General Pathology Elective

Objective
The overall goal of the elective in General Pathology is to familiarize medical students with the setting and function of anatomical and clinical pathology. The elective is designed primarily for those medical students who are interested in a possible career in pathology and would like more information about pathology and an opportunity to observe the practice of pathology. Specific objectives are as follows: - To become familiar with the operations of Anatomical pathology including gross and microscopic techniques, frozen sections and autopsies; - To become familiar with the operations of Hematopathology; - To become familiar with the operations of Medical Microbiology and infection control; - To become familiar with the operations of Medical Biochemistry; - To enhance the student's knowledge of the pathology of disease; - To understand the roles of various pathologists as members of the health care team; and - To assess their interest in pathology as a specialty.

Description
The elective in Pathology is designed to expose medical students to several different areas of Pathology including Anatomical Pathology (AP), Hematopathology (HP), Medical Biochemistry (MB) and Medical Microbiology (MM). The elective comprises 8 days of AP, 1 week of HP and 1 week of combined MM and MB. The order and location of the particular components will be arranged by the Pathology Program Coordinator. While in AP, students will observe and participate in all aspects of surgical pathology including grossing and histological assessment of surgical specimens, frozen sections, and autopsies. The level of involvement will depend on experience and aptitude. Students will be supervised by residents, fellows and staff pathologists. Students participate in the daily surgical pathology conferences and attend academic half-days. While in HP, students will observe and participate in all aspects of hematopathology including blood smears, bone marrow aspirates and biopsies and flow cytometry. The level of involvement will depend on experience and aptitude. Students will be supervised by residents, fellows, and staff hematopathologists. Students will participate in any hematopathology conferences and attend academic half-day. While in MM, students will observe general aspects of medical microbiology including the handling of bacterial specimens from different anatomical locations, culture and susceptibility results, and infection control in a hospital setting. Students will be supervised by residents in medical microbiology. While in MB, students will observe general aspects of medical biochemistry including the major automated analyzers and more specialized testing such as serum protein electrophoresis. Students will be supervised by technologists and staff medical biochemists.