Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

Residency Program

Post Residency

Our department is also geared for trainees interested in specializing in a particular area of Pathology with our wide range of in-house fellowships:

- Cytopathology
- Dermatopathology
- Neuropathology
- Hematopathology
- Molecular Genetic Pathology
- Transfusion Medicine
- GI/Liver Pathology
- Surg Path:
  - General
  - Bone and Soft Tissue
  - Cardiopulmonary
  - Clinical Informatics
  - Genitourinary
  - Renal
  - Woman’s Health (Gyn/Breast)

The table below shows where some of our past residents have gone to for fellowship training and career placement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fellowship</th>
<th>Career Placement</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brigham &amp; Women's – Surgical Path</td>
<td>City of Hope, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA – Cytopathology</td>
<td>UCLA, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA – Surgical Pathology</td>
<td>UCLA, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brigham &amp; Women's – CV Pathology</td>
<td>UCLA, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIH – Transfusion Medicine</td>
<td>UCLA, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>City of Hope – Hematopathology</td>
<td>Alta East Bay Pathology, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA – GI/Liver Pathology</td>
<td>University of Utah, UT</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA – Neuropathology</td>
<td>Loma Linda, CA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA – Transfusion Medicine</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA – Surgical Pathology</td>
<td>Johns Hopkins, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA – Bone/Soft Tissue Pathology</td>
<td>Marin Medical Labs, Bay Area, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIH – Hematopathology</td>
<td>University of Maryland, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins – Surgical Pathology</td>
<td>Cedars Sinai, Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>UCLA – GI/Liver</td>
<td>Aurora Diagnostics, CO</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA County Coroner – Forensics,</td>
<td>LA County Coroner’s Office, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Hospital LA – Pediatric Path</td>
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Program Recognition

Here are some comments from current residents of our program:

“I love being a pathology resident at UCLA because our training is comprehensive and the work culture within our department is lively, collaborative, and inspiring. Residents are always eager to help each other out, our ancillary staff is second to none, and the faculty here make resident education a priority. I would pick UCLA again in a heartbeat.” - Sofia Liou, PGY2

“We have engaging attending pathologists, well-organized daily conferences, an incredibly diverse and plentiful specimen load, and some of the most fun, bright, supportive co-residents I could imagine. Living in Los Angeles is the cherry on top, with sandy beaches, rugged deserts, temperate year-round weather, and delicious food – there’s a lot to love!” - Katy Lawson, PGY3

Please visit the CAP website that has great resources for medical students:

https://www.cap.org/member-resources/residents/cap-for-medical-students

Contact:
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http://pathology.ucla.edu/residency-programs
General Program Information

Mission Statement
The purpose of the residency program is to produce academic-focused pathologists that serve as leaders in healthcare through training at a large academic tertiary medical center.

Program Aims
To provide clinical training in sub-specialized areas of practice afforded by a large high volume tertiary center. To promote leadership development through work with complex healthcare teams in research, clinical, quality innovation and improvement projects/experiences.

The UCLA Department of Pathology offers training programs in anatomic and clinical pathology, with multiple different program tracks which supports 22 residents. The training is provided through a combination of clinical activities and responsibilities, teaching conferences and didactics for preparation for academic careers and private practice. The AP and CP rotations are integrated throughout the residency training program, allowing for early exposure to all essential aspects of pathology as well as a more informed career/fellowship decision making process.

Anatomic pathology primarily consists of tissue evaluation, diagnosis, prognostic studies, and tumor staging. The specimens ranging from individual cells in a Pap smear or fine needle aspiration of a mass, to assessing surgical excision and resection tissues and entire bodies in an autopsy. Clinical pathology encompasses most of the laboratory components of pathology, such as blood banking/transfusion medicine, microbiology, chemistry and molecular pathology. It involves understanding how everything from a glucose or sodium test to genetic and genomic testing works, as well as managing the laboratory.

At UCLA we annually perform more than 5 million clinical lab tests, examine >100,000 surgical specimens, >45,000 cytology specimens, >25,000 genetic and cytogenetic cases, and approximately 200 autopsies.

