



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Residency Training program
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TRANSFUSION MEDICINE

Introduction

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada defines Transfusion Medicine as a: “domain of laboratory and clinical medicine concerned with all aspects of the collection, testing, preparation, storage, transportation, pre-transfusion testing, post-transfusion follow-up, indications for, infusion, and safety of human blood components and products, nonhuman alternatives, and alternative products manufactured by recombinant DNA technology. These activities are undertaken in such a way that the rights of blood donors, patients, and families are respected, and scarce resources are appropriately allocated.”

The UBC Transfusion Medicine Residency Area of Focused Competence (AFC) Program is structured to teach foundational concepts and skill sets to mentor trainees to function as Transfusion Medicine physicians, encompassing careers including blood bank/transfusion medicine service directors, medical staff at blood suppliers, or physicians providing consultative services relating to transfusion medicine.

Area of Focused Competency

An AFC Diploma in Transfusion Medicine, represents attainment of the ability to exercise a highly specific and narrow scope of practice. Though transfusion medicine does not meet the Royal College criteria of a subspecialty, increasingly jurisdictions seek this specific expertise. To become a Royal College diplomate, the Competency Training Requirements must be completed and the trainee must submit a discipline-specific portfolio demonstrating achievement of those requirements/milestones, which is vetted by the training program before submission. The portfolio is then assessed by an external reviewer, who adjudicates it for completeness.

Generally, most trainees complete these requirements in one year. Some trainees complete them in two years, often if other academic training is occurring concurrently (such as a master’s degree). Physicians who have successfully completed all the requirements for an AFC (Diploma) program and who annually maintain their status as a Diplomate of the Royal College receive an added qualification known as a Diploma of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, or DRCPSC.

Eligibility and Funding

The AFC trainee must have trainee must have Royal College certification, or equivalent, in Internal Medicine, Hematology, Pediatrics, Hematological Pathology, Anesthesiology, or General/Clinical Pathology, or enrolment in a Royal College accredited residency program in these areas. Eligibility is determined by the Transfusion Medicine Residency Program Committee and the Program Director. All AFC trainees must be certified in their primary specialty in order to be eligible to submit a Royal College competency portfolio in Transfusion Medicine.

Non-Quebec Canadian graduates are encouraged to apply for the *Canadian Blood Services Elianna Saidenberg Transfusion Medicine Traineeship Award*, which provides funding for trainees accepted into the AFC diploma program. Further details can be found at www.blood.ca.

Training Program

With the small number of trainees in the Transfusion Medicine Residency Program, the structure of the training can be individualized to meet the trainee's goals and portfolio requirements. Rotations through multiple hospitals and health authorities are encouraged to gain a breadth of knowledge and experience. The Residency Program Committee endeavors to have membership throughout British Columbia with different roles and practices, to help facilitate rotations and experiences in different settings. Trainees will also spend time at a national Canadian Blood Services rotation outside of British Columbia (or Hema-Quebec where applicable); and are encouraged to have a longitudinal experience with Canadian Blood Services BC & Yukon. Regular meetings with the Program Director, who reports progress back to the Residency Program Committee, will be set to ensure the trainee is meeting milestones and requirements in a timely fashion.

Research and Quality Improvement

One completed scholarly project is a Competency Training Requirement. Residents are encouraged to initiate and participate in the numerous clinical research, laboratory research, and quality improvement opportunities available throughout health authorities in British Columbia, Canadian Blood Services, and/or the UBC Centre for Blood Research (CBR). Transfusion medicine, as a highly specialized field that interfaces with multiple clinical and laboratory specialties, provides ample opportunities for collaboration across jurisdictions and practices. Funding opportunities are often available through Canadian Blood Services' award programs. The program provides flexibility around protected research/project time individualized to the trainee, providing milestones for the Competency Training Requirements are met. Multiple opportunities exist for presenting and disseminating work locally, nationally, and internationally.

Program Director

Dr. Andrew Shih

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