

POLICIES FOR RHEUMATOLOGY FELLOWSHIP TRAINEES

SECTION OF RHEUMATOLOGY RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Selection of Fellows

The Section of Rheumatology offers a fully accredited training program leading candidates to excellence in clinical and/or research rheumatology and eligibility for the American Board of Internal Medicine Subspecialty examination in Rheumatology. The program is listed with the Graduate Medical Education Directory, FREIDA online database, and American College of Rheumatology Directory of Training Programs. Applications are made electronically through the Electronic Residency Matching Service of the American Association of Medical Colleges ERAS electronic service. An applicant is required to submit an electronic application, curriculum vitae and two letters of recommendation. A faculty panel reviews these materials, and selected applicants are offered an interview. Interview appointments are scheduled with time for attendance at section conferences, following that the selected candidate interviews with all available faculty and fellows. At the completion of all interviews, rank order of the fellowship candidates is made, and positions offered through the NRMP Rheumatology Fellowship Match. The Section of Rheumatology is an equal opportunity employer.

Evaluation of Fellows

All fellows are evaluated following each clinical rotation. Two times per academic year, the Program Director will review all evaluations with each trainee. At the end of each academic year, a written summary evaluation of each trainee is completed. All written evaluations are kept on file.

Promotion of Fellows

The Evaluation Committee will annually review evaluations and any other aspects of performance of the fellows, and will make recommendations for promotion based on this criterion. Promotion through the training program is based on satisfactory accomplishment of the specific goals as listed in the Fellowship Curriculum.

Dismissal of Fellows

The Section of Rheumatology Fellowship training program will follow the policies regarding dismissal, discipline, and adjudication of trainee complaints and grievances consistent with the institutional House Officer's Agreement.

Duty Hours for Fellows

It is the policy of the Section of Rheumatology to provide appropriate duty hours to provide optimal educational experience without undue service requirements of the trainees. The policy on duty hours is established with the goals of fostering trainee education and facilitation care of patients. Duty hours reflect the fact the rheumatologic patient care experience is in large part non-emergent and ambulatory.

Trainees are expected to attend regularly scheduled outpatient clinics on a longitudinal basis, during regular daytime business hours (8am to 5pm). Additionally, inpatient management of patients with rheumatic diseases and other illnesses as a member of a multidisciplinary team is required, consisting of six half-days per week for six months of each academic year.

At all times, back up support from an attending physician (faculty member) shall exist, and relief will be provided in the case of particularly difficult or prolonged responsibilities. Attendance at weekly rheumatology grand rounds (clinical conference), weekly rheumatology core curriculum lecture, monthly research conference, and monthly journal club is required, and remaining time during weekday hours is available for self-directed study, consultation with faculty, and research. Typical work week not to exceed 60 hours per week and not longer than 14 continuous hours of work.

On-call time periods will consist of one weekend period (from Friday evening to Monday morning) one per calendar month, outside the hospital. Again, at all times, back up support from an attending physician (faculty member) shall exist, and relief provided in the case of particularly difficult or prolonged responsibilities. No in-hospital call is required.

Work Environment for Fellows

Excellent physical facilities, including readily available supplies and laboratory equipment, and ample, appropriate ambulatory clinic space will be continuously available. Full patient support services, including intravenous services, phlebotomy services, laboratory, messenger and transport services will be available. Full laboratory, radiologic and medical record retrieval systems will be regularly available. Security services for all facilities will be continuous.

The Section of Rheumatology will strive to provide a safe, secure, fully furnished environment, with all necessary and desirable facilities, and a supportive intellectual environment for learning and providing excellent patient care at all times.

Policy on Supervision of Fellows

It is the goal of the Section of Rheumatology to provide supervision of trainees such that appropriate patient care is delivered at all times, while progressive responsibilities according to ability and level of training are accorded to trainees. On-call scheduled and inpatient and outpatient responsibilities are continuously structured such that supervision is continuously available, and backup support is present at all times.

The level of responsibility accorded to each fellow is determined by the teaching staff, and is continuously adjusted according to the level of training and ability of the trainee.

Policy on Inpatient Order Writing

The policy on order writing of the Rheumatology fellowship follows that of the Department of Internal Medicine. The house staff with primary responsibility for the patient writes all inpatient orders; thus any orders recommended by the rheumatology service and its residents are conveyed to the primary house staff responsibility. However, hospital policy requires that any chemotherapy orders be written only by attending physicians, the Section concurs and adheres to this policy.

Exceptions to this policy exist at Johnston R. Bowman Center, where there may be no primary house staff coverage of patients, there rheumatology fellows/residents may write orders on patients; and when the responsible primary service requests orders be directly written by the rheumatology residents or service.

Policy on “Moonlighting”

“Moonlighting” refers to the practice of medicine outside of the responsibilities, assignments and duties of the rheumatology training program. The Section of Rheumatology recognizes that rheumatology fellows are licensed physicians, and are not legally prohibited from engaging in practice outside of the Training program. The rheumatology residency does not specifically prohibit “moonlighting”, but requires that no conflict with required duties or duty hours may exist.

The Section of Rheumatology does not offer or endorse any particular “moonlighting” or other extracurricular activities. Fellows should notifying program director of all moonlighting for duty hours reporting

Position Description of Fellowship Trainee

The Rush Rheumatology Fellowship Trainee meets the qualifications for fellow eligibility outlined in the Essential of Accredited Residencies in Graduate Medical Education in the AMA Graduate Medical Education Directory. As the position of Fellowship Trainee involves a combination of supervised, progressively more complex and independent patient evaluation and management functions and formal educational activities, the competence of the Fellowship Trainee is evaluated on a regular basis. The program maintains a confidential record of evaluations. The position of House Officer entails provision of care commensurate with the House Officer's level of advancement and competence, under the general supervision of appropriately privileged attending teaching staff. This includes:

1. Participation in safe, effective and compassionate patient care;
2. Participation in the educational and research activities of the training program and, as appropriate, assumption of responsibility for teaching and supervising other residents and students, and participation in institutional orientation and education programs and other activities involving the clinical staff;
3. Participation in institutional committees and councils to which the trainee is appointed or invited; and
4. Performance of these duties in accordance with the established practices, procedures and policies of the institution, and those of its programs, clinical departments and other institutions to which the trainee is assigned; including, among others, state licensure requirements for physicians in training, where they exist.

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