Gastroenterology Fellowship Program

Lectures, Conferences, and Journal Clubs

I. Overview

A. Lectures, Conferences, and Journal Clubs

The gastroenterology fellow will be required to attend and participate in a variety of lectures, seminars, conferences, and journal clubs during the 3 year fellowship that will satisfy the requirements set forth by ACGME discussed elsewhere in this handbook. Conferences will be held at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (PPMC), The Philadelphia VA Medical Center (PVAMC), and The Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine (CAM). Please refer to the ACGME web site for additional details. Lectures and conferences will be conducted regularly and must be attended by gastroenterology faculty and fellows. At a minimum, the conference schedule will include at least 1 clinical conference in gastroenterology weekly, 1 literature review conference (journal club) in gastroenterology monthly, 1 research conference in gastroenterology monthly, and at least 1 core curriculum conference in gastroenterology weekly when averaged over 1 year. The core curriculum conference series will include basic sciences relevant to gastroenterology and hepatology. Moreover, the core conference will cover the major clinical topics relevant to gastroenterology and hepatology. Within the Division of Gastroenterology at The University of Pennsylvania, there are currently weekly clinical case conferences, grand rounds, basic science and clinical gastroenterology core curricula conferences, journal clubs, and research seminars/conferences. The hepatology and transplant hepatology section offers weekly basic and clinical core curricula conferences, case conferences, monthly journal clubs, and research conferences. A variety of other conferences and seminars are offered by the Division of Gastroenterology. Please refer to the Division web site for additional details and schedules.

In addition to lectures, conferences, and journal clubs offered by the Division of Gastroenterology, conferences are held within the Divisions of Surgery, Transplant Surgery, and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Gastroenterology fellows will be required to attend the weekly pathology conference to review
gross and microscopic material relevant to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases and hepatology.

In addition to attending conferences, seminars, lectures, and journal clubs offered by the Divisions of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Transplant Hepatology, Surgery, Transplant Surgery, and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the fellow will be required to participate in planning and conducting conferences including but not limited to clinical and core curricula conferences, research conferences, and journal clubs.

II. Specifics about Conferences and Journal Clubs

A. Hepatology and Transplant Hepatology Conference

All gastroenterology fellows should attend the weekly hepatology and transplant hepatology conference. The purpose of this conference is to discuss basic scientific and clinical issues pertinent to hepatology and transplant hepatology. Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, gastroenterology fellows, transplant surgery attending physicians, transplant surgery fellows, nurses, physicians’ assistants, medical and surgical housestaff, research staff, and medical students typically attend these conferences. On a rotating schedule, the conference is organized as a journal club, a clinical case presentation, or a formal lecture by Penn faculty or fellows, local speakers, or national leaders. The hepatology and transplant surgery divisions will also present original research during these conferences. The gastroenterology fellow will be expected to assist in the planning and to lead a set number of conferences.

The hepatology and transplant hepatology conference will cover a variety of topics including but not limited to basic scientific and clinical issues pertaining to viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic liver diseases, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, benign and malignant hepatobiliary neoplasms, vascular diseases of the liver, liver diseases unique to pregnancy, drug/toxin-induced liver injury, and acute liver failure. Additionally, basic scientific and clinical conferences will address complications of portal hypertension including but not limited to variceal bleeding, hepatic encephalopathy, ascites, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, hepatic hydrothorax, hepatorenal and hepatopulmonary syndromes, and portopulmonary hypertension. Moreover, these conferences will address issues pertinent to transplant hepatology including but not limited to indications and contraindications to liver transplantation, deceased and live donor transplantation, ethical implications of transplantation, complications in the perioperative and postoperative settings, and immunosuppression management.
B. Clinical Case Conference and Grand Rounds

All gastroenterology fellows will be required to attend weekly gastroenterology, hepatology, and transplant hepatology clinical case conferences and grand rounds regardless of whether they are on inpatient or outpatient clinical rotations. These conferences will satisfy the ACGME requirements for fellowship training in gastroenterology. The purpose of these conferences is to discuss basic scientific and clinical issues pertinent to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, hepatology and transplant hepatology. Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, gastroenterology fellows, nurses, physicians’ assistants, medical housestaff, research staff, and medical students typically attend these conferences. Gastroenterology fellows typically present a variety of cases relevant to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology during the clinical case conferences. Local and national leaders in the fields of gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology present a variety of core topics as well as ground breaking new information. The gastroenterology fellow will be expected to present relevant material at both the clinical case conferences and grand rounds over the course of the 3 year fellowship.

