Breast Pathology Fellowship

Educational Goals

PATIENT CARE:

- To gain diagnostic competence and be able to provide effective service and clinical consultation in matters relating to breast pathology.
- To understand the importance of multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and management of breast diseases.
- To learn to collaborate with other clinical disciplines in providing patient-focused care.
- To be actively involved in examining breast specimens from core biopsies, surgical resections, and outside slide review.
- To sign-out complicated breast cases and correlate pathologic findings with clinical histories and radiologic findings.
- To be proficient in writing a detailed and comprehensive pathology report.
- To make informed decisions regarding diagnostic work-up of patients and determine the need for using ancillary testing, such as routine immunohistochemistry and other molecular tests.
- To help educate clinical colleagues (residents and fellows) from different clinical disciplines in the approach to the workup and diagnosis of breast diseases.

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE:

- To gain diagnostic competence in the diagnosis of various neoplastic and non-neoplastic diseases of the breast and their mimics.
- To develop proficiency in the diagnosis and management of complicated breast lesions and consolidate knowledge on established diagnostic criteria for the diagnosis of different neoplastic lesions of the breast.
- To be familiar with the molecular classification of breast cancer and its clinical relevance in the management of patients with breast cancer.
- To gain experience and competence in the use of sophisticated ancillary tests, such as image analysis and other molecular techniques, and understand the role of breast cancer biomarkers in targeted therapy for breast cancer.
- To gain a better understand about the etiology and pathogenesis of breast cancer.

PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT:

- To review slides on a daily basis, formulate diagnoses, generate reports, and sign out cases with a breast pathology faculty.
- To perform frozen sections and intra-operative evaluation of sentinel lymph nodes by touch imprint cytology.
- To review all outside consults, make diagnoses, and generate a detailed report on the cases, and to make decisions regarding the need for further work-up of the cases.
- To be involved in and become proficient in the interpretation of prognostic/predictive markers using automated image analysis, molecular technique,s and fluorescence in-situ hybridization, understanding the importance of the pathology report for critical treatment decisions.
- To actively participate in weekly breast multimodality conferences, which involves reviewing pathology material, clinical histories, and radiologic findings and presenting the pathologic findings in the form of power-point presentations.
- To review relevant scientific literature from journals, textbooks, and internet-based searches on relevant cases.

- To understand the importance of quality assurance/control in breast pathology and the importance of retrospective review of pathology material for any discrepancies in diagnoses and subsequent action taken to resolve such issues.
- To be involved in the supervision and teaching of clinical fellows, residents, and other healthcare related professionals.
- To design and carry out independent and collaborative research under the guidance of a faculty member, including preparation of a research proposal, participation and co-ordination of collaborative research, submission of abstracts to scientific meetings, and preparation of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
- To demonstrate competence in the use of information technology, laboratory information system, and computer digital imaging technology.

INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS:

- To demonstrate good interpersonal and communication skills for effective information exchange and interaction with colleagues and other health care professional and to elicit relevant clinical information and be able to discuss problematic and complex cases via telephone or face-to-face conversation with clinical colleagues and other health care professionals.
- To deliver good oral presentations at various interdepartmental conferences and lectures for diverse audiences.
- To demonstrate the ability to articulate and communicate effectively with house staff and junior colleagues during routine sign-out, one-on-one teaching sessions, and conferences.

PROFESSIONALISM:

- To demonstrate a commitment to professional responsibilities, such as adherence to ethical principles and sensitivity to diversity in the workplace.
- To demonstrate professionalism in appearance and behavior.
- To be respectful, compassionate, and courteous to those in the workplace.
- To be committed to patient confidentiality and ethical business practice.

CURRICULUM FOR THE BREAST PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIP:

- This is one-year training in the Department of Pathology at the University of Texas, Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Health and Hospital System.
- The fellow will engage in both independent and collaborative research project and maintain database.
- Completion of an approved research project to be submitted as an abstract to a national meeting and publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- The fellow will also participate in other activities such as tissue procurement, review of archival pathology material, and clinico-pathologic correlation studies.
- The fellow will have the opportunity to rotate in the different clinical specialties related to breast diseases and get first hand experience on the different diagnostic/treatment modalities related to breast diseases.

The fellow will also rotate in the Image Analysis and Molecular Pathology Laboratories to gain experience in the interpretation of prognostic/predictive markers in breast cancer.