Course Objective

Material Covered and Skills Acquired:
- To become familiar with the function of the Division of Anatomic Pathology of the hospital laboratory and its role in medical care;
- To become familiar with the autopsy via observing and then assisting the residents and attending review and discussing the cases;
- To become familiar with the procedures in surgical pathology, i.e., the gross description, dissection, and sectioning of specimens, including frozen sections, and being assigned selected cases to sign out with attendings;
- To become acquainted with the steps involved in the processing of tissue submitted for histopathologic examination, i.e. from tissue block to stained slide;
- To become familiar with the interpretation of the histopathology of surgical pathology and autopsy cases;
- To become acquainted with the interpretation of cytology specimens; and
- To become acquainted with PowerPoint presentations of gross, microscopic and general pathology case information.

Activities Of Elective

The rotation will commence at Memorial Hermann Hospital, with the possibility of also rotating at LBJ Hospital with the student participating in the surgical pathology, autopsy and cytopathology areas of both hospitals. Each student will be required to prepare a ten minute presentation of an interesting case encountered during the month to be presented at a noontime lunch conference during the last week of the rotation. The monthly schedule will be provided on the first day of the rotation.

How Is Student Evaluated:

PASS: A checklist of basic skills/observations completed and turned in at the end of the rotation; a short PowerPoint presentation of an interesting case with gross and microscopic findings and discussion given at the end of the rotation; evaluation of daily participation and performance.

HIGH PASS: Above requirements PLUS attendance at additional conferences (at least four), and/or additional hands-on work, and/or additional presentations (i.e., at autopsy conference)

HONORS: Above requirements PLUS additional interesting case write-up(s) and faculty/resident evaluation supportive of an “Honors” evaluation.

Note: a student is allowed absences up to 5 working days for residency interviews or other academic activities.

Who Evaluates Students:

All participating faculty and residents

Unique Features Of This Elective:

Incorporates aspects of basic science into clinical medicine; gives insight into what pathologists do, their role in patient care, and how they can help their clinical colleagues.