Basic Standards for Fellowship Training in Dermatopathology

American Osteopathic Association

and

American Osteopathic College of Dermatologists

and

American Osteopathic College of Pathologists

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BASIC STANDARDS FOR FELLOWSHIP TRAINING IN DERMATOPATHOLOGY

ARTICLE I – INTRODUCTION
These are the Basic Standards for Fellowship Training in Dermatopathology as established by the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology (AOCD) and American Osteopathic College of Pathologists (AOCPath) and approved by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). These standards are designed to provide the osteopathic fellow with advanced and concentrated training in dermatopathology and to prepare the fellow for examination for certification in Dermatology by American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology (AOBD).

ARTICLE II – MISSION
The mission of the osteopathic dermatopathology training program is to provide fellows with comprehensive structured cognitive and clinical education that will enable them to become competent, proficient and professional osteopathic dermatopathologists.

ARTICLE III – EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM GOALS
The objectives of a fellowship program in dermatopathology:
A. Provide learning experiences based on measurable objectives for the education of a fellow during a one-year dermatopathology fellowship program:
   1. Provide in-depth understanding of diagnostic dermatopathology.
   2. Develop a systematic approach for the evaluation of skin specimens to acquire the basic knowledge to generate differential diagnoses for cutaneous pathology.
   3. Provide understanding and proficiency in the basic methods of special histochemical stains, immunofluorescence, immunohistochemistry and molecular biology.
   4. Foster appreciation for the importance of clinicopathologic correlation by developing communication skills with other clinicians
B. Provide training which integrates the seven core competencies of osteopathic medicine.
C. Develop the teaching skills of the dermatopathology fellow.
D. Foster an interest in and an understanding of research in dermatopathology.
E. Develop professional leadership and management skills.
F. Prepare the fellow to meet certification requirements of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) through the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology (AOBD) and American Osteopathic Board of Pathology (AOBP). Satisfactory completion of the dermatopathology fellowship program shall lead to eligibility for examination through the Conjoint Examination Committee in Dermatopathology (CECD). Candidates must follow the criteria for application established by the individual certification boards.
G. Fellows are expected to continue practicing all core competencies as taught and documented during their residency.

ARTICLE IV – INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS
A. The institution shall maintain and have access to a medical library containing A VARIETY OF texts, latest editions of medical journals and other publications pertinent to the training of a dermatopathologist.

B. Active dermatology and pathology facilities must be affiliated with a teaching program.

**ARTICLE V – PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND CONTENT**

A. The fellowship program in dermatopathology shall be for one year’s duration

B. Each fellow shall have exposure to routine histopathology and histochemical staining techniques, immunofluorescence microscopy, immunohistochemistry, diagnostic molecular biology, ultrastructural pathology and anatomic and clinical pathology, and clinical dermatology. In addition, each fellow shall gain experience in identification and examination of the entire range of infectious, inflammatory, neoplastic and cutaneous pathology.

**ARTICLE VI – PROGRAM DIRECTOR/FACULTY REQUIREMENTS**

A. Qualifications

1. The program director shall be a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine who holds a Certificate of Added Qualification in Dermatopathology issued by the AOA through the AOBP or AOBD, or is certified in dermatopathology by the American Board of Dermatology and the American Board of Pathology.

2. Alternatively, the program director may have completed an ACGME fellowship in dermatopathology AND practice full time within an AOA approved dermatology residency program. A program director under this option shall be responsible for the teaching and clinical aspects of the fellowship under the ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT of the dermatology residency director in THE PROGRAM which he or she is a fulltime faculty member.

3. The program director must be a member in good standing of the AOCD or the AOCP.

B. Responsibilities

1. The program director’s authority in directing the training program must be defined in the program documents of the institution.

2. The program director shall be required to submit quarterly reports to the director of medical education. An annual report shall be submitted to the fellow’s primary specialty board either the AOBD or the AOBP.

**ARTICLE VII – FELLOW REQUIREMENTS**

A. Applicants for fellowship training in dermatopathology must:
1. Have satisfactorily completed a residency in anatomic pathology and laboratory medicine (clinical pathology), anatomic pathology or dermatology and possess either board certification/eligibility in at least one of these areas.

B. Advanced standing

1. Advanced standing credit is not granted

C. During the training program, the fellow must:

1. Submit an annual report to the fellow’s primary specialty board, either the AOBD or the AOBP, by maintaining a log record of each specimen examined, clinical dermatology patient evaluated and procedures assigned during the course of the fellowship year. The totals of these procedures shall be a part of the Annual Fellowship Report to the fellow’s primary specialty board, either the AOBD or the AOBP, upon completion of the program, for review and evaluation.

2. Submit a scientific article and/or research project to the fellow’s primary specialty board, either the AOBD or the AOBP, suitable for publication and pertaining to dermatopathology. Guidelines established by the scientific medical journal shall be used in preparation of the paper.

ARTICLE VIII - EVALUATION

A. Evaluation of fellow:

1. Fellows are expected to continue practicing all core competencies as taught and documented during their residency. Program faculty must evaluate the fellow’s dermatopathology knowledge daily. Faculty shall provide monthly written evaluation of the fellow’s rotation performance to the program director.

2. Program directors shall complete "Program Director's Annual Report" and the "Core Competency Compliance Program" form on each osteopathic physician in the program. This evaluation of performance for each fellow must be accomplished and mailed to the fellow’s primary specialty board, either the AOBD or the AOBP, within 30 days of the completion of the fellowship year. Program director's reports shall be reviewed annually by the fellow's primary specialty board, either the AOBD or the AOBP.

3. Program directors must complete quarterly fellowship evaluations and submit them to the Director of Medical Education

4. Fellowship remediation:

a. Fellows shall be given a written warning of their deficiencies. Fellows shall be asked to follow an individualized plan for remediation if they are not making satisfactory progress in the program, are deficient in any of the Core Competencies of the Osteopathic Profession or if the program director identifies other concerns.

b. The written remediation plan must be developed by the program director and the fellow.

c. A copy of this plan, areas of deficiency, and assessment of progress towards remediation shall be placed in the fellow’s file.

d. Circumstances requiring remediation include, but are not limited to:

i. Unsatisfactory performance on a core rotation
ii. Unsatisfactory skills for level of training

iii. Unsatisfactory or marginal performance in one of the Core Competencies of the Osteopathic Profession for level of training.

B. Evaluations of faculty:

1. The evaluation of faculty participation in teaching shall be noted in the fellow’s annual report and shall be reviewed annually by the fellow’s primary specialty board, either the AOBD or the AOBP.

2. Program director participation at the annual or midyear meeting of either the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology and/or American Osteopathic College of Pathology shall be noted during every residency program inspection.

C. Evaluation of facilities:

1. The fellowship program inspection shall evaluate the facility (see Article IV – Institutional Requirements) and the inspector’s report shall be reviewed that year by the fellow’s primary specialty board, either the AOBD or the AOBP.