



# a place of mind

## THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Residency Training program  
10125-2775 Laurel Street  
Vancouver BC V5Z 1M9

### ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY

#### **Introduction**

The UBC Anatomical Pathology Residency Program is structured to prepare our future Canadian Pathologists with excellent diagnostic skills as well as the ability to utilize an increasing range of complex diagnostic tools and tests that will be necessary for them function as pathologists, whether they will practice in a community or university setting. We believe that pathologists are called upon not only to render a diagnosis but also to provide interpretative data to guide patient care, particularly in the areas of molecular genetics and personalized medicine. The UBC AP Program is extremely proud that our graduates are known throughout North America for their broad and complete skill set obtained during residency, demonstrated by their ability to obtain competitive fellowships or quickly thrive in non-academic settings.

#### **Competence By Design**

All residents entering Anatomical Pathology residency training programs in Canada provide education and evaluation according to Competence By Design (CBD). This is a Competency Based Medical Education system instituted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

CBD reflects changes in the way residents are assessed and promoted throughout their residency. The fundamentals of teaching Anatomical Pathology have not changed, and the strengths in resident teaching at UBC remain in place and have been enhanced with high frequency evaluations. Several useful resources are available on the Royal College website (<http://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/cbd/competence-by-design-cbd-e>) as well as the UBC Postgraduate Medical Education CBD website (<https://postgrad.med.ubc.ca/cbme-competency-based-medical-education>). Incoming residents will be oriented to CBD when they start their rotation in July. General PGME orientation for all UBC residents may be required prior to the official start date, and will be communicated to the incoming residents.

Under CBD, the residency is divided into four stages: Transition to Discipline, Foundations of Discipline, Core of Discipline, and Transition to Practice. In each stage, a resident must complete a pre-determined number of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs). These EPAs have been mapped out across the various general and subspecialty rotations throughout the residency experience to optimize successful completion.





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### **Transition to Discipline**

This stage serves as an orientation to the practice of Anatomical Pathology, and is expected to take two months or less to complete. This will be held at Vancouver General Hospital.

### **Foundations of Discipline**

This stage covers the basics of Anatomical Pathology and is expected to last 8-10 months. This stage includes rotating through pathology-focused blocks of clinical rotations. The clinical rotations may occur at either primary teaching site, St. Paul's Hospital in downtown Vancouver, or at Royal Columbian Hospital in New Westminister. They may also occur at other UBC-affiliated teaching hospitals in the greater Vancouver area. New residents will be able to indicate their preference for one site, but may be assigned to the other site. The clinical rotations offer some flexibility and have ranged from an oncology focus, including medical and radiation oncology, to non-oncologic rotations such as gastroenterology or rheumatology. The program is committed to optimizing the training experience to facilitate pathology-specific experiences.

### **Core of Discipline**

This is the longest stage (2.5-3 years) in which the resident becomes competent in all of the aspects of Anatomical Pathology. Residents will complete various rotations at hospitals throughout Vancouver (Vancouver General Hospital, BC Cancer Agency, St. Paul's Hospital, and BC Children's and Women's Hospital). The core rotation also includes forensic pathology rotations at hospitals that perform Coroner's autopsies. This stage will include flexibility of scheduling to allow increased exposure to particular areas of interest and/or research. Regular slide exams are provided throughout the year with an annual mock Royal College exam once per year.

The resident will then write the Royal College exam once the Core of Discipline stage is complete. This is expected to occur at the end of PGY4 with part 1 of the exam, and start of PGY 5 with part 2 of the exam.

### **Transition to Practice**

This final stage will last for approximately 6-12 months in which the resident learns to function at a junior staff level in preparation for independent practice. Time may be taken to also prepare for fellowship and/or tailor towards experiences specific to a future career opportunity.





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### Research

Residents are encouraged to initiate and participate in the numerous research opportunities available. PGY3 year residents in Anatomical Pathology are required to present an original research project at the annual UBC Pathology Day, and are strongly encouraged to present research in other years, typically in PGY5 after completion of the Royal College exam. Research plays an important role, with opportunities to present at various local, national, and international conferences throughout the residency. Residents have an excellent track record for publishing their results in high-impact pathology journals.

### Program Director

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### Program Administrator

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