Basic Standards for Conjoint Fellowship Training in Adult and Pediatric Allergy/Immunology

American Osteopathic Association,
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
And the American College of Osteopathic Internists

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SECTION I – INTRODUCTION

These are the basic standards for subspecialty training in pediatric and adult allergy/immunology as approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians (ACOP) and the American College of Osteopathic Internists (ACOI). These standards are designed to provide the fellow with advanced and concentrated training in pediatric and adult allergy/immunology and prepare the resident for examination for certification in allergy/immunology. The following standards must be a functioning component of an AOA-approved program in allergy/immunology.

SECTION II – MISSION

This two (2) year training program is designed to develop clinical and laboratory skills in the diagnosis and treatment of allergic and immunologic disease. Osteopathic Concepts: The training of the fellow in clinical allergy and immunology must include the observation and correlation of neuromusculoskeletal lesions as they apply to the diagnosis and therapeutics of systemic disease and its application to the osteopathic concepts in the practice of clinical allergy and immunology.

SECTION III- EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GOALS

The goals of the educational programs of the conjoint adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellowship are based on the core competencies as outlined by the American Osteopathic Association. Each Core competency is outlined below and is adapted to reflect the specific needs of the allergy/immunology practice.

**Competency 1:** Osteopathic Philosophy Principles and Manipulative Treatment:
Adult and Pediatric allergy/immunology fellows will demonstrate and apply knowledge of accepted standards in OPP/OMT appropriate to adult and pediatric allergy/immunology. The educational goal is to train a skilled and competent osteopathic adult and pediatric allergist who remains dedicated to life-long learning and to practice habits in osteopathic philosophy and manipulative medicine.

This competency is not to be evaluated separately but its teaching and evaluation in the training program shall occur through Competencies 2-7 into which this competency has been fully integrated.
Competency 2: Adult and Pediatric Allergy/Immunology Knowledge and Its Application into Osteopathic Medical Practice:

Conjoint adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellows must demonstrate and apply integrative knowledge of accepted standards of clinical practice and OPP, remain current with new developments and participate in life-long learning activities, including research.

C2 Required Element #1: The conjoint adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow will demonstrate competency in the understanding and application of clinical adult and pediatric allergy/immunology to osteopathic patient care.

C2 Required Element #2: The conjoint adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellows must know and apply the foundations of clinical and behavioral medicine with application of all appropriate osteopathic correlations.

Competency 3: Osteopathic Patient Care:

Osteopathic adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellows must demonstrate the ability to effectively treat patients, provide adult and pediatric allergy/immunology care that incorporates the osteopathic philosophy, patient empathy, awareness of behavioral issues, the incorporation of preventive medicine, and health promotion.

C3 Required Element #1: Gathered accurate, essential information from all sources, including adult and pediatric allergy/immunology interviews, osteopathic physical and structural examinations as indicated, medical records, diagnostic/therapeutic plans, and treatments.

C3 Required Element #2: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow’s competency in the performance of diagnosis, osteopathic and other treatment and procedures appropriate to allergy/immunology will be validated.

C3 Required Element #3: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow’s health care services consistent with osteopathic philosophy, including preventative medicine and health promotion based on current scientific evidence will be validated.

Competency 4: Interpersonal and Communication Skills in Osteopathic Adult and Pediatric Allergy/Immunology Practice:

Fellows are expected to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that enable them to establish and maintain professional relationships with patients, families, and other members of health care teams.

C4 Required Element #1: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow will demonstrate effectiveness in developing appropriate doctor-patient relationships.

C4 Required Element #2: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow exhibited effective listening, written and oral communication skills in professional interactions with patients, families and other health professionals.

Competency 5: Professionalism in Osteopathic Medical Practice:
Fellows are expected to uphold the Osteopathic Oath in the conduct of their professional activities that promote advocacy of patient welfare, adherence to ethical principles, and collaboration with health professionals, life-long learning, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population. Fellows should be cognizant of their own physical and mental health in order to care effectively for patients.

C5 Required Element #1: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow demonstrates respect for his/her patients and families and advocated for the primacy of his/her patient’s welfare and autonomy.

C5 Required Element #2: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow adheres to ethical principles in the practice of osteopathic medicine.

C5 Required Element #3: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow demonstrates awareness and proper attention to issues of culture, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, and mental and physical disabilities.

C5 Required Element #4: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow demonstrates awareness of one’s own mental and physical health.

**Competency 6:** Osteopathic Medical Practice-Based Learning and Improvement:

Fellows must demonstrate the ability to critically evaluate their methods of clinical practice, integrate evidence-based traditional and osteopathic medical principles into patient care, show an understanding of research methods, and improve patient care practices.

