

Clinical Rotations – Educational Goals

Rotation Schedule

Clinical Blocks: Each fellow has 15 clinical rotations in 4-week blocks (60 weeks total).

Year 1

- 4.5 rotations in NICU at Parkland
- 0.5 rotation in High-Risk Obstetrics (2 weeks)
- 1.5 rotation in Labor and Delivery at Parkland
- 1.5 rotation in NICU at Children's

Year 2

- 1-2 rotations in NICU at Parkland
- 1-2 rotations in Children's NICU
- 1 rotation at Children's CV-ICU

Year 3

- 1 rotation in NICU at Children's
- 1 rotation in NICU at Parkland (acting-attending rotation)
- 1 rotation at Low Birth Weight (Follow-up Clinic)

Rotation in Labor and Delivery Room:

Myra Wyckoff, M.D., an internationally acclaimed physician in neonatal resuscitation research, directs a very unique resuscitation rotation, which includes exposure to a computerized patient simulator, NRP certification and training, participation in resuscitation research, review of the literature, attendance at high-risk deliveries, and transfer to and admission of high-risk infants to the NICU.

Other Blocks:

- Vacation: Each fellow has 3 weeks of vacation per year
- Protected Time: Each fellow has 20 months of protected time for scholarship activities (research, board preparation) and elective rotations. The amount of time increases from the first to the third year, and is clustered to enhance productivity.
- Elective Rotations:
 - Newborn nursery rotation: training and certification in circumcision
 - Follow-up rotation: additional exposure to the Low Birth Weight Clinic
 - Anesthesiology rotation: one-week exposure to airway and vascular access procedures in the operating room at Children's Medical Center
 - Purple Team rotation: NICU rotation at Parkland Memorial Hospital with intensive exposure to neonatal procedures
 - Transport rotation: 4 weeks of exposure to neonatal and infant transport
 - ECMO rotation: exposure to ECMO cannulation in NICU and PICU and ECMO maintenance in PIUC
 - Clements University Hospital NICU rotation
 - Texas Health Resources NICU rotation
 - Palliative care/FETAL rotation

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On-calls and Duty Hours:

The training program is fully compliant with the ACGME duty hour regulations.

At the very beginning of the fellowship each fellow has 3 "buddy calls," during which he/she is shadowed by a senior fellow, preceding "solo" calls at the Parkland NICU. Each fellow has 2 buddy overnight calls during the cardiovascular intensive care unit rotation.

In order to optimize research activities, calls are clustered during clinical blocks (7 calls per block or every fourth night) and less frequent (4 calls per block in the first year, 3 calls per block during the second and third years) during research blocks.

Each fellow has on one call-free research block every year, and one additional block with only one call (on year one) for preparing for the American Board of Pediatrics examination.

Each fellow has a total of 158 calls (including "buddy calls") during the training program, with an average of 4.4 calls per month, or one call every 6.9 nights.

The number of calls decreases with the number of years of training: 5 calls per month (1 call every 6.1 nights) during the first year, 4.3 calls per month (1 call every 7.2 nights) during the second year, and 3.9 calls per month (1 call every 7.8 nights) during the third year.

The number of on-calls and the number of clinical rotations do not depend on the number of fellows in the program at any time.

Coursework and Conferences

Required Coursework

- **Fellows' Physiology Course** (Thur 08:00-09:00, first and third Thursdays of each month)
 - Presentations by fellows and faculty covering all aspects of development, physiology and pathology relative to the fetus and neonate. The curriculum is designed to be completed over a 3-year period. Directed by Drs. Imran Mir and Luc Brion.
 - Some of these sessions are run as flipped classroom sessions.
- **Biomedical Statistics** Formal course in introductory conceptual statistics, taken during the second and/or third year. Directed by faculty in Department of Clinical Sciences.
- **Epidemiology and Evidence-Based Medicine** (Thur 08:00-09:00, 2nd and/or 4th Thursday of each month) Curriculum designed to facilitate understanding of experimental design, statistics, conduct of clinical trials, and evaluation of pertinent medical literature. This course runs parallel with the Physiology Course and addresses therapeutic alternatives specifically related to the pathologic problem under discussion. This course also includes a decision making series. Directed by Dr. Luc P Brion, Drs. Vishal Kapadia and Lina Chalak.



