

RENAL PATHOLOGY

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

OVERVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The major goal of this training program is to provide for and foster the personal and professional development of fellows, preparing them to practice renal pathology competently in either academic or private practice. All fellows are expected to acquire extensive knowledge of normal and disease states and to develop the ability to reach accurate diagnoses by reasoning based on this knowledge. Specifically, fellows will gain superior diagnostic and technical skills, including gross examination of renal core biopsies with appropriate allocation of tissue for special studies; performance of donor kidney frozen sections; selection and interpretation of laboratory tests; application of new technology; and mastery of the communication and consultation skills which are critical to the optimal implementation of diagnostic information in the delivery of excellent patient care. All of these skills will be taught in a context of compassion and empathy for our patients, and with recognition of the Pathologist's role as collaborative member of the team of physicians caring for the patient. Fundamental respect for the patient and our surgical and non-surgical physician colleagues is the foundation for Pathology practice.

In the process of gaining these skills, fellows will refine their professional attitudes and behavior, and master the administrative, organizational and interpersonal skills required in renal pathology practice, including interaction with clinical colleagues, support staff, pathology colleagues, and reimbursement and government agencies.

As renal pathology fellows in a tertiary academic center with a medical school, trainees have a responsibility to teach medical students, pathology residents and nephrology clinical fellows as part of the training experience. Fellows are expected to attain competency in teaching; this will primarily involve teaching medical students in the Homeostasis block for sections related to the kidney, pathology residents and nephrology clinical fellows and faculty colleagues.

During the first month, the fellow is responsible for completing a competency checklist, which covers general administrative, histology and electron microscopy procedures, by arranging orientation with the appropriate laboratory area staff. The completed competency sheet is then turned into the Program Coordinator who forwards to the Program Director and Associate Director. During the orientation phase, the fellow will take responsibility for one case per day. The duration of orientation may vary depending on experience level. After the initial orientation period, fellows usually take on up to 3 cases per day. After the third month, the fellow is expected to develop EM skills by individually review thin sections at least 2 cases/week.

The fellow is expected to review examples of rare entities from our "Rare cases" collection and set up discussion time for didactic teaching with the attendings to review these topics. These topics and cases are listed in the Appendix "Rare Cases for Study". Each topic discussed and reviewed should be marked with a check mark, and date of review.