

UC Davis Pathology and Lab Medicine
Gynecologic and Breast Pathology (Surgical Pathology) Fellowship Goals and Objectives

Introduction

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In the broadest terms, the goal of the 1-year Gynecologic and Breast Pathology (Surgical Pathology) fellowship is to prepare the candidate for advanced practice in surgical pathology. In as much as the candidate has already completed a 4-year pathology residency (or a program with at least equivalent experience in surgical pathology), they should have already met the goals and objectives for surgical pathology as enumerated for our own residency program. It is the candidate's responsibility to be aware, through self-assessment, of any weaknesses in regard to these entry-level competencies and to address them rapidly with the assistance and consultation of the fellowship program director. As such, the fellowship is based on a model of practice under supervision, rather than a program of didactic and practical exercises. One anticipates that the practice of surgical pathology will occur in one of three major practice settings: academic practice, community hospital-based group practice, or commercial laboratory practice. Each of these settings varies in terms of their typical workloads, spectrum of case types, case complexity, and involvement in teaching and scholarly activity. This fellowship clearly takes place in the academic setting, and while we believe that the experience will adequately prepare the candidate for practice in any of the major situations, the fellow must have the variations clearly in mind to ensure full success in his/her chosen career situation.

Goals and Objectives

1. To increase experience with the diagnosis of non-neoplastic diseases of the GYN system and breast.
2. To increase experience with GYN and breast tumors, their precursors, and mimics
3. To develop an understanding of special techniques in the pathologic characterization of GYN and breast diseases (immunohistochemistry, FISH, molecular testing)
4. To develop an understanding of the clinical features of GYN and breast diseases, including diagnostic evaluation of patients, treatment algorithms, and tumor staging parameters and prognostic indices
5. To develop an appreciation of the multidisciplinary team approach to the treatment of patients with these diseases
6. To enhance teaching abilities through the interaction with pathology trainees, students, and clinicians

At the end of the 1-year Pathology Fellowship, the successful fellow will be expected to:

1. Provide competent diagnostic opinions in the interpretation of GYN and breast specimens (including pediatric cases). The fellow's expertise will include the following:
 - a. Complete and systematic gross examination of surgical specimens
 - b. Biopsy diagnosis/interpretation
 - c. Appropriate work-up and reporting of cancer resections
 - d. Intra-operative consultations, including immediate gross evaluations
 - e. Interpretation of frozen sections
2. Develop an analytical approach to diagnoses that includes the appropriate selection, interpretation, and integration of ancillary techniques such as immunohistochemistry and

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- molecular testing.
3. Recognize his/her own limitations and ask for appropriate consultations.
 4. Serve as a consultant to other health care providers:
 - a. Effectively communicate results with clinicians in a concerted effort to better patient care
 - b. Discuss cases in Pathology and clinical conference settings as well as recognize patient care implications.
 5. Demonstrate effective teaching of medical students, residents, pathologists, and clinicians in the following ways:
 - a. Instructing residents in proper grossing technique
 - b. Previewing surgical pathology cases with pathology residents to assist and guide them in their work-up
 - c. Preparing and providing teaching/slide conferences for the above named groups
 - d. Staffing of multidisciplinary conferences and offering consultative services at these conferences
 - e. Presenting a topic of interest at one of the UC Davis Pathology Grand Rounds

Professional Responsibility to Patient Care

The fellow will inform the fellowship director and the attending pathologist of any unplanned absence and will make every necessary effort to ensure the transfer of cases to someone who will see to their completion. When vacation is arranged at short notice (less than 45 days in advance), the fellow will be responsible for arranging coverage of service responsibilities during his/her planned absence.

Lifelong Learning

The fellow is expected to attend:*

1. Department Grand Rounds (generally held on the first and third Monday of each month), the annual UC Davis Pathology Diagnostic Symposium and the Stowell and Vogt lectureships
2. Resident Presentations (generally at the end of the month)
3. The Residency Program Director's meetings with the pathology residents (to facilitate communication of information related to graduate medical education)

* Participation at other lectures and conferences at which the fellow is not presenting are optional.

GYN and Breast Pathology Fellowship Rotations and Graduated Responsibilities

GYN and Breast/ Thoracic rotations	4-5 months
GU, GI, +/- Bone/Soft Tissue	1-2 months
Frozen section service	1 month
Junior Surgical Pathology Faculty	4-6 months

After completion of the first month of GYN service, the fellow will be responsible for covering the weekly GYN tumor board for the remainder of the year.

