

**UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON**  
**GI & HEPATIC PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP**  
**Goals and Objectives with General Competencies**

The overall goal of the GI and Hepatic Pathology Fellowship is to provide an organized educational experience that will expose the fellow to both the theoretical and practical applications of pathology of the tubular GI tract, pancreas, biliary tree and liver, including transplantation pathology. The secondary goal is to strengthen the trainee's approach as an adult learner, to enhance the trainee's ability to analyze personal strengths and areas of high competency and to identify areas of weakness, thus setting the framework for the trainee to develop individualized goals and objectives to enhance knowledge and skills both in training and after completion of the program, for lifelong learning and maintenance of competency.

**Objectives**

A number of specific objectives assist in meeting the overall goals. These objectives are presented below, organized along the general competencies defined by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) as expected of all residents and fellows.

**Patient Care** *The fellow will demonstrate ability to:*

- Assess the accuracy and relevance of clinical histories that accompany GI, pancreas, and liver specimens, and assess whether additional information is needed to complete the pathologic review.
- Gather appropriate and accurate clinical information.
- Interpret diagnostic information and test results within the clinical context for accurate diagnosis and case management.
- Use clinical decision-making concepts and techniques in interpreting results.
- Advise clinicians on the choice of clinically appropriate, cost-effective tests.
- Advise clinicians on appropriate follow-up for unexpected test results.
- Generate reports that are helpful to guide patient care; to include nuanced language in comments as appropriate
- Examine all specimens likely to be encountered as well as to supervise
- Demonstrate competence in providing gross and microscopic intra-operative consultation, including indications, technical performance, interpretation, and reporting
- Use microscopic examination and/or ancillary techniques to render diagnoses

**Medical Knowledge** *The fellow will demonstrate:*

- Knowledge of common clinical and diagnostic procedures, including endoscopy, percutaneous and transjugular liver biopsy, endoscopic ultrasound, radiofrequency ablation, liver/small bowel/pancreatic transplantation, gastrointestinal resections, endoscopic fine needle aspiration biopsy, four-phase computerized tomography of the liver, and abdominal MRI, and their medical application and correlation with pathology specimens.
- Knowledge of specialized diagnostic procedures including special staining techniques, electron microscopy, immunofluorescence and immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry, molecular diagnosis including hepatitis virus quantitation and genotyping, serologic tests for viral and autoimmune hepatitis and PBC, and FNA interpretation, as well as common special stains pertinent to GI and liver pathology, including Genta, PAS, PAS-D, reticulin, trichrome, HEABS (H&E, alcian blue, and safran) and liver stains, and stains for microorganisms.
- Knowledge of major genetic disorders of the GI and liver system, including appropriate tests.
- Ability to collect and evaluate medical evidence in the workup and diagnosis of GI and hepatic conditions, including common abnormal liver enzyme patterns.
- Ability to develop a differential diagnosis for polyps, neoplasms, metabolic and inflammatory conditions, including appropriate grading and staging systems.
- Development of a personal strategy to maintain and update medical knowledge, including routine

use of primary references and appropriate monographs in preparation of diagnostic reports, with citations, when appropriate, including use of references in preparation for weekly interdepartmental conferences.

- Regular participation in Frontiers in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, weekly GI Division Grand Rounds, including attendance at the programs on GI Emergencies
- Demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, and apply it to patient care
- Ability to investigate clinical questions and approach a diagnostic work-up in an informed and logical manner using appropriate resources to guide decisions

**Practice-Based Learning and Improvement** *The fellow will demonstrate:*

- Ongoing identification and remediation of gaps in personal medical knowledge.
- Understanding of and ability to apply the principles of quality control and quality assurance.
- Ability to identify process improvements that may minimize opportunities for medical errors.
- Accurate documentation of quality issues that are discovered in preparation of cases for sign-out and for interdepartmental and intradepartmental conferences, and ability to transmit and to report the issues to the appropriate laboratory supervisor or managing pathologist.
- Ability to respond to clinical questions raised at interdepartmental conferences by transmitting the information to the appropriate laboratory directors to assist in developing enhanced diagnostic testing and/or refinement in application of diagnostic categories and clinical staging systems.
- Ability to incorporate evidence into clinical practice and participation in contributing to the body of knowledge in pathology
- Proactively and consistently applies knowledge of the basic principles of research such as informed consent and research protocols to clinical practice"
- Actively and consistently seeks performance data and feedback with humility
- Uses performance data to measure the effectiveness of the learning plan and improves it when necessary

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills** *The fellow will demonstrate:*

- Ability to formulate succinct and accurate written diagnoses using accepted terminology and staging systems, where appropriate.
- Ability to write clear microscopic descriptions, using correct English sentence structure and spelling.
- Consistent legible handwriting, when not using word processor or typewriter.
- Ability to write Comments to Final Diagnoses, where appropriate, conveying qualifications or nuances that may enhance the information conveyed in the Diagnosis.
- Ability to communicate verbally and in writing with clinicians and pathologists who send case material as consultations and referrals; the Fellow will demonstrate ability to gather additional clinical history, as needed, and to convey preliminary opinions in a clear, appropriate and timely manner.
- Ability to make verbal presentations regarding pathology case material at intradepartmental and interdepartmental conferences, with clearly articulated and enunciated English sentence construction, with poised, focused and polished summary of key diagnostic points related to histopathologic features and special studies.
- Ability to use appropriate modes of communication (direct, telephone, e-mail, written) in a timely manner with attention to appropriate documentation and protection of patient confidentiality.
- Ability to discuss diagnostic disagreements, or problems related to quality, with the appropriate and responsible personnel, with attention to quality assurance and to quality improvement.
- Ability to effectively communicate with the health care team (laboratory team, resident/fellow team, faculty/resident team, interdisciplinary care team, etc.), including both inter- and intra-departmental and consultants, in both straightforward and complex situations
- Ability to effectively communicate to a variety of audiences using appropriate/approved methods in

order to protect patient information

**Professionalism** *The fellow will demonstrate*

- Integrity in all aspects of work product, including forthright acknowledgment of any errors, of absence of knowledge, or of personal factors that might hamper timely delivery of high quality care.
- Awareness of personal role in health care delivery team, communicating to other members of the team in a timely fashion regarding issues or concerns regarding specific cases, laboratory procedures, personnel matters, or personal issues that may affect care or that may require alternate coverage arrangements.
- Respectful behavior towards all patients and medical personnel, including punctuality and courtesy.
- Ability to provide respectful feedback to medical students, residents, clinicians, laboratory personnel and attending pathologists with attention to quality improvement and to provision of timely patient care.
- Ability to recognize and address lapses in ethical and professional behavior, demonstrates ethical and professional behaviors, and use appropriate resources for managing ethical and professional dilemmas
- Ability to take responsibility for one's own actions and the impact on patients and other members of the health care team
- Ability to identify, use, manage, improve, and seek help for personal and professional well-being for self and others

**Systems-based Practice** *The fellow will demonstrate the ability:*

- To engage in the analysis and management of patient safety events, including relevant communication with patients, families, and health care professionals; to conduct a QI project
- To effectively navigate the health care system, including the interdisciplinary team and other care providers, to adapt care to a specific patient population to ensure high-quality patient outcomes
- To understand the physician role in the complex health care system and how to optimize the system to improve patient care and the health system's performance
- To gain in-depth knowledge of the components of laboratory accreditation, regulatory compliance, and quality management
- To develop cost-sensitive and evidence-based laboratory testing practices, including considerations of medical necessity, quality, and resource stewardship