Dermatopathology Goals & Objectives

Goals

1) To attain a mastery of basic diagnostic dermatopathology and to able to interpret biopsies of common entities within the context of the clinical presentation.

2) To attain a basic level of mastery in the nomenclature of dermatology and to understand the clinical presentations and courses of dermatologic conditions.

3) To attain a mastery of gross pathology of cutaneous biopsies.

4) To attain a mastery of commonly used special procedures, including the performance, interpretation and costs, and their uses in diagnostic dermatopathology.

5) Trainees should develop an understanding of principles of laboratory management.

6) To attain an understanding of the importance of maintaining a quality control and quality assurance program.
Objectives

1) Trainees are expected to become familiar with the diagnostic criteria employed in basic dermatopathology. This objective will be tested informally on a daily basis during signout sessions. (Medical knowledge)

2) It is expected that all trainees will attain a basic level of communication skills with dermatologic nomenclature and have a basic understanding of both clinical and histologic features of common dermatologic diseases. It is strongly recommended that trainees acquire at least one general textbook of dermatopathology. This objective will be examined during daily signout sessions. (Medical knowledge)

3) Training in gross dermatopathology will occur in the "Gross room". Faculty evaluations during rotations will assess the trainee's progress. (Medical knowledge, Patient care)

4) It is expected that trainees become knowledgeable in the areas of histochemistry as it applies to diagnostic dermatopathology. It is expected that all trainees will be able to know the appropriate special stains to order and the relative strengths and weaknesses of each stain prior to forming a decision. Each case requiring immunohistochemistry will be discussed in great detail prior to deciding upon a diagnostic panel of antibodies. It is expected that each trainee will become aware of the staining properties of a panel of diagnostic antibodies relevant to dermatopathology. Frequent interactions with the immunopathology fellows will facilitate an ongoing exchange of information and new developments in this rapidly changing field. Similarly, molecular diagnostics are becoming more readily available in dermatopathology. It is expected that trainees will learn about techniques currently in use at UAMS by interacting with the immunopathology fellows, during daily signout sessions and, when possible, by direct observation in the molecular diagnostics laboratory. Understanding of these principles will be assessed daily during the signout sessions. (Medical knowledge)

5) It is expected that all trainees will become familiar with common management problems and be able to formulate possible solutions, recognizing in advance pro's and con's to their solutions. There will be informal discussions with the program director at which point laboratory management issues will be discussed. Topics will center around actual current problems within the unit and department. Additional topics will be discussed based upon a predesigned curriculum in the pathology department conference schedule (see attachment), so as to insure a broad exposure to laboratory management problems. (Professionalism, systems-based practice)

6) It is expected that all trainees will be aware of the need for quality assurance within a dermatopathology unit and how to comply with quality assurance procedures. Trainees will participate in the ongoing programs at UAMS during their time of training. (Systems-based practice)