

RENAL AND TRANSPLANTATION PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

**The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta**

Objectives

Updated: January 2008

Supervisor: Dr. H. Benediktsson

RENAL AND TRANSPLANTATION PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP

Objectives

In the 24-month period, the fellow is expected to achieve a special competence in renal and transplantation pathology, participate in teaching, and pursue research activities.

Rotations

The fellowship is to be conducted at the facilities of Calgary Laboratory Services. The main site of activity will be the Foothills Hospital site, with a rotation through the laboratory facility at the Alberta Children's Hospital.

Elective time

Although the focus of the fellowship is to improve and sharpen the diagnostic skills in renal and transplantation pathology, at least two months protected time for the completion of a research project is allowed. This can be taken en bloc, or spaced at intervals throughout the training period. Additional research bloc time can be made available, if appropriate.

Evaluation

Performance is evaluated based on fundamental skills, professional attitudes, and knowledge, and is carried out by the supervising faculty members of the University of Calgary. There are three evaluations: at 6, 12, and 24 months.

Certification

Upon successful completion of the fellowship, the candidate will be issued a certificate from the office of Post Graduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary.

Required Reading

Heptinstall's Pathology of the Kidney, 2007, (Jennette, Olson, Schwartz, and Silva, Eds) Lippincott Williams and Wilkins.

Diagnostic Atlas of Renal Pathology, Fogo and Kashgarian, 2005, Elsevier

Other texts as they become available. Current editions of standard texts in pathology (Robbins, etc)

Journals:

American Journal of Kidney Diseases

Journal of the American Society of Nephrology

Kidney International

Transplantation

American Journal of Transplantation

Nephrology Dialysis and Transplantation

FELLOWSHIP STRUCTURE RENAL AND TRANSPLANTATION PATHOLOGY

The Fellowship is for two years. In this period, the fellow is expected to achieve a special competence in renal and transplantation pathology, to participate in teaching and to pursue independent research activities.

The fellow will co-report all renal biopsies, including light microscopy, immunofluorescence and electron microscopy, with the supervisors. The fellow is also expected to attend several renal biopsy procedures conducted in the Department of Radiology in order to gain familiarity with the biopsy technique and triaging of renal biopsy tissue.

Although the focus of the fellowship is to improve and sharpen the diagnostic skills in renal and transplantation pathology, protected time for the completion of a research project is essential. This can be taken *en bloc*, or spaced at intervals throughout the training period. Extended periods of research up to a maximum of 50% of time can be arranged. It is anticipated that at least two research projects will be completed and the results presented at a national or North American meeting. In addition, presentations at international meetings are encouraged.

Participation in the teaching activities of renal and transplantation pathology both at the undergraduate and post-graduate level is expected.

In Training Evaluation and Assessment of Competency:

In addition to the interim evaluation, there is another at 12 months and a final evaluation at the completion of the fellowship. Performance is evaluated based on fundamental skills, professional attitudes, and knowledge, and is carried out by the supervising faculty member. The results are discussed with the fellow and kept on file.

The candidate will be issued a certificate from the office of Post Graduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary, affirming that a year in subspecialty training has been successfully completed.

Training Requirements:

The fellow must be eligible for licensure by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and would normally be eligible to sit the fellowship in Anatomic Pathology from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

RESOURCES

Space and Workload:

The laboratory facilities of Calgary Laboratory Services located in the Foothills Medical Centre (FMC) and Alberta Children's Hospital (ACH) are the main sites of transplantation activity.

Approximately 600 renal biopsies are accessioned per annum, about 50% from transplanted kidneys. Most of the biopsies were received from physicians based at Foothills Medical Centre or Alberta Children's Hospital, with smaller numbers coming from other Calgary area hospitals as well as from other sites in Southern Alberta.

All biopsies are examined utilizing plastic and paraffin embedded sections for light microscopy, immunohistochemistry for immunofluorescence, and electron microscopy. Molecular techniques are employed in selected cases.

Personnel:

Several full-time technologists performing preparations for light microscopy, immunofluorescence, and electron microscopy.

Renal Pathologists:

Hallgrimur Benediktsson, MD FRCPC
Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Foothills Medical Centre

James Gough, MD, FRCPC,
Clinical Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Foothills Medical Centre

Alfredo Pinto-Rojas, MD, FRCPC
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Alberta Children's Hospital

David George, MD, FRCPC
Calgary Laboratory Services
Foothills Medical Centre

Kiril Trpkov, MD, FRCPC
Associate Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Rockyview Hospital

Close collaborative relationship exists with the Division of Transplant surgery, Division Head Dr. Serdar Yilmaz, and with the Division of Nephrology, Division Head Dr. Scott-Douglas. This provides access to a wealth of expertise and numerous opportunities for research collaboration.

Educational Facilities:

The fellow will be in attendance at hospital-based conferences requiring presentation and discussion of renal biopsies. Presentation at these rounds will be expected, under supervision.

Reference texts and periodicals are available through the supervising faculty member. There is also an extensive collection of renal biopsies representing classical and difficult examples of most renal pathological entities, which is available to the fellow.

Attendance at a minimum of one major international conference is expected within the 24-month period.