The Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension

Fellowship Program in Nephrology

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The primary goal of the Nephrology Fellowship Program at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston is to prepare accomplished subspecialists in nephrology with a specific emphasis on training of the academic nephrologist. The fellowship program is a two-year program with four to five positions per year. The program is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and meets the requirements for certification in Nephrology by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Trainees acquire the knowledge and procedural skills necessary to deliver superb care to patients with a wide array of kidney disorders and hypertension. They also receive training in the design, conduct and analysis of clinical or basic research from a group of prominent renal investigators.

The Program is located in the prestigious Texas Medical Center in downtown Houston. One of the largest medical facilities of its kind in the world, the Texas Medical Center consists of fifty-four academic/research institutes and hospitals, providing unsurpassed opportunities for clinical and research training. Because of its reputation and unique features as a patient care, biomedical research and education “city,” the Texas Medical Center has also attracted an impressive list of residents and visiting scientists with which trainees can interact and study. Given the proximity of the various institutions on campus, attendance at conferences or informal discussions at other institutions is extremely easy.

Facilities

Trainees care for patients in four adult hospitals, three of which have nephrology outpatient clinics, three outpatient dialysis clinics, and several cutting edge clinical and basic science research facilities.

MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL.

A 1,082-bed general hospital adjacent to the UT Medical School, Memorial Hermann serves as the primary teaching hospital for McGovern Medical School. It is a major quaternary referral center in Southwest, with active subspecialty programs representing all major disciplines in adult medicine and surgery, solid organ transplantation, and OB/GYN. It also functions as a Level 1 trauma center, with a very active life-flight program and shock trauma ICU. All major medical services, an emergency room, trauma center, and intensive care units are present, and it offers state of the art clinical laboratories and imaging facilities and a progressive Interventional Radiology department. It offers an excellent
learning opportunity in all facets of nephrology including inpatient/outpatient consultations, dialysis, transplantation, and critical care medicine.

Nephrology faculty and trainees also provide consultations for patients hospitalized on other services at Memorial Hermann Hospital. There is an extremely active continuous renal replacement therapy program. In addition, there is an excellent solid organ transplantation service performing > 100 kidney transplants each year. Care of the renal transplant recipient is provided by a team of physicians including the nephrology fellow, the staff nephrologist, transplant surgeon, and surgical house staff.

**M.D. ANDERSON CANCER CENTER.**

The world-renowned M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC), located within the Texas Medical Center, is a 680-bed facility that provides care for cancer patients. The mix of kidney diseases ranges from simple toxin-mediated renal disease to rare, or previously unrecognized, paraneoplastic renal syndromes. Extremely dramatic fluid, electrolyte, and acid-base problems are also encountered, as are common instances of obstructive uropathy.

MDACC has a busy emergency room, multiple outpatient clinics, medical and surgical intensive care units, and active medical and surgical services from which consultations are derived. The hospital offers a full array of clinical laboratory and imaging facilities, interventional radiology, nutritional support services, and social services. Renal biopsy specimens obtained at MDACC are processed and evaluated by the Pathology Department at McGovern Medical School. Fellows are assigned on a 4-week basis two to three times per year. The consult team is composed of the full time U.T. nephrology or MDA nephrology faculty member and the fellow who evaluates and presents all patients on a daily basis to the Attending nephrologist. Patients requiring outpatient follow-up after discharge are followed in the outpatient renal clinics at MDACC.

**LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON HOSPITAL.**

Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) General Hospital is a 332-bed, acute care facility, operated by the Harris County Hospital District and staffed solely by the faculty of the University of Texas – McGovern Medical School. It serves as one of two county hospitals providing care to indigent people in Harris County, and is located approximately 12 miles from the Texas Medical Center. It has a busy emergency room and intensive care unit, and active medical, surgical and obstetrical services from which consultations are derived. LBJ General Hospital offers full clinical laboratories.
and imaging facilities, Interventional Radiology, nutritional support services, and social services. Renal biopsy specimens obtained at LBJ General Hospital are processed and evaluated by the Pathology Department at Memorial Hermann Hospital. The fellow, under the supervision of a full-time faculty Attending, coordinates the consulting team of rotating internal medicine residents and medical students, and meets daily with the Attending nephrologist to evaluate and discuss new patients and all follow-up patients. Patients requiring outpatient follow-up after discharge are referred to the outpatient renal clinics at LBJ General Hospital. The mix of disease on this rotation is quite diverse. Given the patient population, in many circumstances, the trainee will see late or severe manifestations of common diseases because of inadequate, or lack of, previous treatment.

