

Visiting IBD Fellowship

Program Description and Objectives

Trainees in accredited fellowship programs and in good standing will be assigned as *observers* to rotations at host institutions with a faculty consisting of several recognized leaders in IBD. The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Visiting IBD Fellow Rotation Program provides the opportunity for participants to gain specialized exposure and training in IBD, as well as to share evidence-based and expert opinion-based approaches to the diagnosis, treatment, and management of IBD. By working closely with clinical mentors in both office and hospital settings, fellows will gain practical experience and learn the latest advances in the complexity of diagnostic and therapeutic options for IBD, including the close follow-up of patients before, during, and after surgery.

As with all fellow training, adequate faculty supervision of all patient-related activities is required. The "observer" status of visiting fellows requires that fellows may NOT have any responsibility for direct patient care.

Of the goals listed below for this rotation, participating fellows will keep a log of their activities; this also serves as to guide the fellow in obtaining successful education.

Core Curriculum for One-Month Visiting IBD Fellow Program:

Clinical Training

Fellows will:

- Observe diagnosis and management of IBD.
- Observe history and physical examination on patients.
- Participate in hospital rounds.
- Recognize clinical and laboratory features of intestinal inflammation and distinguish them from signs of secretory and osmotic diarrhea and from symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome.
- Differentiate chronic idiopathic IBD from other specific entities, such as acute, self-limited ileitis and colitis, drug- or radiation-induced colitis, and diverticulitis by history and interpretation or radiological, endoscopic, histological, and microbiological studies.
- Understand indications for interpretation of diagnostic tests including (but not limited to) colonoscopy, barium enema, upper gastrointestinal and small bowel series, enteroclysis, and computed tomographic scan; understand the cost benefit and risk benefit of these procedures.
- Differentiate pediatric manifestations and severity of pediatric IBD from adult IBD.
- Learn to recognize the different sub-types of behavior of Crohn's disease.
- Appreciate the intestinal (e.g. hemorrhage, obstruction), extraintestinal (e.g., ocular, dermatologic, musculoskeletal, hepatobiliary), anorectal, and nutritional complications of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.
- Understand the influence of IBD on pregnancy and of pregnancy on IBD and be capable of addressing issues pertaining to family history and genetic counseling.
- Understand the long-term cancer risks in ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease and the implementation of appropriate primary and secondary prevention programs.
- Maintain sensitivity to psychological influences on, as well as the consequences of, IBD on the individual and on family dynamics.
- Understand the indications, benefits, contraindications, side-effect profiles and pharmacology of non-specific therapies used in relevant clinical situations.
- Understand the indications, benefits, contraindications, complications, of appropriate surgical interventions used in the treatment of IBD (e.g. fistulectomy, ileoanal anastomosis, stricturoplasty, etc.).
- Develop a therapeutic plan for the treatment of IBD incorporating: 1. the extent and severity of specific disease patterns 2. the implications for enteral and parental alimentation.
- Review the key articles provided and apply their contents to their rotation.
- Become familiar with the Center's research initiatives and learn essential components of IBD-related study design and methodology (CDAI, IBDQ, UC-DAI, etc.).

Diagnostic Radiology & Pathology

- Observe ongoing work with clinical mentors.
- Participate in sessions with pathologist.
- Participate in session with radiologist.

Formal Didactics

During the one month rotation, the fellow will participate in all available didactic conferences and document their participation. Examples of possible conferences include:

- Clinical Conferences
- Seminars
- Journal clubs
- One-on-one instruction with the IBD faculty

Each host institution selected for the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation's Visiting IBD Fellow Rotation Program has its own strengths in regard to what it can offer in terms of IBD training. However, it is implemented the core curriculum serves as the minimum standard of what must be accomplished during the one-month rotation.

Evaluation of Fellow

The key IBD faculty member at each site will complete an end-of-the-rotation evaluation of the fellow. This will be a standard ACGME competency-based evaluation form that will be returned to the fellow's Program Director, as well as to the Foundation.

Elements of Competence to Be Evaluated

During the one-month rotation, fellows should demonstrate the following:

1. An understanding and commitment to all elements of professionalism.
2. A thorough understanding of the importance of an accurate history and careful physical examination of the patient with IBD.
3. The ability to arrive at an appropriate differential diagnosis in the patient with known IBD experiencing active symptoms, as well as in the patient with suspected IBD.
4. The capability to outline a logical plan for specific and targeted investigations pertaining to the patient's complaints, and to formulate a plan for the management and follow-up treatment of the patient.
5. The ability to present effectively the results of a consultation orally and in writing, and to defend the clinical assessment, differential diagnosis, and diagnostic and management plan.

Adapted from: Training the Gastroenterologist of the Future: The gastroenterology core curriculum. Gastroenterology 1996; 110:1266-1300.