C6 Required Element #1: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow treats patients in a manner consistent with the most up-to-date information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness (traditional and osteopathic).


C6 Required Element #3: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow understands research methods, medical informatics, and the application of technology as applied to medicine.

**Competency 7:** System-Based Osteopathic Medical Practice:

Fellows are expected to demonstrate an understanding of health care delivery systems, provide effective and qualitative osteopathic patient care within the system, and practice cost-effective medicine.

C7 Required Element #1: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellows understand national and local health care delivery systems and medical societies and how they affect patient care, professional practice and relate to advocacy.
C7 Required Element #2: The adult and pediatric allergy/immunology fellow advocates for quality health care on behalf of his/her patients and assisted them in their interactions with the complexities of the medical system.

SECTION IV – INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A. The institution must provide patient care experience to train a minimum of two (2) fellows in allergy/immunology.

B. The institution must provide for the interaction between the allergy/immunology service and other departments (both adult and pediatric) including, but not limited to pulmonary, ENT, pathology, bone marrow transplantation services, and dermatology.

C. The teaching staff must be composed of qualified physicians with diversified experience in clinical allergy/immunology.

D. The institution must provide an opportunity for exposure in a supervised ambulatory site for continuity of care training. Institutional clinics or allergy/immunology offices may be used.

SECTION V– PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The fellowship in allergy/immunology must be 24 months in duration.

5.2 The fellows must be assigned, full-time, to the adult and pediatric allergy/immunology service.

5.3 The fellow must be knowledgeable of the conditions and course of treatment of all patients on the service.

5.4 Upon completion of the program there shall be evidence that the fellow is competent in special procedures requiring skills particular to adult and pediatric allergy/immunology, including, but not limited to: pulmonary function tests, skin and interdermal skin testing, food and drug challenges.

5.5 The general educational content of the program shall include the following:

5.5.1. Postdoctoral training opportunities in basic sciences related to the subspecialty. These basic sciences shall include anatomy, bacteriology, biochemistry, pharmacology, immunology, physiology and such other basic sciences as are necessary to insure a comprehensive understanding of the prevention, diagnosis, therapy and management of allergy/immunology patients. The program must include participation by the fellow in the institution's quality assurance program of the subspecialty service, which shall include, but not be limited to the review and summarization of all allergy/immunology mortality and morbidity.
5.5.2. The program must define the relationship of the fellows to the program
director, the department chairman, the director of medical education and
the administration of the institution.

5.5.3. The program must integrate the principles and practices of osteopathic
medicine into diagnosis and treatment of the adult and pediatric patient with
allergy/immunology disorders by interaction with osteopathic physicians and
through undergraduate and postdoctoral training in osteopathic theory.

5.5.4. The program must include active involvement by the fellows in laboratory or
clinical research.

5.5.5. The program must define the relationship of the fellows to the program
director, the department chairman, the director of medical education and
the administration of the institution.

5.6 At the end of the training period, the fellow must be able to provide definitive diagnosis
and recommend appropriate therapy by utilizing information gained from:

1. The medical library.

2. The physical examination.

3. Immunological testing:
   a. Percutaneous testing.
      Aeroallergen
      Foods
      Venoms
      Drugs

   b. Interdermal testing.
      Aeroallergen
      Foods
      Venoms
      Drugs

   c. Food challenge

   d. Drug challenges

   e. Autologous interdermal testing

   f. Lymphocyte determination

   g. B cell determination and response
      Antibody response to:
      Polysaccharides
      Proteins

   h. T cell determination and response

   i. Neutrophil determination and response

   j. Complement determination and response

   k. Intracellular Regulatory enzyme determination and response
1. Cell surface receptor determination and response

m. Flow cytometry results

4. Pulmonary Functions
   a. Normal pulmonary functions
   b. Pathological pulmonary functions
      Asthma
      COPD

5.7 During the first year the fellow is to have responsible participation in the diagnosis and management of outpatients seen in allergy and clinical immunology. This experience must be utilized to instruct the fellow in the techniques of skin testing, dilution titration as well as the fundamentals of immuno-therapy.

5.8 The fellow must participate in the inpatient management and consultation of patients with immunological diseases.

5.9 During the second year, in addition to clinical responsibilities, the fellow must design and implement, in conference with the Program Director, at least one research project in laboratory or clinical research. A paper based on the research is required for the satisfactory completion of the program. A third year may be added to enhance the fellows experience in clinical or research interests such as but not restricted to atopic and/or immunologic diseases (See Standards 5.16 and 5.17).

5.10 Teaching conferences must be conducted at least once weekly.

5.11 Review of current literature must be conducted at least monthly.

5.12 The fellow is required to maintain a log of all cases participated in and to submit to the Conjoint Council on Education and Evaluation.