**Clinical Programs**

**Clinical Rotations**

Clinical activities involve both inpatients and outpatients. Rotations are divided in 4 week blocks. During the first year, fellows typically spend two to three blocks on the Memorial Hermann Hospital consultation service, one block on the Memorial Hermann Hospital Transplant service, two to three blocks on the M.D. Anderson consultation service and two to three blocks on the LBJ Hospital consultation service. Three to four elective blocks are dedicated to research training. Under the supervision of nephrology faculty, nephrology trainees are responsible for writing all acute dialysis and CRRT prescriptions, initial evaluation and continued follow-up of all consults. Nephrology fellows gain considerable experience in the performance of procedures, including internal jugular and femoral vein dialysis catheter insertion, peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion, and the renal biopsy. Renal replacement therapy at each institution includes intermittent hemodialysis, CRRT and peritoneal dialysis.

**Outpatient Dialysis Centers**

The Division faculty and fellows serve three hemodialysis units comprising about 300 patients at sites in Houston. This also includes a large population of peritoneal dialysis patients. Fellows rotate through a specific ESRD rotation at least once per year. The aim is comprehensive exposure to outpatient dialysis. A structured curriculum allows for coverage of all aspects of ESRD care from weekly rounds to medical director responsibilities.
OUTPATIENT CLINICS

General nephrology clinics are conducted weekly at the University of Texas Physicians outpatient facility and the LBJ Hospital. All first and second year fellows attend one of these clinics. All new patients are first seen by nephrology trainees who are responsible for making the initial assessment. The nephrology trainee, in conjunction with the nephrology faculty, is responsible for formulating a differential diagnosis, diagnostic plan, and for implementing therapy, if needed.

CONFERENCES

Fellows Introductory Series: Lectures in the first two months geared to provide important didactic information on core topics.

Glom-Con Video Conference: Held on Tuesdays online at 10:00am year-round. Online didactic presentations on glomerular kidney disease led by invited experts in their field.

Renal Grand Rounds: Held on Wednesdays at 1:30pm year-round at Methodist Hospital, Bluebird Auditorium, Neurosensory Building, 1st Floor. CME accredited. This is a clinical conference, which includes a core course in renal pathology, radiology and urology along with series of clinical talks on renal related subject matter from experts in the field across the local and national level.

Nephrology Monthly Conferences: Faculty-Led conferences that meet on Mondays year-round. They will include Renal Morning Reports, Renal Physiology Conference, and Morbidity and Mortality. Conferences to be led by Dr. Finkel and will include faculty and fellows to have roundtable, case-based discussions from recent renal consults.

Nephrology Journal Club: Fellows-led journal club will consist of faculty assigned articles to be summarized and discussed with the fellows, faculty, and rotating residents. The selected articles will stimulate discussion on a topic relevant to the current clinical practice of nephrology. Lunch is provided.
Renal Pathology Conference: Meets once monthly from September-June. The assigned fellow will prepare the case history for distribution prior to the scheduled conference with the assistance and case selection by Dr. Glass, UT Renal Pathologist. Fellows are expected to come to conference prepared with a differential diagnosis. Fellows will be chosen to share their differential diagnosis as well as review the biopsy slides with the assistance of Dr. Glass.

Board Review: Bi-Monthly meeting among fellows, led by the chief fellow. Content will include board type questions for review and discussion.

UTH Renal Grand Rounds: Renal didactics to be held quarterly. Select renal faculty with the division will present fellow level didactic lectures aimed to cover ACGME approved nephrology topics.

Nephrology Wellness Meetings: Held quarterly to discuss on-going and upcoming fellowship issues and ideas and to promote fellow appreciation. Lunch is provided.

MDACC Renal Rounds: Meets weekly on Fridays with MDA faculty and fellows assigned to the MDA service. Aimed to cover current issues in nephrology with a specific focus on renal physiology, cancer related renal disease and chemotherapeutic related renal issues. The fellows rotating at MD Anderson will present at the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month.

Transplant Biopsy Conference: Meets monthly on Tuesday, led by renal pathology and transplant nephrology.

Internal Medicine Grand Rounds: Thursday at noon, Weekly didactic lecture by faculty or visiting Professors on a wide range of topics, many relevant to nephrologists.

Research and Elective Programs

During elective time fellows in the 2-year fellowship have mentorship and opportunity for research in clinical trials, quality improvement, epidemiology, onco-nephrology, cardio-renal syndrome, public health and transplantation.

Elective opportunities exist in the disciplines of ultrasound, plasmapheresis, interventional nephrology, business of medicine, medical education and home dialysis modalities.

More information online @ https://med.uth.edu/internalmedicine/renal-diseases-and-hypertension/ Follow us on Twitter @UTKidney