Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship

Program Overview

The fellowship aim is to produce successful and productive general academicians committed to advancing the health and well-being of children. We seek highly-motivated candidates whose goal is to make a difference in children’s lives as a clinician-researcher, clinician-educator, or clinician-advocate.

Program

Fellows identify a specific area of research interest, and receive intensive mentoring as they conduct one or more research projects on improving the health and health care of children and their families. Past trainee projects have focused on:

- Racial/ethnic disparities
- Community-based research
- Insuring uninsured children
- Language/culture and healthcare
- Obesity and nutrition
- Health policy
- Child abuse
- Foster care

Learning Opportunities

- Formal coursework in the Clinical Sciences Training Program on biostatistics, research design and analysis, data collection and management, observational studies, outcomes research, health services research, and health policy, with the aim of providing in-depth training and practical experience to foster development of independent investigators

- Bi-monthly research seminars on topics including qualitative research, writing abstracts and scientific manuscripts, working with the media, managing a research team, time management, and grant writing/funding

Pictured right: 2008-2010 Fellows Christina Sakai, MD (left) and Suzanne Dakil, MD (right)
Facilities

UT Southwestern Medical Center is comprised of UT Southwestern Medical School, UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and UT Southwestern Allied Health Sciences School. These three schools currently train more than 3,400 medical, graduate, and allied health students, residents, and post-doctoral fellows each year. We have four Nobel laureates (three of whom are active faculty members). Additionally, UT Southwestern supports more than 3,500 research projects with more than $400 million in annual funding. Clinical facilities are located immediately adjacent to UTSW.

Most of the pediatric clinical work is done at Children’s Medical Center of Dallas (CMC); selected outpatient and consultation services also are provided at the new Legacy campus in Plano, TX (25 minutes from Dallas). CMC is a private, not-for-profit institution that was established more than 80 years ago. Today, this 438-bed medical center features a three floor, 37-bed general pediatric inpatient, 44-bed pediatric intensive care unit, 21-bed pediatric cardiac intensive care unit, 37-bed neonatal intensive care unit, 22-bed telemetry unit, nearly 50 outpatient clinics, and an emergency center designed specifically for children.

Teaching Opportunities

Fellows are expected to participate in teaching of medical students, residents, fellows, and even faculty. One is not “born” knowing how to teach; training in teaching skills is very important. Fellows receive specific training, and practice preparing and presenting formal lectures, shorter less formal presentations, and small group discussions. Fellows also are expected to lead inpatient attending rounds, after receiving extensive training. Additional training is available through the “Effective Teacher” lecture series at UT Southwestern.

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<th>Fellow Conferences</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Core Curriculum and Research Conference (Required)</strong></td>
<td>UTSW F3.112, 12:00-1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bi-Monthly Generalist Research In-Progress (GRIP) Seminar (Required)</strong></td>
<td>Location TBA, 12:00-1:00</td>
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<td><strong>Departmental Faculty Research Conference</strong></td>
<td>UTSW F3.112, 7:30-8:00 AM</td>
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<td><strong>Departmental Grand Rounds</strong></td>
<td>CMC Moore Auditorium, 8:00-9:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning Resident Report</strong></td>
<td>CMC Moore Auditorium, 8:30-9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Effective Teacher Series</strong></td>
<td>UTSW D1.602, 12:00-1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ethics Grand Rounds</strong></td>
<td>Location TBA, 12:00-1:00</td>
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<td><strong>University Grand Rounds</strong></td>
<td>Various Locations and Times</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Annual Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Location TBA, Varies</td>
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Clinical Rotations

Beginning the second or third month of the first year, the fellow will have his/her own outpatient clinic one-half day per week. Patients assigned to this clinic will include new patients cared for by the fellow during in-patient rotations, new patients referred for outpatient care, and follow-up patients previously seen by the fellow. The fellow initially will evaluate the patient and results of laboratory data and then present his/her findings, assessment, and plan to the assigned precepting faculty member, who will also examine the patient. After several months the fellow will then precept residents, under the guidance and supervision of the attending.

The goal of this experience is to provide a continuum of patient contact so that the fellow can appreciate the natural history of selected clinical problems and develop a good doctor/patient relationship. As the fellow schedules procedures for his/her patients, the fellow learns how to advocate for his/her patient and how to navigate the “system” that is, identify/access resources, make referrals, and coordinate services for the patient.

