

Welcome to our pathology residency program at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine. I like to consider our program as a hidden gem in the heart of America. We are a fairly small program averaging two residents per year. This enables us to develop a strong work ethic and solid relationships as the residents, attendings and ancillary staff all work very closely together. Our attendings have an open door policy and all of them are easily approachable and make our learning a pleasurable experience.

We approximate 50,000 surgicals a year with a wide variety of specimens, including pediatric, head and neck, breast, gastrointestinal, liver, GU, gynecologic, dermatopathology, hematopathology, and cytopathology. We are a reference center for many of the small surrounding communities which leads to a great variety of cases. The county medical examiner's office is located on site, making access to forensic autopsies and rotations easier. The pathology department is very dynamic and we are always seeking to improve the program. The program also encourages special interests and promotes specialized rotations based on resident interests.

We are very excited to announce our new surgical pathology fellowship that accepts one fellow per year. They are a great addition to our education and the program allows us to potentially continue our education here. Even with the fellow, we get to present at multidisciplinary conferences including breast/gynecologic, lung, gastrointestinal, head and neck, and hematopathology tumor board conferences. Moreover, we have a "hot seat" rotation which gives us exposure to frozen sections and helps to develop communication skills with other physicians. This rotation also helps in developing our time management and multi-tasking skills, ultimately preparing us for the real world. This rotation tends to be similar to surgical pathology fellowship rotations and helps residents to feel "sign out ready".

At the beginning of the year the attendings teach some normal histology and our pathologists' assistants teach grossing. Our residents also find it important to help one another and we also teach each other normal histology at the beginning of the year. Throughout the year our didactics consist of faculty lectures and scope sessions covering a wide variety of anatomic systems and clinical pathology topics. The attendings are always willing to teach on a variety of topics. In addition to the didactics, there are ample opportunities for case report studies and research projects. Not only do we spend time teaching one another, but we are also responsible for teaching various courses to students in the Medical Laboratory Science program. There are also teaching opportunities with the medical school.

The residency program covers the expense of attending one national meeting per year if a resident has a poster accepted at the respective meeting. Furthermore, the program provides capped expense coverage for one national meeting for which a resident does not have a poster or abstract to present. We have an annual book fund that residents can choose to use on books, electronics, or step 3/board examination fees. Not only does the pathology residency program have its own library (both online and print), but through the Wegner Health Science Library we have access to Clinical Key which contains numerous pathology books. We also have access to ExpertPath and PathPrimer. In addition to the book fund, the GME organizes social events for all the residency programs over the year. These events have included picnics, apple picking/fall festival, bowling, and our personal favorite, the Residency Quiz Bowl. During the quiz bowl we compete with other residency programs for book fund money (and a trophy). It's a great way to socialize and eat delicious food. We have been fortunate enough to win first place for the past three years!

As residents, we work together to get our daily tasks done, but also to learn. We have great camaraderie both at work and outside of work. Being a small program with an impressive specimen load, we are fortunate enough to have a team-oriented attitude creating a healthy learning environment. I have enjoyed my experience here and encourage you to come and see our program for yourself!