Gastroenterology Fellowship Program

Scholarly Experience

I. Overview

A. Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Penn gastroenterology fellows will be required to pursue a scholarly experience in gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, or hepatology during the 3 year fellowship program. The scholarly pursuit will meet the ACGME requirements for fellowship training in gastroenterology. A scholarly project in gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, or hepatology will advance the fellow’s knowledge of the basic principles of research, including how research is conducted, evaluated, explained to patients, and applied to patient care. The scholarly activity will ensure a meaningful, supervised research experience with appropriate protected time either in blocks or concurrent with gastroenterology and hepatology rotations. During the scholarly activity, fellows will be expected to participate in a ½ day continuity clinic weekly throughout the 3 year fellowship. Additionally, fellows will be required to have limited exposure on the inpatient gastroenterology and hepatology services during their second and third years if they are receiving NIH-funded T-32 training grants for basic science and Master’s in Clinical Epidemiology (MSCE) tracks. All fellows will also have additional exposure to endoscopy during their scholarly experiences. Fellows not receiving T-32 funding enrolled in the clinical educator track will be required to do additional inpatient and outpatient rotations over that of fellows who are receiving T-32 training grant support. Gastroenterology fellows will be supervised and advised by qualified gastroenterology, hepatology and transplant hepatology faculty members during their research experience. Please refer to the Division of Gastroenterology web site for a list of faculty and their research interests.

Fellows will be expected to learn the standards of ethical conduct of research in gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology. Furthermore, they will design and interpret research studies, the use of informed consent, and research methodology. Research faculty will be instrumental in guiding the fellow in meeting these goals.

Gastroenterology fellows must demonstrate evidence of research productivity in gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, and hepatology through
publication of manuscripts or abstracts in peer-reviewed journals, abstracts presented at national meetings pertaining to gastroenterology and hepatology, and/or publication of review articles in journals or chapters in textbooks.

The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP), Penn Presbyterian Medical Center (PPMC), and The Philadelphia VA Medical Center (PVAMC) and the gastroenterology program will allocate adequate resources including but not limited to space to conduct research, electronic and paper educational resources, and research personnel as required.

Gastroenterology fellows receiving NIH T-32 training grant awards in the basic science or MSCE tracks must follow the requirements of these tracks. During the second and third years of fellowship, 75% of a typical 40 hour work week of fellow activity will be devoted to research in either the basic science or MSCE tracks. Penn expects that fellows will devote more time than the minimal requirement to satisfy NIH requirements. Please refer to the specific requirements of these tracks. Additional information about grant requirements may be obtained from The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/The National Institutes of Health and the Division of Gastroenterology web sites. Anil Rustgi, M.D., Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Jonathan Katz, M.D., Associate Program Director for the gastroenterology fellowship program will also provide more information. Fellows not receiving T-32 training grant support will be required to participate in at least 3 to 6 months of scholarly activity in addition to their clinical responsibilities as mandated by ACGME. Please refer to the Division of Gastroenterology and ACGME web sites for additional information. Moreover, fellows are encouraged to review the Gastroenterology Core Curriculum from the American Gastroenterological Association regarding research training.

II. Specific Information about Scholarly Activity

A. Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Gastroenterology fellows will have the opportunity to work closely with research faculty members within the Division of Gastroenterology. Please refer to a list of current faculty members within the Division and their current research interests. Drs. Rustgi and Katz will provide additional information about the scholarly experience regardless of the track chosen. All fellows receiving NIH funding through T-32 training grants must follow the specific requirements for this funding as described above. Additional information can be found on The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/The National Institutes of Health, ACGME, and the Division of Gastroenterology web sites. The Gastroenterology Core Curriculum also provides information about research training.
Fellows may participate in a variety of projects pertaining to gastroenterology, pancreaticobiliary diseases, or hepatology 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 may pursue projects related 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.