

## Anatomical Pathology Residency Program PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND OUTLINE

The Anatomical Pathology Residency Program at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University is a five year program based at the London Health Sciences Centre, University Hospital. There is a structured schedule of rotations designed to ensure that residents are able to fulfill all of the goals and objectives of training and acquire the necessary knowledge base to practice as competent consultant pathologists. There are also elective opportunities that permit the resident to tailor the program to their own needs and goals. There is a comprehensive education program, with various rounds and teaching sessions that supplement the rotations.

As of July 2019, the program has adopted the competency based medical education initiative, called Competency by Design (CBD). The program uses time as a framework and is structured to take place over five years, based at the London Health Sciences Centre, University Hospital. The rotations are designed to ensure that residents can fulfill all of the goals and objectives of training and successfully complete the required Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) to acquire the necessary knowledge for practice.

For additional information see the *Royal College Entrustable Professional Activities for Anatomical Pathology, 2019, version 1.0*.

### Program Organization

#### Rotations (4 week blocks)

<b>Transition to Discipline</b>	Introduction to Pathology	1 block
<b>Foundations</b>	General Surgery	1 block
	General Internal Medicine	1 block
	Pediatric Medicine	1 block
	Gynecologic Oncology	1 block
	Medical Oncology	1 block
	Medical Genetics & Molecular Pathology	1 block
	Hematology Oncology	1 block
	Otolaryngology	1 block
	Anatomical Pathology - Grossing - Surgical AP - Autopsy	3 blocks
<b>Core</b>	Autopsy - Cytology GILP	5 blocks 4 blocks 4 blocks

	GYN	3 blocks
	Breast	3 blocks
	GU	3 blocks
	Skin	2 blocks
	Head & neck	2 blocks
	Lung/hem	1 block
	Lung/peds	1 block
	Peds/hem	1 block
	Molecular	2 blocks
	Neuro	2 blocks
	Soft tissue/renal	2 blocks
	Research	1 block
	Selective/elective	4 blocks

<b>Transition to Practice</b>	Selectives (following discussion with PD)	10 blocks
	Electives	2 blocks
	Teaching - TBD	1 block

The first year of training is a broad-based year including both clinical and laboratory rotations. This year is designed to satisfy the specialty-specific objectives, broaden clinical experience to become a more well rounded physician, increase empathy for / improve communication with clinical colleagues, and accrue clinical knowledge to improve differential diagnostic skills. During this year, the resident attends the Pathology Academic Half Day, Department of Pathology Grand Rounds, and the Department of Pathology Research Day.

## General Description of Rotations

### ***SURGICAL AND AUTOPSY PATHOLOGY***

During part of Foundations and all of Core, the resident rotates through the surgical pathology and autopsy services. Surgical pathology is learned by studying cases from frozen sections, gross examination, microscopic examination, ancillary studies and sign-out. Exposure to numerous subspecialty areas occurs during these rotations.

In Transition to Practice, the resident functions with less supervision, with workload and responsibilities approaching the level of a junior consultant pathologist. On these senior rotations, the resident is also involved in the review of consultation material.

Core surgical pathology rotations include GILP, GYN, Breast, GU, Skin, Head & neck, Lung, Hempath, Soft tissue/renal

Other mandatory rotations include:

## ***CYTOPATHOLOGY***

During Core, there is a one block introductory rotation in cytopathology, with a later three block cytopathology rotation, with wide exposure to gynecologic and non-gynecologic material, as well as quality assurance protocols related to cytology. A close relationship with the colposcopy clinics also allows correlation of cervical biopsies and cytological specimens. Residents may do a rotation in Cytopathology in their final year. Extensive teaching collections are also available.

## ***NEUROPATHOLOGY***

Neuropathology rotations (2 blocks) provide interaction with neuropathology, neurosurgery, and neurology residents who also rotate through the service. There is excellent exposure to a wide range of neuropathological surgical and autopsy pathology.

## ***FORENSIC PATHOLOGY***

In addition to a comprehensive lecture series and weekly practical forensic pathology rounds, residents are exposed to forensic autopsies during all the Anatomical Pathology rotations. Residents may do a rotation in Forensic Pathology in their final year.

## ***PEDIATRIC PATHOLOGY***

The majority of pediatric and perinatal pathology exposure takes place longitudinally, during the Core surgical and autopsy rotations. In addition, there are dedicated one block pediatric/lung and pediatric & adult hempath rotations during Core.

## ***MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY***

The Molecular Pathology rotation is designed to provide residents with a comprehensive understanding of the field, starting with a one-block junior rotation that introduces fundamental techniques and concepts. In a subsequent senior rotation, residents will deepen their expertise by working alongside molecular pathologists and molecular geneticists on a variety of cases, including hands-on laboratory experience with genetic technologists and genome analysts for variant interpretation. The senior rotation also includes a focused period in cytogenetics, allowing residents to review Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH) cases and other cytogenetic specimens. The program aims to equip residents with both the theoretical knowledge and practical skills essential for a career in molecular pathology.

## **Academic Program**

### ***ACADEMIC HALF DAY***

The Academic Half Day, organized by Dr. J. Walsh, takes place weekly on Wednesday mornings from September to June. Attendance by all residents is mandatory. It consists of lectures by pathologists, clinicians and residents, and slide seminars. The program follows a two-year schedule, and therefore residents will be exposed to the topics at least twice during their training. All areas of anatomical

pathology are covered. The schedule for each section is organized by Pathologists with subspecialty expertise in the area. Teaching in basic sciences, laboratory management, bioethics, critical appraisal, and other topics is also incorporated into the Academic Half Day.

### ***PRESENTATIONS BY RESIDENTS AT WEDNESDAY NOON ROUNDS***

Wednesday Noon Rounds is a forum during which pathologists and residents share interesting cases by using the microscope projection system. This includes gross and microscopic pathology, cytopathology and electron microscopy. Residents are expected to do at least one formal presentation per academic year. Resident presentations are selected from a list of timely topics provided to them by the subspecialty teams, on a topic of his/her choosing.

### ***DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY GRAND ROUNDS AND ROBERT ZHONG SEMINARS***

These rounds take place on a regular basis. The program consists of presentations by faculty members or invited guests. Residents are expected to attend.

### ***GRADUATE STUDENT SEMINARS***

These seminars are held every alternate Mondays at 4pm in H410, Western University. All residents receive regular e-mail notification of the seminars. These seminars are optional for anatomical pathology residents. Graduate students present seminars and a journal club paper. Invited speakers also attend periodically. These meetings provide an excellent forum for keeping in touch with some of the basic science activities of the department as well as providing an opportunity to participate in a journal club.

### ***HOSPITAL ROUNDS***

There is a full slate of rounds that occur in the Department on a weekly and monthly basis; some are resident teaching rounds while others are clinical-pathology rounds.

*Reviewed & Updated by AP Residency Program Committee –  
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