Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Training Program

Division of Diagnostic and Applied Microbiology

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and
Alberta Health Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

The Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Training Program is a Canadian College of Microbiologists accredited program that is designed to train and mentor post graduate PhD or MD in clinical microbiology. Persons with an understanding of microbial pathogenesis and who are interested in pursuing a career in diagnostic, clinical and research aspects of clinical microbiology are desirable applicants as trainees. The purpose of the training program is to advance and mentor the skills necessary to undertake a position as a clinical microbiologist in large or mid-size laboratories where both medical microbiology and applied research activities are conducted.

LOCATION

The Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Training Program is located within the Division of Diagnostic and Applied Microbiology in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Alberta. The Division is primarily housed within the Provincial Laboratory of Public Health. Fellows will spend the majority of their program within the Provincial Laboratory, University of Alberta Hospital.

DURATION OF PROGRAM

The Clinical Microbiology Fellowship Training Program is designed as a three year clinical post-doctoral program with the first two years spent in clinical laboratory rotations, including mentorship in all aspects of clinical microbiology (bacteriology, virology, mycology, parasitology, molecular diagnostics).
The third year will be spent conducting an applied translational research project which has direct application for advancement of clinical microbiology. In this year the fellow will be supervised by a Faculty member researching a project with a clinical translational theme directed towards Clinical Microbiology.

ETHICS

During the course of the program, Trainees will be expected to conduct themselves in the workplace in an ethical and respectful manner and an emphasis will be placed on effective communication in partnership with laboratory technologists, physicians and allied health professionals, patients, and the community.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The program will prepare trainees to direct and develop an accredited clinical laboratory service, both operationally and financially; generate, disseminate and interpret data from microbiological investigations as they apply to the diagnosis, management, and treatment of patients and of public health scenarios involving infectious diseases, educate clinical/medical professional and technical personnel; establish applied research programs that advance the field of infectious diseases; and act as microbiology consultants to support clinical and public health programs/initiatives at the local, national and international level.

A Fellow in the program will be evaluated as a clinical and diagnostic expert, communicator, collaborator, manager, health advocate and scholar. The Fellow will conduct him/her self in a professional manner, according to the Code of Conduct, Privacy and Confidentiality agreement and other related policies of the University of Alberta and Alberta Health Services, and of the ethical standards set out by the Canadian College of Microbiologists. The Fellow will be cognizant of professional limitations and accepting of guidance and direction from supervisory staff and mentors.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The curriculum for the Clinical Microbiology Fellowship program is structured according to specific learning objectives for each of the major training sections which are available upon admission to the Clinical Training Program and in consultation with the Program Director.

EVALUATION

The Training Program Committee will be responsible for overseeing the interim and final evaluation of the Fellow using the established program learning objectives, evaluation reports from mentors of each rotation, periodic quizzes, written and oral examinations. The Fellow will also be expected to submit an evaluation of their training at the completion of each rotation. Ultimately, the Training Program Committee is responsible for directing the learning needs of the Fellow and their preparation for the Board certification examinations.
RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL

Fellows will receive an annual stipend plus benefits as a University of Alberta employee through the Post-doctoral fellow’s office.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must have educational qualifications in microbiology or related life sciences and earned a PhD or equivalent from a university belonging to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, or from an equivalent institution in the USA. Credential assessment for a university degree outside Canada or the USA is available through consultation with the Government of Canada Foreign Credentials Referral Office (1-888-854-1805). Applicants must show proof of Canadian citizenship or landed immigrant status.

Candidates must complete the program application form, which is located on the Laboratory Medicine and Pathology webpage (University of Alberta) under Postgraduate Medical Education – Clinical Fellowship Programs. The application requirements include an academic curriculum vitae, a letter of intent, three letters of reference, and copies of academic transcripts and evaluations.

PLEASE NOTE: NEW APPLICANTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED EVERY YEAR. PLEASE CONSULT THE WEBSITE OR CONTACT THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR TO DETERMINE IF NEW APPLICANTS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION

Upon completion of training, the fellow will be issued a certificate from the office of Post Graduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Alberta, affirming that the subspecialty training program has been successfully completed. The successful candidate will be eligible to then proceed to examination for Fellowship by the Canadian College of Microbiologists (FCCM) or the American Board of Medical Microbiology (D(ABMM)).