The clinical case conferences and grand rounds will cover a variety of topics including but not limited to basic scientific and clinical issues pertaining to acute and chronic abdominal pain, benign and malignant esophageal diseases, dyspepsia, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, intestinal gas, fecal incontinence, constipation, variceal and non-variceal gastrointestinal bleeding, jaundice, nutritional assessment, eating disorders, obesity, food allergies, gastrointestinal malignancies, vascular lesions of the gastrointestinal tract, gastrointestinal and hepatic diseases in the pregnant patient, radiation injury, complications of gastrointestinal endoscopy, GERD, gastrointestinal motor disorders, gastric secretion, helicobacter pylori, gastritis and gastropathies, peptic ulcer disease, pancreatic secretion, acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic neoplasms, bile secretion, gallstone and gallbladder disorders, small bowel and colonic secretion, water and electrolyte transport, maldigestion and malabsorption, short bowel syndrome, celiac sprue, Whipple’s disease, infectious diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, appendicitis, diverticular disease, irritable bowel syndrome, intestinal obstruction and ileus, acute and chronic pseudoobstruction, intestinal polyps, and diseases of the anorectum. Additionally, fellows will have intense exposure to viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic liver diseases, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, benign and malignant neoplasms of the liver, vascular diseases of the liver, liver diseases unique to pregnancy, drug/toxin-induced liver injury, end stage liver disease and complications of portal hypertension, and acute liver failure.
C. Gastroenterology Core Conference

All gastroenterology fellows will be required to attend weekly gastroenterology and hepatology core conferences regardless of whether they are on inpatient or outpatient clinical rotations. The purpose of these conferences is to discuss basic scientific and clinical issues pertinent to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology. Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, nurses, physicians’ assistants, medical housestaff, research staff, and medical students attend these conferences. Gastroenterology and hepatology faculty present a variety of core topics in gastroenterology, hepatology, and pancreaticobiliary diseases during these sessions. The gastroenterology fellow may also be asked to give lectures during these conferences.

The gastroenterology core conferences will cover a variety of topics including but not limited to basic scientific and clinical issues pertaining to acute and chronic abdominal pain, benign and malignant esophageal diseases, dyspepsia, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, intestinal gas, fecal incontinence, constipation, variceal and non-variceal gastrointestinal bleeding, jaundice, nutritional assessment, eating disorders, obesity, food allergies, gastrointestinal malignancies, vascular lesions of the gastrointestinal tract, gastrointestinal and hepatic diseases in the pregnant patient, radiation injury, complications of gastrointestinal endoscopy, GERD, gastrointestinal motor disorders, gastric secretion, helicobacter pylori, gastritis and gastropathies, peptic ulcer disease, pancreatic secretion, acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic neoplasms, bile secretion, gallstone and gallbladder disorders, small bowel and colonic secretion, water and electrolyte transport, maldigestion and malabsorption, short bowel syndrome, celiac sprue, Whipple’s disease, infectious diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, appendicitis, diverticular disease, irritable bowel syndrome, intestinal obstruction and ileus, acute and chronic pseudoobstruction, intestinal polyps, and diseases of the anorectum. Additionally, fellows will have intense exposure to viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic liver diseases, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, benign and malignant neoplasms of the liver, vascular diseases of the liver, liver diseases unique to pregnancy, drug/toxin-induced liver injury, end stage liver disease and complications of portal hypertension, and acute liver failure.

D. Hepatobiliary Tumor Conference

All gastroenterology fellows may attend the weekly hepatobiliary tumor conference. The purpose of this weekly conference is to discuss patients with chronic liver diseases who have a variety of benign and malignant hepatic neoplasms. Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists,
gastroenterology fellows, transplant surgery attending physicians, transplant surgery fellows, nurses, physicians’ assistants, medical and surgical housestaff, research staff, interventional radiologists, oncologists, and medical students typically attend these conferences. Typically, medical and surgical decision-making specific to individual patients occurs during these sessions. These sessions afford the gastroenterology fellow the opportunity to interact with a variety of healthcare personnel on difficult to manage cases with benign and malignant neoplasms of the liver.