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When assigned to the GYN or Breast/ Lung services, responsibilities shall include:

1. Demonstrate appropriate grossing techniques that extract all essential data elements from the specimen and provide descriptions and/or images that support clinical care, conferences and teaching.
2. Review current outside case materials submitted to the Department.
3. Oversight of the resident in the gross room (as needed):
 - a. Ensuring ALL assigned cases are grossed appropriately and on time, whether by the resident or the fellow him- or herself.
 - b. Fielding problems that may arise, resolving them in accordance with department policies and procedures if possible, and informing the appropriate faculty member in a timely manner of the action taken or of the problem and issues if not resolved
4. Teaching of residents on service:
 - a. Assisting with grossing technique and orientation of specimens
 - b. Triaging slides based on clinical urgency
 - c. Previewing cases with the resident
 - d. Guiding formation of differential diagnoses and additional work-up

Junior Surgical Pathology Faculty Experience

At the end of 6 months of assignment, including at least 2 months on the GYN service, 1 month of Breast/Lung service, and 3 months of other surgical pathology rotations (GI/Liver, GU, Frozen section), the fellow will be allowed to serve as a junior attending for the Gyn and Breast/Lung service - with full sign-out privileges. This opportunity is offered at the discretion of the fellowship director and is contingent upon approval from hospital credentialing. The junior attending will be expected to serve as faculty in all respects while on service in this capacity utilizing the assigned faculty member as a consultant and co-signer for his/her reports. Any discrepancies discovered at the time of sign-out and co-signature by the faculty member will be brought to the prompt attention of the fellow for corrective action. If hospital credentialing allows, and the fellowship director concurs, the fellow may graduate to full sign-out privileges.

Quality Assurance and Scholarly Work/Research

The GYN and Breast fellow will be expected to undertake a continuous quality improvement (CQI) or scholarly/research project, depending on his/her career goals. If a specific research or CQI project has not been declared by the fellow prior December 1, a project will be assigned in consultation with the Fellowship Director.

Call Schedule

The GYN and Breast fellow will be assigned to weekday and weekend after-hours call once the fellow has been deemed competent to sign-out cases independently. On-call duties include frozen sections diagnosis and intra-operative consultation for all surgical pathology cases (except neuropathology and hematopathology). The amount of on-call service will not exceed 7 weeks.

Teaching

The fellow will be expected to teach residents and medical students while on service. In addition, the GYN and Breast fellow will be responsible for representing the UC Davis Pathology department at

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the weekly GYN tumor board and at least one weekly breast conference.

Optional “Transition to Career” rotation

In cases in which the fellow will be joining a professional practice (e.g., academic, community-based, commercial) immediately after completion of his/her Gyn/Breast pathology fellowship, the fellow may be allowed to utilize the last month of the fellowship to hone any additional specific skills necessary for his/her upcoming professional position (e.g., additional frozen section experience, neuropathology, renal pathology, dermatopathology, etc.). These activities must occur within the department. Specific details will be at the discretion of the fellowship director. Any remaining vacation time may be used during this month. While the fellowship director will strive to provide as much flexibility as possible, the fellow is encouraged to plan early and carefully in order to make the most of this privilege. This month may also be used to complete a scholarly or quality assurance project.

The fellowship aligns with the 6 ACGME core competencies:

Patient care	All months; Fellowship is centered on work-up of active patient cases
Medical knowledge	All months; Continuous feedback and evaluation from pathology attendings; Formal quarterly evaluations; Grand Rounds presentation
Practice-based learning and improvement	Months 1-6 are practice-based in a team setting (attending signs-out cases); Months 7-12 consist of independent practice (i.e., fellow has sign-out privileges, with proctoring)
Interpersonal and communication skills	All months; Interactions with rotating medical students, pathology residents, other pathology fellows, pathology faculty, clinicians; Fellow covers clinical and educational conferences (i.e., interactions with clinicians, nurses, other staff, trainees outside the department); Communicates critical values to clinical team
Professionalism	All months; Teaching, independent sign-out, and clinical and educational conferences
Systems-based practice	All months; Fellow represents pathology in multidisciplinary clinical and educational conferences; Covers after-hours call; Communicates critical values to clinical team

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