During the course of the program, the fellow will be assigned at various times to subspecialty clinics such as foster care, adolescent medicine, REACH, and international adoption. We have very active clinics in each of these areas which are staffed by appropriate subspecialists. Fellows with particular interests are welcome to arrange more extensive experiences in these and other areas, after obtaining the approval of the Director of the Fellowship.

The subspecialty clinics include:

- Medical Student Teaching Clinic
- Crystal Charity Ball Continuity of Care Clinic
- Acute Care (First Care) Clinic
- Pediatric Diagnostic and Consultation Clinic
- Foster Care
- Referral and Evaluation of Abused Children (REACH)
- International Adoption Medicine
- Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Clinic

The fellow will have ample opportunity to develop teaching skills. Pediatric house officers, as well as third- and fourth-year medical students, are involved in patient care in both inpatient and outpatient settings. The fellow is expected to participate in all aspects of informal teaching.
Dallas/Fort Worth

A Dynamic Metropolitan Area

UT Southwestern is located in the heart of one of the most dynamic areas of the country. The Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex is a contemporary, exciting metropolitan area with a diverse population and many kinds of cultural, recreational, and entertainment activities. And don't forget the shopping.

Vibrant Arts Scene

Residents and visitors alike enjoy a vibrant arts scene. The 68-acre Dallas Arts District, located close to the UT Southwestern campus, is the largest urban arts district in the country. It includes the Dallas Museum of Art, the Meyerson Symphony Center, the AT&T Performing Arts Center, and the Nasher Sculpture Center, among other facilities. In Fort Worth, the cultural district includes several top museums, including the Kimbell Art Museum and the Modern Art Museum. And Fort Worth's western heritage is on display in the city's famed historical Stockyards District.

Sports Central

Few areas can match the endless sports excitement found in the Metroplex, which is home to professional football (Cowboys), basketball (Mavericks), baseball (Rangers), hockey (Stars), and soccer (FC Dallas) teams, as well as professional auto racing (NASCAR) and professional golf (PGA) events.

Music and Entertainment

D/FW also boasts some of the best music and entertainment anywhere, from Deep Ellum—a haven for alternative music and eclectic shops and galleries—to the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center and Winspear Opera House (Dallas) and Bass Performance Hall (Fort Worth). In addition, the American Airlines Center in Dallas hosts many of the top concert acts in the world.

Dallas/Fort Worth—At a Glance

Population (2008):
- 6.3 million – 4th largest metropolitan area in the U.S.

Demographics (Dallas County 2008):
- Latino/Hispanic – 39%
- White – 35%
- African-American – 21%
- Asian – 5%

Parks and Recreation (Dallas area):
- More than 21,000 acres of parks
- 17 lakes
- Six public golf courses
- Nearly 62 miles of jogging and bike trails
- Fair Park – home to State Fair of Texas; Cotton Bowl Stadium; nine museums; six performance facilities
- White Rock Lake – more than nine miles of hike/bike trails; picnic areas; adjacent to Dallas Arboretum

Weather (Averages):
- Coldest month – January: 36-55 degrees
- Warmest month – July: 77-96 degrees
- Annual rainfall – Approximately 37 inches
- Days of sunshine per year –232

Public Transportation:
- Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) – bus and light rail service
Dallas/Fort Worth Continued

Shop (and Eat) ‘Til You Drop

The Dallas/Fort Worth area offers virtually unlimited shopping opportunities, from upscale malls such as the Galleria and NorthPark Center in Dallas, to large outlet malls like Grapevine Mills, to traditional malls, small boutiques, and specialty stores. Restaurants of all types abound in Dallas/Fort Worth as well, ranging from world-renowned five-star establishments to undiscovered hole-in-the-wall eateries. Name the type of cuisine you're looking for, and you'll find it in Dallas/Fort Worth.

Easy Access

Dallas/Fort Worth is a major transportation center and home to one of the world's busiest airports, offering easy access to and from hundreds of destinations in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

Stipend and Benefits for Fellows

Stipend

The yearly stipend is based on the number of years of postgraduate training, which for most fellows corresponds to PGY-4-PGY-7.

All fellows receive their stipend from Children's Medical Center.

