

## **UTHSCSA Department of Pathology Weekly Conferences**

Revised & Approved by PEC 4/2020

### **General organization**

Conferences have been established for resident and fellow education, and include a wide range of topics in both Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, including the most recent issues in the various subspecialty areas.

Attendance at designated conferences is mandatory as indicated in the conference attendance guidelines/policy. Attendance should be in person when at UHS/UT rotations and electives. Virtual attendance is performed when at the VA or other away rotations/electives. Special conferences/lectures by visiting faculty that are arranged by the Department Chair may supersede the scheduled conference.

All presentations performed by Residents should have Faculty verbal or written feedback over the quality of the presentation to enable performance improvement. An evaluation form covering various aspects of presentation performance and quality is present in the pathology conference room, on Microsoft Teams files and sent with the conference schedule.

### **Description of conferences**

#### **Anatomic & Clinical Pathology Conferences:**

##### **Conference: Pathology Seminar Series**

**Day:** Monday (once monthly)

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents, fellows and faculty

##### **Description:**

- 1) This seminar series will be presented by the residents and fellows.
  - a. Each year, the second and fourth year residents and the fellows will present at Pathology Seminar Series.
    - i. All second and fourth year residents will have the opportunity to present.
    - ii. Any open PSS dates in the series will be filled by presentations of the Hematopathology, Transfusion Medicine, Cytopathology or Surgical Pathology Fellows.
- 2) These presentations will represent a “*best effort*” on the part of the speaker. The format will be formal in nature and should be rehearsed beforehand to assure that the presentations flow smoothly and comfortably.
- 3) For each presentation, the resident/fellow should identify a topic (anatomic or clinical) and a faculty member/mentor to serve as a

resource and guide in preparing the presentation at least 2 months in advance of the presentation.

- a. The presentation should be a deep dive on a topic to include the history, the latest research/guidelines and clinical applications in practice. Original research performed by the presenter as a topic is encouraged.
- 4) Residents/ fellows will be evaluated on the content and delivery of the presentation. Critique of the seminar will be collected from the audience and feedback provided to the presenter. These presentations are often useful in preparation for job interview presentations often requested by potential employers in private and academic practice.

**Conference: Resident Journal Club**

**Day:** Monday (once monthly)

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents, fellows and faculty

**Description:**

- 1) This conference serves to review the current literature and to objectively determine the scholarly quality of publications. This conference includes theory and methodological foundation, definitions and overview of evidence-based medicine, practical considerations, and reporting in evidence-based medicine.
- 2) Topics are within both anatomic and clinical pathology.

**Conference: Morbidity & Mortality**

**Day:** Monday (Every 6 months- December & June)

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents, fellows and faculty

**Description:**

- 1) This conference serves to review the errors within pathology to include pre-analytic, analytic and post analytic. Errors will be reviewed for quality improvement purposes and to teach the principles of process improvement and risk assessment and evaluation.
- 2) Presentation format:
  - a. The Resident Patient Quality and Safety committee will meet in late October/early November and late March/Early April to review incidents from the previous 6 months. Presentations will occur mid-December and Mid-June.
  - b. Depending on the quality and severity of cases, 1 to 3 events will be selected.
  - c. The residents involved will be notified that their incident was selected and will have a month to prepare a synopsis of the events.

- d. The presentation should also include learning points, outcome, and actions taken to prevent future events.

Anatomic Pathology Conferences:

Conference: **Surgical Gross Conference**

Day: Thursday, once per month

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 AM

Location: UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

Expected attendees: All residents, AP fellows and faculty

Description:

- 1) Each presenting resident or fellows may choose 2-3 photographs of specimens (either in-house or online) for a PowerPoint presentation. Each presenting resident or fellow may also choose specimens within the gross room for review and discussion when applicable.
  - a. Cases are chosen to provide the highest quality specimens with appropriate teaching points.
- 2) With an assigned faculty discussant/leader, the presenting resident or fellow reviews the gross features of the specimen with the resident audience in an unknowns format. The presenter will guide/ lead the audience in doing the following:
  - a. Identify the organ
  - b. Describe the pathology
  - c. Generate a differential  
(this section should represent **90%** of the discussion)
- 3) Once the audience has arrived at an appropriate differential based on the gross findings, the presenting resident or fellow will provide the audience with the correct diagnosis and any additional points of discussion as appropriate, such as:
  - a. Key clinical history
  - b. Appropriate points and anatomy for dissection
  - c. Appropriate sections for microscopic examination
  - d. Consideration of key margins
  - e. Discussion of additional gross pathologic features that may not be present on the current specimen.  
(this section should represent no more than **10%** of the discussion)