Fellows' Physiology Course

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Teaching Conferences

- **Morbidity-Mortality/Ethics Conference** (Parkland Hospital) (Thur 12:00-13:00, second and fourth Thursdays of each month) Neonatology fellows and faculty, faculty in Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Surgery, and Pathology present and discuss cases from the preceding months. Morbidity-mortality conference occurs once a month. Case conference occurs once a month and includes 2 Ethics Rounds per year at Parkland with multidisciplinary attendance. Supervised by Dr. Mackenzie Frost.
- **Morbidity-Mortality Conference/Ethics** (Children Medical Center) (Thur 12:00-13:00, once monthly) Neonatology fellows and faculty, faculty in Pediatrics, Obstetrics, Surgery, and Pathology present and discuss cases from the preceding months; includes 1 Ethics Rounds per year with multidisciplinary attendance. Supervised by Dr. Mackenzie Frost and Dr. Vedanta Dariya
- **Division Research Conference** (Fri 08:00-08:45) Neonatology faculty and fellows and other UT faculty present completed research and work in progress three weeks of each month. Once a month, a Journal Club is held in which the Division Faculty present recent literature regarding clinical or basic research relevant to the neonate. Additionally, a neonatology critically appraised topic (NEOCAT) can be presented by a fellow in collaboration with a neonatology faculty member. Supervised by Dr. Lina Chalak
- **Core Curriculum Course for Postdoctoral Fellows, Department of Pediatrics** (Every other Friday 12:00-13:00) Faculty present lectures and discussions regarding need for continuing education, career choices, mentorship, job search, animal and human experimentation requirements, experimental design, writing grants, IRB, MOC, teaching skills and essentials of writing for publication. Second year fellows present their research in progress. Attended by Pediatric fellows from all Divisions. Directed by Dr. Mackenzie Frost
- **High Risk Obstetrics** (Mon 08:00-09:15) Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellows present and discuss cases on the High-Risk Pregnancy ward. Attended by faculty, fellows and housestaff in Obstetrics and Pediatrics.
- **Resuscitation Conference** (Every other Monday 12:00-13:00) Delivery room and NICU resuscitations from the preceding weeks are reviewed and discussed. Attended by fellows, housestaff, nurse practitioners and nurses from Labor and Delivery and the NICU. Directed by Dr. Myra Wyckoff.
- **Prenatal Diagnosis** (Fri 12:00-13:00) Obstetrical Staff present 2-4 cases with prenatally diagnosed abnormalities for discussion of planned delivery and care. Discussion of methods for prenatal diagnosis. Directed by Dr. Jodi Dash, Department of OB/Gyn.
- **Multi-disciplinary Fetal Conference** (Wed 12:00-13:00, once a month) This is a multidisciplinary presentation and discussion of patients with antenatally detected anomalies, predominantly focused on cardiac anomalies. Directed by Dr. Sushmita Yallapragada.
- **OB/GYN Ultrasound, Prenatal Diagnosis & Genetics Grand Grounds** (2nd and 4th Fridays). Three-year series including presentations by OB and Radiology attendings and discussions by MFM Fellows.
- **Life after Fellowship** (Quarterly 12:00-13:00) Presentations by various neonatologists with different types of careers, discussions and assessment of various practice venues, job search, interviews, negotiation skills, academic tracks, billing, medicolegal issues, and benefits.

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- **Neonatal Imaging Series** (Quarterly 12:00-13:00). This is a three-year series including presentations by Pediatric Radiologists and Cardiologists and discussions by NPM Fellows. Topics include ultrasonography, radiograms, CT scan, MRI and echocardiography.
- **NPM Professionalism Series** (Quarterly 12:00-13:00). This is a three-year series including interactions with colleagues and patients, leadership, cultural sensitivity, medicolegal aspects of neonatology, and regulations.
- **Quality Improvement Series** (Bimonthly Thursday 12:00-1:00p) This series involves didactic presentations focused on QI methodology and interactive presentations of quality improvement projects by both faculty and third year fellows. Directed by Dr. Mackenzie Frost.
- **Departmental Multidisciplinary Case and Mortality/Morbidity Conference** (Weekly Tuesday 12:00-1:00 P): This series fosters multidisciplinary communications. Twice a year, the division of neonatology presents a patient at this series. Fellows who participated in the care of the patient being presented are encouraged to participate in the conference.

Scholarship

Every fellow is expected to submit for publication at least one research manuscript corresponding to her/his primary research. Each fellow is strongly encouraged to additional scholarship, e.g., presentations at meetings, case reports, reviews, quality improvement, guidelines, or chapters.

Fellows present their research at the end of fellowship at the **Annual Senior Fellow Research Day** either as a poster or as an oral presentation.

Fellows build an updated CV, and **Individual Development Plan** and a portfolio, which are reviewed twice a year at the semi-annual meeting with the program director or associate program director.

Each fellow completes a **Quality Improvement (QI) Project**. This project is presented and discussed at the quality improvement conference at the end of the third year of fellowship.