a medical expert in the field of gynecologic pathology.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

1. Medical expert

The fellow will:

- Acquire knowledge pertinent to the pathogenesis, clinical manifestations, pathologic features, and treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the female genital tract.
- Acquire diagnostic skills in gynecologic pathology through interpreting large and small (ie. biopsies, curettings) with the consideration of the clinical presentation and clinical implication of the diagnoses.
- Acquire knowledge of ancillary techniques available and their applicability to diagnoses of diseases in the field of gynecologic pathology (ie. histochemical and immunohistochemical stains, HPV testing, electron microscopy, FISH study, and molecular techniques).
- Actively participate in weekly Gynecologic Oncology Tumor Board.
- Obtain knowledge related to laboratory safety, quality assurance programs, and other management issues.
- Maintain a log book of cases seen.

2. Communicator

The fellow will demonstrate the ability to:

- Demonstrate effective consultation, as a Gynecologic Pathologist, with respect to patient care, education, and legal opinion.
- Communicate effectively with the clinicians, other colleagues, and support staff from the gross room and transcriptionists.
- Formulate clear, concise, and complete reports that accurately and adequately describe the specimen and diagnosis.
- Assist in the continuing education of physicians and other members of the hospital staff.

3. Collaborator

The fellow will:

- Become part of the clinical team through interactions with clinical colleagues directly and at rounds.
- Function as a consultant to staff, residents, and technical staff, providing assistance with challenging cases and teaching basic skills to residents and medical students.
- Understand the role of intra and extra departmental review of diagnostic material.
- Demonstrate willingness to work with other clinicians, fellows, residents, and students to collaborate on research projects.

4. Manager

The fellow will:

- Will get some exposure to QA processes in working together with the newly created position of the subspecialty group leader in gynecological pathology.
- Utilize time and resources effectively to balance patient care, learning needs, and outside activities.
- Understand the finite health care resources and use them with discretion.
- Utilize available resources for self-directed learning.

5. Health advocate

The fellow will:

- Recognize and respond to those issues, circumstances, or situations in which advocacy on behalf of patients of the community is appropriate.
- Identify populations at risk for certain gynecologic pathologies.
- Recognize the fundamental role in epidemiological research in understanding the pathophysiology and etiology of disorders.
- Demonstrate understanding of the roles of screening programs with specific reference to cervical cancer screening programs.
- Demonstrate the ability to recognize those situations that require consultation or notification of the Department of Health.

6. Scholar

The fellow will:

- Conduct in research in the discipline for which roughly 25% of its time will be allocated. The research will be predominantly translational/diagnostic building and using retrospective case series. Collaborations with SACRI and the molecular pathology laboratory (Dr. D. Demetrick) are encouraged.
- Participate in resident research day and conferences.
- Help to develop and implement a personal learning strategy.
- Accept responsibility for self-learning and self-evaluation
- Identify gaps in knowledge and experience
- Apply the principles of critical appraisal to sources of medical information and stay current with evidence based literature pertinent to Gynecologic Pathology.

7. Professional

The fellow will:

- Deliver the highest quality practice of surgical pathology with integrity, honesty, and compassion.
- Recognize personal limits of expertise including when to seek consultation from another pathologist and when to seek consultation from a specialist outside of pathology.
- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal behaviors including:
 - Concern and respect for others and sensitivity to gender/ethnic and other social issues
 - Respond appropriately to criticism
 - Act as a role model
 - Respond in a constructive and congenial way to interpersonal conflict
 - Maintain an appropriate balance between personal and professional roles
 - Be accountable for personal actions and reliable and conscientious of professional responsibilities.
- Practice gynecological pathology in an ethically responsible manner that respects the medical, legal, and professional obligations belonging to a self-regulating body.
 - Demonstrate an ethical approach to the performance duties within the laboratory
 - Know and understand the professional, legal and ethical codes to which physicians are bound
 - Understand and apply relevant legislation relating to the health care system in order to guide him/her in the practice of Gynecologic Pathology
 - Recognize, analyze, and respond appropriately to unprofessional behavior in the practice of medicine.