Conference: **Autopsy**

Day: Thursday, once per month

Time: 7:30-8:30 AM

Location: UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

Expected attendees: All residents, AP fellows and faculty

Description:

- 1) The conference will include two different alternating formats:
  - a. Review of CAP or other simulated cases for discussion of key clinical-pathologic findings.
  - b. Cases performed at teaching locations are selected by the Director of Autopsy Pathology based on educational value, and may include both in-house (UHS) and Medical Examiner cases.
- 2) The presentation is by the resident on the current autopsy rotation includes the following:
  - i. Brief clinical history and clinical impression
  - ii. Premortem laboratory and clinical pathology findings supporting the clinical impression (e.g. coagulation studies, microbiology testing, peripheral smears, toxicology studies)
  - iii. Reason for performing the autopsy (i.e., problem list)
  - iv. Pertinent external features
  - v. Photographs and description of gross and microscopic findings
  - vi. Final diagnoses and anatomic cause of death
  - vii. Discussion of any discordance between autopsy findings and clinical impressions
  - viii. Pathophysiology of the most significant disease processes (including topics relating to anatomic pathology and clinical pathology) as they relate to the patient's death. Including pertinent articles from the scientific literature to support your findings.

Conference: **Unknowns Microscopic Conference**

Day: Friday; 3-4 weeks out of the month.

Time: Noon to 1PM

Location: UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

Expected attendees: All residents, AP fellows and faculty

Description:

- 1) The goals of this conference are:
  - a. To provide a broad exposure to surgical pathology and cytology cases
  - b. To promote understanding on how to approach a case to reach a diagnostic conclusion using histologic features and supportive ancillary studies as needed
- 2) The format:
  - a. The unknown conference may be topic-based or may be a diverse mixture of interesting cases.
  - b. The faculty should select a topic and cases, or together the faculty and resident may choose the topic and cases to be presented.
  - c. The topics can be freely chosen (they are not part of the didactic series).

- i. No more than 8 cases to be selected per conference.
- d. Duties of all residents:
  - i. Review the slides prior to the conference, formulate histologic descriptions, differential diagnoses and most likely diagnosis.
  - ii. Participate in discussion of the cases.
- e. Duties of assigned resident:
  - i. Initiate contact with the assigned attending, preferably no later than Monday on the week preceding the conference.
  - ii. The cases should be reviewed with the attending during the week, and made available to the residents for review by Thursday, one week prior to the conference.
  - iii. Find appropriate reading assignments, with references provided to residents no later than Friday on the week preceding the conference.
  - iv. Should not share the answers with the rest of the group but might give some guidance on how to find the answers with appropriate reading.
  - v. During the conference the attending may either choose to present alone or ask the assigned resident to participate; however, if the latter approach is selected, then the resident should be made aware prior to conference and offered assistance in preparation.
  - vi. Ensure that any needed conference room equipment is readied for the presentation.

**Conference: Anatomic Case Conference (previously known as Grand Rounds)**

**Day:** Friday; 1-2 times every other month

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents

**Description:**

- 1) The goal of this conference is to present surgical pathology, cytopathology and autopsy topics. Points of discussion include diagnostic approach, pertinent workup, and differential diagnosis.
- 2) The objectives:
  - a. Provide greater knowledge of a topic of interest to the resident.
  - b. Provide greater skill in educational presentation.
    - i. Encompasses a variety of challenges:
      1. Choice of topic appropriate for audience
      2. Perform in time allotted
      3. Research of topic
      4. Distillation of information into the pertinent elements
      5. Clarity of production
- 3) Under the direction of the Anatomic Pathology Faculty, a 12-month

schedule of assigned faculty, residents and fellows is published.

