

Externships for Visiting Medical Students Rotation in Clinical Genetics and Prenatal Diagnosis

This elective provides exposure to genetic counseling, prenatal sonographic diagnosis of congenital anomalies, and prenatal diagnostic procedures.

Visiting medical students will become familiar with the principles of clinical genetics as they apply to the maternal-fetal medicine practice, be able to construct a genetic pedigree, and perform basic genetic counseling. Externs will learn to recognize normal and abnormal fetal anatomy and will observe procedures such as amniocentesis, chorionic villus sampling, and fetal blood sampling.

Students receive – and are expected to read – a packet of articles about prenatal screening and diagnosis of common chromosomal abnormalities and genetic conditions, obstetrical ultrasound, teratology, and genetic counseling. A didactic conference – OB/Gyn Ultrasound, Prenatal Diagnosis, and Genetics Grand Rounds – is held on the second and fourth Friday of each month at noon. During this conference, we review abnormal sonogram findings, discuss indications and techniques for prenatal diagnosis, and review genetic abnormalities in detail.

Extern performance is evaluated informally through daily contact with faculty in the Parkland Ultrasound Unit and clinic setting. For example, when students see patients in the Parkland OB Complications Clinic, they are observed by a dedicated genetic counselor while taking a genetic history (pedigree) and counseling the patient. Then, they present the clinical information and their management plan to the faculty attending in the clinic.

At the end of the rotation, students are asked to give a short presentation on a topic of their choice that involves a genetic condition or ultrasound anomaly.

This externship is an extraordinary opportunity for visiting medical students to experience clinical genetics and prenatal diagnosis in practice.

Please see the next page for a **Sample Rotation Schedule**.

Sample Rotation Schedule

Day	Time	Activity
Monday	8:30 a.m.–12 noon 1–5:30 p.m.	Parkland OB/Gyn Sonography Unit – Twin Day UT Southwestern MFM Office (St. Paul – POB-II)
Tuesday	8:30–12 noon 1–5:30 p.m.	Parkland OB/Gyn Sonography Unit – Anomalies Parkland OB Complications Clinic – Genetic Disorders and Fetal Anomalies
Wednesday	9 a.m.–12 noon 1–5:30 p.m.	Attend didactic OB/Gyn conferences with residents Parkland OB/Gyn Sonography Unit – Genetic Counseling
Thursday	8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.	Parkland OB/Gyn Sonography Unit – Amniocentesis Day
Friday	All Day	Independent Study – Time to work on end-of-rotation presentation
2 nd and 4 th Friday each month	Noon–1 p.m.	OB/Gyn Ultrasound, Prenatal Diagnosis, and Genetic Grand Rounds