Enhancement of residency training:

The fellow will participate in the teaching of residents and students through active tutoring the residents and participation in the academic half-day. The fellow will also serve as a resource person for the residents and provide help as needed.

NAME OF THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Dr. Martin Koebel

NAMES OF THE TEACHING FACULTY:

Dr. Maire Duggan

Dr. Martin Koebel

Dr. Travis Ogilvie

Dr. Anna Sienko
Dr. Sandra Lee

ACADEMIC FACILITIES:

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 14 residents/fellows. Each trainee is provided with a microscope and computer with access to the internet and electronic patient record systems (including Cerner, Sunrise, and Alberta Netcare). An up to date library with is also provided in the residents' room.

A 10-head multi-headed microscope and a microscope that projects through a high definition television screen are available for teaching purposes.

Dr. Duggan has a large collection of teaching slides in gynecologic pathology and gynecologic cytology, and these materials are made available to the trainees 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.

FELLOW DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Mandatory activities

Clinical responsibilities

- Responsibilities during the year include:
 - There is no subspecialty sign-out within CLS. The fellow is expected to proactively identify gynecological specimens from gross and biopsy rotations.
 - 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. pelvis 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 log book).
 - Provide comprehensive reports for gynecologic pathology/cytology cases and conduct literature searches and organize additional testing when appropriate.
 - Proactively approach attending staff on biopsy rotations to see a certain number of endometrial biopsies

- Perform at least two-month gynecological cytopathology rotation including Pap and colposcopy specimens.
- There is the possibility to perform a gynecological pathology rotation at the PLC supervised by Dr. Anna Sienko.
- 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.

Attendance at Rounds

- Attendance by the fellow at the following rounds is mandatory:
 - Thursdays weekly Gynecologic Oncology rounds at Foothills Medical Center
 - Fridays academic half-day activities relevant to Gynecological Pathology
 - Mondays weekly resident teaching rounds
- Attendance by the fellow at the following rounds is suggested:
 - Tuesdays clinicopathologic correlation rounds
 - Thursdays continuing medical education rounds

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.

There will be no call duty during the year of fellowship.

Resident and staff teaching

- The fellow will help to supervise residents 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 should endeavor to submit at least one research paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal as first author.
- The fellow will take a course in basic statistics to gain proficiency in basic statistical analysis.

2. Recommended activities

- Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Pathologists
- Annual Meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology

CURRICULUM:

1. Intended caseload

- The intended case load is unknown at this point but is estimated with > 500 cases within this one year.

2. Reading materials: Books

- World Health Organization: Tumors of the Breast and Female Genital Organs, IARC Press-WHO; 4 edition (October 1, 2014).
- Blaustein's Pathology of the Female Genital Tract, 6th Edition, Kurman, Springer, New York, 2010
- Diagnostic Gynecologic and Obstetric Pathology, Crum and Lee, Saunders, 2nd ed. (2010).
- Atlas of gynecological Pathology, Clement and Young, Saunders; 3rd ed.
- The Bethesda System for Reporting Cervical Cytology, Springer-Verlag Berlin and Heidelberg GmbH & Co. K (January 1994).

EVALUATION:

1. The fellow will be evaluated continuously through the year by the supervisors. Official evaluations will be done at 3-month interval points and a final evaluation. The fellow will be terminated if there two successive failed evaluations. Evaluations will be based on CanMEDs competencies outlined in this document. Evaluations will also be verbally discussed with the Fellowship Director and a written evaluation will be presented to the Fellowship Program Committee.

2. The fellowship program will be evaluated once a year, using a form similar to the one used by the residents to evaluate the residency program. Once completed, this evaluation will be submitted directly by the fellow to the Fellowship Program Director who will subsequently present it to the Fellowship Program Committee.