E. Pathology Conference

All gastroenterology fellows will be required to attend the weekly pathology conference regardless of whether they are on inpatient or outpatient clinical rotations. This conference will satisfy the ACGME requirements for fellowship training in gastroenterology. The purpose of this conference is to discuss pathologic issues pertinent to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology. Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, gastroenterology fellows, transplant surgery attending physicians, transplant surgery fellows, medical and surgical housestaff, and medical students typically attend these conferences. The gastroenterology fellow will have the opportunity to interact closely with pathologists who are dedicated to gastroenterology and hepatology. Typically, a variety of inpatient and outpatient cases are presented during these sessions. The gastroenterology fellow will be expected to submit interesting inpatient and outpatient cases during the 3 year fellowship. The pathology conference will cover a variety of topics as outlined above.

F. Transplant Selection Committee Conference

All gastroenterology fellows who are on inpatient hepatology rotations at HUP will be required to attend the weekly transplant selection committee conference. The purpose of this conference is to discuss new patients that are seen in the outpatient transplant evaluation clinic and inpatients who are being considered for, or have been listed for transplantation. Additional issues regarding retransplantation will be discussed. Hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, gastroenterology fellows, transplant surgery attending physicians, transplant surgery fellows, nurses, physicians’ assistants, medical and surgical housestaff, transplant coordinators, transplant psychiatrists, social workers, financial counselors, and medical students typically attend these conferences. As discussed elsewhere in this handbook, fellows will present inpatients who are being considered for, or currently listed for transplantation.

The transplant selection committee conference will cover a variety of transplant candidates with acute and chronic liver diseases including but not limited to viral
hepatitis, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic liver diseases, alcoholic liver
disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, benign and malignant hepatobiliary
neoplasms, vascular diseases of the liver, liver diseases unique to pregnancy,
drug/toxin-induced liver injury, and acute liver failure. Additionally, this
colference will address complications of portal hypertension including but not
limited to variceal bleeding, hepatic encephalopathy, ascites, spontaneous
bacterial peritonitis, hepatic hydrothorax, hepatorenal and hepatopulmonary
syndromes, and portopulmonary hypertension. Moreover, this conference will
address issues pertinent to transplant hepatology including but not limited to
indications and contraindications to liver transplantation, deceased and live donor
transplantation, and ethical implications of transplantation.

G. Journal Club

All gastroenterology fellows will be required to attend the weekly
gastroenterology and hepatology journal clubs regardless of whether they are on
inpatient or outpatient clinical rotations. This conference will satisfy the ACGME
requirements for fellowship training in gastroenterology. The purpose of this
colference is to discuss basic scientific and clinical papers pertinent to
gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology.
Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, gastroenterology
fellows, medical housestaff, research staff, and medical students typically attend
these conferences. The gastroenterology fellow will be expected to be an active
participant in these conferences and discuss papers relevant to gastroenterology,
pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology.

The gastroenterology and hepatology journal clubs will cover a variety of topics
including but not limited to basic scientific and clinical issues pertaining to acute
and chronic abdominal pain, benign and malignant esophageal diseases,
dyspepsia, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, intestinal gas, fecal incontinence,
constipation, variceal and non-variceal gastrointestinal bleeding, jaundice,
nutritional assessment, eating disorders, obesity, food allergies, gastrointestinal
malignancies, vascular lesions of the gastrointestinal tract, gastrointestinal and
hepatic diseases in the pregnant patient, radiation injury, complications of
gastrointestinal endoscopy, GERD, gastrointestinal motor disorders, gastric
secretion, helicobacter pylori, gastritis and gastropathies, peptic ulcer disease,
pancreatic secretion, acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic neoplasms, bile
secretion, gallstone and gallbladder disorders, small bowel and colonic secretion,
water and electrolyte transport, maldigestion and malabsorption, short bowel
syndrome, celiac sprue, Whipple’s disease, infectious diarrhea, inflammatory
bowel disease, appendicitis, diverticular disease, irritable bowel syndrome,
intestinal obstruction and ileus, acute and chronic pseudoobstruction, intestinal
polyps, and diseases of the anorectum. Additionally, fellows will have intense
exposure to viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic liver diseases,
alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, benign and malignant
neoplasms of the liver, vascular diseases of the liver, liver diseases unique to pregnancy, drug/toxin-induced liver injury, end stage liver disease and complications of portal hypertension, and acute liver failure.