There are five different tracks available:
1) AP & CP (4 years): 24 month core of AP
   18 month core of CP,
   6 months of laboratory research, preferably the last 6 months of residency
2) AP only (3 years): 24 month core of AP,
   2-3 months hemepath/lymphoma,
   2-3 months Molecular pathology/cytogenetics,
   3-5 months of senior, fellowship level AP rotations,
   6 months of laboratory research, preferably the last 6 months of residency.
3) CP only (3 years) 18 month core of CP
   12 months senior fellowship level CP rotations
   (up to 6 months AP rotations substituted),
   6 months laboratory research, preferably the last 6 months of residency.
4) Research Track (3/4 yr program): Our goal is to produce outstanding physician investigators who will meld the practice of pathology with cutting edge research. As such, this track is flexible and provides trainees with outstanding clinical training as well as opportunities to work with any faculty member at UCLA.
5) AP/NP: Combined AP-only residency and neuropathology fellowship. This is traditionally chosen by those who enter residency with a strong interest in a career in neuropathology and/or forensics.

We also have different career exploration opportunities specifically designed for medical students to generate interest and provide firsthand insight of the field of Pathology and Laboratory medicine by offering:
1. 4th year medical student elective rotations in the department.
2. One-year post-sophomore/junior fellowships - After an orientation period, fellows are given patient care responsibilities similar to first-year residents with appropriate supervision on various anatomic and clinical pathology services including surgical pathology, transfusion medicine, hematopathology, clinical chemistry, and autopsy, amongst others, at the UCLA Medical Center.

General Program Information cont’d

- Core AP Rotations (24 Months)
  - Autopsy-Neuropathology (4)
  - Cytopathology/Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic (4)
  - Forensic Pathology (1)
  - Subspecialized Surgical Pathology (15)
  - Frozen Section Supervisor
  - Junior Attending-Santa Monica
- Core CP Rotations (18 Months)
  - Clinical Chemistry (3)
  - Clinical Microbiology (3)
  - Cytogenetics/Immunogenetics (1)
  - Hematopathology/Lymphoma (4)
  - Laboratory Director/Management (1)
  - Molecular Pathology/Informatics (2)
  - Transfusion Medicine/Coagulation (3)
  - CP Elective Month (1)

Trainee Benefits

- Core AP Rotations (24 Months)
  - Autopsy-Neuropathology (4)
  - Cytopathology/Fine Needle Aspiration Clinic (4)
  - Forensic Pathology (1)
  - Subspecialized Surgical Pathology (15)
  - Frozen Section Supervisor
  - Junior Attending-Santa Monica

Program Information

While a vast majority of the resident rotations occur on the main UCLA campus and the Ronald Reagan Medical Center, there are a few off-site rotations at UCLA Santa Monica Hospital (4.3 miles away) and the UCLA Microbiology Lab in Brentwood (2 miles away), both of which are easily accessible by reliable shuttle and public transportation, respectively. We also have rotations in the LA County Coroner’s Office and elective rotations available at additional sites across Los Angeles including Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles.

UCLA Pathology provides trainees many unique learning experiences. Along with rotations, we have morning and noon didactics in the form of:
1. Fundamental pathology topics in both AP and CP
2. Weekly mock frozen sections,
3. Unknown slide sessions, and
4. Visiting Professor Series - lectures/slide sessions given by guests who are leaders and experts in the field.

Trainee Benefits

The UCLA Pathology department offers trainees many attractive benefits, many of which assist trainees with cost of living expenses. In addition to a generous starting salary of ($61,903), we offer the following:
- 4% annual salary increase (subject to change annually)
- Housing stipend $12,000 Annually
- Enrichment Fund $500 for PGY 1, 1000 for PGY 2 and above
- Research / Scholarly activity reimbursement (separate from Enrichment fund) – Travel expenses and registration fees paid for trainees presenting UCLA Pathology as either a contributing author or primary investigator
- Meal funds: $3000
- Relocation stipend
- Licensing reimbursement: California Medical License fee ($900 initial/$820 renewal) & USMLE Step 3 ($895)
- Paid New Parent Leave – 4 weeks
- Four weeks of vacation
- Health, Dental, Vision coverage for trainees and their spouse, and dependents
- Personalized white coats and UCLA-logo jackets provided