5.13 The program must integrate the principles and practices of osteopathic medicine into the diagnosis and treatment of both adult and pediatric allergy/immunology patients by interaction with osteopathic physicians and through undergraduate and postdoctoral training in osteopathic theory.

5.14 An optional research year may be added to the fellowship following the twenty-four (24) month program. This must consist of one of the following:

5.14.1 Ten (10) consecutive months in a controlled laboratory setting using nonhuman subjects based at, or associated with, a regionally accredited university, AOA-COCA accredited college of osteopathic medicine or an LCME accredited medical school; or,

5.14.2 Ten (10) consecutive months in clinical (human subjects) research based at, or associated with, a regionally accredited university, AOA-COCA accredited college of osteopathic medicine or an LCME accredited medical school.
5.15 Fellows participating in the optional research year must submit an abstract, poster and/or oral presentation at a national meeting, and publish a manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal.

5.16 An optional research year may be added to the fellowship following the twenty-four (24) month program. This must consist of one of the following:

5.16.1 Ten (10) consecutive months in a controlled laboratory setting using nonhuman subjects based at, or associated with, a regionally accredited university, AOA-COCA accredited College of Osteopathic Medicine or an LCME accredited medical school; or,

5.16.2 Ten (10) consecutive months in clinical (human subjects) research based at, or associated with, a regionally accredited university, AOA-COCA accredited College of Osteopathic Medicine or an LCME accredited medical school.

5.17 Fellows participating in the optional research year must submit an abstract, poster and/or oral presentation at a national meeting, and publish a manuscript in a peer-reviewed journal.

SECTION VI - QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM DIRECTORS

6.1 Qualifications:

6.1.1 The program director must be AOA certified in adult and/or pediatric allergy/immunology.

6.1.2 The program director must have practiced in the field of allergy/immunology for three years.

6.1.3 The program director must be personally responsible for both adult and pediatric allergy/immunology patients.

6.1.4 The program director must attend an ACOP or ACOI program director meeting at least on a every other year basis.

6.1.5 The program director must attend the ACOI and/or ACOP Trainers congresses at least every other year.

6.2 Responsibilities:

6.2.1 The program director’s authority in directing the fellowship must be defined in the institution’s program’s description and shall include:

a. Coordinating on call schedules
b. Submitting ACOP/ACOI annual training reports
c. Overseeing each fellow’s logs and any AOA documents
d. Supervising manuscript development
e. Conducting quarterly evaluations
f. Developing journal clubs, conferences and lectures.

6.2.2 The program director must be readily available to the fellows.

6.2.3 The fellowship director will provide all documents to the fellows including:
   a. An orientation manual and program manual
   b. AOA basic standards for adult and pediatric allergy/immunology residency
   c. Bylaws of the medical staff
   d. AOA Code of Ethics
   e. A guided study program

SECTION VII – FELLOW REQUIREMENTS

7.0. Applicants for training in adult and pediatric allergy/immunology must:

7.0.1. Have completed an AOA approved pediatric or internal medicine residency.

7.1. During the training period, the fellow must:

7.1.1. Submit an annual report to the Conjoint ACOP/ACOI evaluating committee. The fellow shall keep accurate and concurrent records of the following:
   7.1.1.1 Educational postgraduate conferences
   7.1.1.2. Institution training services and a written evaluation of each service
   7.1.1.3. Educational postgraduate work taken outside the base training institution, listing the dates, location, subjects and speaker.
   7.1.1.4. Assigned cases of the pediatric and internal medicine Allergy/immunology service and including the patient record number, date of discharge, and primary diagnosis.
   7.1.1.5. Procedures performed under supervision
   7.1.1.6. Consultations performed on service.

7.1.2. Submit one scientific paper to the ACOP/ACOI conjoint evaluating committee completed under the supervision of the program director. The manuscript must be suitable for publication. The manuscript must be preceded by an abstract and poster presented at ACOP/ACOI, American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology.

7.1.3. Teach and direct residents and students in patient care.
7.1.4. Participate in department meetings that directly relate to adult and pediatric allergy/immunology.

7.1.5. Participate in comprehensive study programs.

7.1.6. Submit monthly evaluations of supervisors in allergy/immunology

SECTION VIII - EVALUATIONS

8.1 The program director must complete an evaluation of each fellow each year. The evaluation form is located at the ACOP and ACOI websites.

8.2 The fellow must complete a fellow report each year. The evaluation form is located at the ACOP and ACOI websites.

8.3 Program directors will be required to review semi-annually all fellow reports, test scores, and performances to determine if adjustments are required to improve the fellow’s learning and performance.