- a. Every month to two months, two residents/fellows will present and seek prior direction by assigned faculty:
  - i. Topic: surgical pathology, cytopathology or autopsy
    1. Recommended subjects include a topic that is difficult to grasp, a diagnosis that is challenging to make, or a disease that is uncommon.
  - ii. Time: 20 minutes per case with 10 minutes for discussion per case
  - iii. No later than 4 weeks prior to presentation, the resident/fellow and faculty should agree on the subject.
  - iv. No later than 1 week prior to presentation, the resident/fellow should rehearse the presentation with faculty, and in the intervening week make any adjustments recommended by the faculty.
  - v. Residents/ fellows will be evaluated on the content and delivery of the presentation.
- b. Occasionally, a session is replaced by specialty orthopedic cases or other services which are held in conjunction with clinical service, in which there is one presentation by a pathology resident/fellow, and one by the clinical resident/fellow.

**Conference: Neuropathology Didactic conference**

**Day:** Thursday 1-2 times per month

**Time:** 7:30-8:30 AM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents and AP fellows

**Description:**

- 1) The conference will occur in two different alternating formats.
  - a. Didactics (scope or lecture based)
  - b. Scope Sessions with practical cases from the service
    - i. Residents will assist in the acquisition and presentation of cases to enhance exposure to common/ practical neuropathology cases

**Conference: Renal Pathology Didactic conference**

**Day:** Monday, approximately quarterly

**Time:** NOON- 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents and AP fellows

**Description:**

- 1) The goal of this conference is to expose residents to renal pathology with histologic and clinical-pathologic correlation.

**Conference: Anatomic Pathology Didactic conference**

**Day:** Tuesday

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents and AP fellows

**Description:**

- 1) This didactic series is intended to reinforce key topics in anatomic pathology.
- 2) A yearly schedule (based on a two-year rotating curriculum) is arranged based on organ systems.
- 3) Presentation format is at the discretion of the faculty presenting each session, and may take the form of lecture, interactive presentations, case presentations, discussions, or other active learning methods.
- 4) A schedule of topics will be provided to trainees annually.

**Clinical Pathology Conferences:**

**Conference: Clinical Pathology Didactic conference**

**Day:** Thursday

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents

**Description:**

- 1) This didactic series is intended to reinforce key topics in clinical pathology and laboratory medicine.
- 2) Presentation format is at the discretion of the faculty presenting each session, and may take the form of lecture, interactive presentations, case presentations, discussions, or other active learning methods.
- 3) A schedule of topics will be provided to trainees annually.

**Conference: Laboratory Medicine Report**

**Day:** Wednesday

**Time:** Noon to 1 PM

**Location:** UHS Main Pathology Conference Room

**Expected attendees:** All residents, CP fellows and faculty

**Description:**

- 1) Under the direction of the Director of Laboratory Medicine, brief interesting cases are presented from each of the clinical lab departments (Maximum 4 Presentations).
- 2) Goal of the presentation is to facilitate discussion with learning points among faculty and residents.
- 3) Topics and presentations should be reviewed by faculty on service at least one day prior to presentation.
- 4) Residents/ fellows will be evaluated on professionalism, slides, timing,

- discussion created, and delivery.
- 5) Schedule and content of Topics
    - a. Routine Topics
      - i. Content presented from core clinical pathology rotations
        1. Microbiology, Transfusion Medicine, Chemistry & Hematopathology
      - ii. The topic is in the form of a clearly stated learning objective
        1. The resident has defined the limit of his or her knowledge and has formulated and answered a focused question
          - a. Complex or interesting cases observed on rotations
          - b. Alternatively, "show and tell" quiz format slides will be encouraged when applicable.
    - b. Special Topics
      - i. Content presented from residents on clinical pathology electives (or faculty if resident not available)
        1. Molecular, Cytogenetics, Flow cytometry, Mycology, Lab Administration/Informatics
    - c. Management Projects
      - i. To be completed during the resident rotation and presented on the last week of the rotation or the Wednesday following completion of the rotation.
  - 6) Content Preparation/ Presentation
    - a. 15 minute limit
    - b. Delivery of content- should be discussion inducing
      - i. 5 slide limit if utilizing PowerPoint
      - ii. Dry erase board
      - iii. Presentation of scanned handouts or physical handouts

**Conference: Citywide Hematopathology Conference**

**Day:** Tuesday

**Time:** 4:00- 5:00PM

**Location:** UHS surgical pathology multiheaded microscope

**Expected attendees:** Senior residents and Hematopathology fellows (mandatory for residents on hematopathology rotation)

- 1) Under the direction of hematopathology attendings, current hematopathology cases are reviewed for education and quality.
- 2) Cases from UHS as well as shared cases from other regional hematopathologists are utilized.