**H. Research Seminar and Conference**

All gastroenterology fellows may, or be required to attend research seminars and conferences within the Division of Gastroenterology. These sessions will satisfy the ACGME requirements for fellowship training in gastroenterology. The purpose of these sessions is to discuss basic scientific and clinical research issues pertinent to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology. Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, gastroenterology fellows, transplant surgery attending physicians, transplant surgery fellows, nurses, physicians’ assistants, medical and surgical housestaff, research staff, and medical students typically attend these conferences. The gastroenterology fellow will be expected to present his or her scholarly work during these seminars and conferences.

The research seminars and conferences will cover a variety of topics including but not limited to basic scientific and clinical issues pertaining to acute and chronic abdominal pain, benign and malignant esophageal diseases, dyspepsia, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, intestinal gas, fecal incontinence, constipation, variceal and non-variceal gastrointestinal bleeding, jaundice, nutritional assessment, eating disorders, obesity, food allergies, gastrointestinal malignancies, vascular lesions of the gastrointestinal tract, gastrointestinal and hepatic diseases in the pregnant patient, radiation injury, complications of gastrointestinal endoscopy, GERD, gastrointestinal motor disorders, gastric secretion, helicobacter pylori, gastritis and gastropathies, peptic ulcer disease, pancreatic secretion, acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic neoplasms, bile secretion, gallstone and gallbladder disorders, small bowel and colonic secretion, water and electrolyte transport, malabsorption and malnutrition, short bowel syndrome, celiac sprue, Whipple’s disease, infectious diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, appendicitis, diverticular disease, irritable bowel syndrome, intestinal obstruction and ileus, acute and chronic pseudoobstruction, intestinal polyps, and diseases of the anorectum. Additionally, fellows will have intense exposure to viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic liver diseases, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, benign and malignant neoplasms of the liver, vascular diseases of the liver, liver diseases unique to pregnancy, drug/toxin-induced liver injury, end stage liver disease and complications of portal hypertension, and acute liver failure.
I. Inpatient Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conferences

All gastroenterology fellows will be required to attend the weekly inpatient gastroenterology and hepatology conference when they are on the inpatient gastroenterology and hepatology rotations at HUP. These conferences will satisfy the ACGME requirements for fellowship training in gastroenterology. The purpose of these conferences is to discuss clinical issues pertinent to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology. Gastroenterologists, hepatologists, transplant hepatologists, gastroenterology fellows, medical housestaff, and medical students typically attend these conferences. The gastroenterology fellow will be expected to assist in the planning and to lead a set number of conferences.

The inpatient gastroenterology and hepatology conferences will cover a variety of topics including but not limited to basic scientific and clinical issues pertaining to acute and chronic abdominal pain, benign and malignant esophageal diseases, dyspepsia, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, intestinal gas, fecal incontinence, constipation, variceal and non-variceal gastrointestinal bleeding, jaundice, nutritional assessment, eating disorders, obesity, food allergies, gastrointestinal malignancies, vascular lesions of the gastrointestinal tract, gastrointestinal and hepatic diseases in the pregnant patient, radiation injury, complications of gastrointestinal endoscopy, GERD, gastrointestinal motor disorders, gastric secretion, helicobacter pylori, gastritis and gastropathies, peptic ulcer disease, pancreatic secretion, acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic neoplasms, bile secretion, gallstone and gallbladder disorders, small bowel and colonic secretion, water and electrolyte transport, malabsorption, short bowel syndrome, celiac sprue, Whipple’s disease, infectious diarrhea, inflammatory bowel disease, appendicitis, diverticular disease, irritable bowel syndrome, intestinal obstruction and ileus, acute and chronic pseudoobstruction, intestinal polyps, and diseases of the anorectum. Additionally, fellows will have intense exposure to viral hepatitis, autoimmune liver diseases, metabolic liver diseases, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, benign and malignant neoplasms of the liver, vascular diseases of the liver, liver diseases unique to pregnancy, drug/toxin-induced liver injury, end stage liver disease and complications of portal hypertension, and acute liver failure.