Benefits

- Three weeks of personal leave (time off) per year
- 10 days of sick leave per year
- Health (medical, vision, and dental) benefits
- Long-term care
- Life insurance
- Professional liability coverage
- Meal allowance for on-call duties
- Books required for mandatory training
- $1,000 yearly educational allowance

The program supports fellows' research and encourages fellows to present their research at national meetings. The department supports trips to national meetings for fellows who have original presentations.
Clinical Research Opportunities

Faculty members in the Division of General Pediatrics conduct research on a wide variety of health services research and clinical topics. Fellows thus can pursue projects on a multitude of general pediatrics topics. Fellows may also collaborate with investigators outside of general pediatrics, depending on their individual research interests.

Research involves more than the traditional apprenticing with an established mentor and conducting a study. The clinician-investigator must have training on research methodologies which should include techniques in patient-oriented research, community-based participating research, hypothesis generation, study design, and statistical analysis. UT Southwestern has made a major commitment to clinical research at the medical school, including creation of the Department of Clinical Sciences. Additional extensive resources to support clinical research are available through the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) which is a national consortium funded through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) with the primary aim of creating a definable academic home for the disciplines of clinical and translational research.

The mission of the Department of Clinical Sciences is to accelerate and enhance the training and career development of clinical investigators, promote the conduct of high-quality patient-oriented research, develop effective mechanisms to facilitate translational research, and provide a formal mechanism of institutional recognition for clinical scientists. Academic General Pediatrics fellows are required to obtain a Certificate in Clinical Sciences. The Certificate program is designed primarily for fellows and can be completed in two years. The program includes 18 hours in the didactic curriculum, (a Socratic curriculum), and six hours of a research practicum.

The curriculum is well suited for candidates who possess both a working knowledge of clinical medicine and excellent scholastic aptitude. Required course-work includes didactic courses in basic biostatistics, epidemiology, clinical research design, translational research, grant-writing skills, and data analysis and management. Program requirements are tailored to meet individual academic needs.
Eligibility and Application Procedure

Eligibility
- MD or DO degree
- Completion of an accredited pediatric residency
- Board-eligible or board-certified in Pediatrics
- Strong interest in academic general pediatrics career
- U.S. citizenship or permanent residency
- Women and minority candidates strongly encouraged to apply

Application Process
E-mail a curriculum vitae, cover letter, and completed Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship Application to Tiffany Chimal, Fellowship Program Administrator, 5323 Harry Hines Blvd, Dallas, TX 75390-9063; phone: 214-648-3405; E-mail: Tiffany.Chimal@utsouthwestern.edu.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Fellowship programs commence on July 1st each year. The Academic General Pediatrics fellowship is a two-year program. The Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship with a concentration in Child Abuse is a three-year program.

Glenn Flores, M.D., F.A.A.P.
Dr. Flores is Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, Director of the Division of General Pediatrics, the Judith and Charles Ginsburg Chair in Pediatrics, and the Director of the Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship at UT Southwestern and Children’s Medical Center Dallas. He is a member of the US Preventive Services Task Force. He is on the editorial board of Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, and previously served on the editorial board of Academic Pediatrics. He is Chair of the Research Committee of the Academic Pediatric Association, and a member of the National Advisory Committees of the Robert Wood Johnson Amos Medical Faculty Development Program and Aligning Forces for Quality Program, the Committee on Pediatric Research the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Institute of Medicine Committee on Pediatric Health and Health Care Quality Measures. He was a member of the Expert Panel for the Department of Health and Human Services Health Care Language Services Implementation Guide, recently provided a Congressional Research Briefing, and he has testified in the United States Senate on Latino health and the Hispanic Health Improvement Act, and provided invited written testimony on health disparities for the U.S. House of Representatives’ Ways and Means Committee. He was an invited speaker at the National Summit on America’s Children convened by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. He is a member of the Frew Advisory Committee for the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. He has served as a consultant and national advisory committee member for the US Surgeon General, Institute of Medicine, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Medical Association, National Hispanic Medical Association, and the Sesame Street Workshop.

He received the 2006 American Academy of Pediatrics Outstanding Achievement Award in the Application of Epidemiologic Information to Child Health Advocacy, and the 2008 Millie and Richard Brock Award for Distinguished Contributions to Pediatrics. He is the 2010 recipient of the Helen Rodriguez-Trias Social Justice Award from the American Public Health Association. He has been awarded major grant funding by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute Of Child Health & Human Development, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and the Commonwealth Fund. He has published 122 articles and book chapters on a variety of topics in such journals as JAMA, the New England Journal of Medicine, Pediatrics, and the Lancet, including many papers that address uninsured children and racial/ethnic and linguistic disparities in children’s health and healthcare.