

RESIDENT ROUNDS: PART I

Resident Rounds is a section of the JDD dedicated to highlighting various dermatology departments with residency training programs. Resident Rounds includes three sections: (1) a program spotlight highlighting pertinent information about the department and residency training program; (2) a section presenting study materials used by residents at the program; and (3) a section designed to highlight recent interesting cases seen at the institution. This issue of Resident Rounds features the Division of Dermatology at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. The editor of Resident Rounds is Dr. Ali Alikhan. If you are interested in highlighting your training program in a future issue, please contact Dr. Alikhan at alialikhan1@yahoo.com.

Program Spotlight: Ohio State University

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Ohio State University offers an innovative dermatology program in the large college-town setting of Columbus, OH. Applicants match into a categorical position, which allows for learning of the electronic medical record, hospital system, and collaborating physicians prior to matriculating in the three years of dermatology training. Currently, there are 2 or 3 residents per year and a total of 12 full-time faculty, with an additional 5 attendings working part-time at the VA and other resident clinics. For more information, our public website is available at OSUDerm.org.

The intern year is a preliminary medicine position and offers extensive elective time within an academic setting. It takes place within 1 general and 4 specialty hospitals at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. If desired, an intern can rotate through a more community-based care model at OSU University Hospital-East as well. A night float system limits physician burnout, and specialty hospitals and specialty services allow for the intern to pick services with a high frequency of skin diseases; these are often diseases that will not frequently be seen in the outpatient setting, such as infectious diseases, metastatic diseases, and paraneoplastic syndromes. The intern may choose 4 elective rotations; the dermatology categorical residents typically choose among outpatient dermatology, dermatology research, rheumatology, allergy/immunology, podiatry, and plastic surgery. The inpatient and outpatient electronic medical records systems utilize Epic.

After finishing the intern year, residents continue to rotate through the consultation service at the main medical center, but also see outpatients at Ohio State facilities, Nationwide Children's Hospital (NCH) facilities, the Columbus VA, and the Columbus Physicians' Free Clinic.



Medical Clinics

The backbone of the program lies in resident continuity clinics, occurring nearly every day of the week and allowing residents to follow patients through diagnosis and treatment of their conditions. An innovative lottery system allows residents after establishing a foundation of general dermatology knowledge during their first year to pick their own clinics, allowing them to build niche interests. The program offers several subspecialty clinics as listed below:

- There is a weekly multidisciplinary cutaneous and peripheral T-cell lymphoma clinic run by Drs. Henry Wong and Pierluigi Porcu.
- Dr. Matt Zirwas, who is also the program director, runs a contact dermatitis clinic at which residents may be involved with patch test interpretation.
- Dr. Mark Bechtel runs a complex medical dermatology clinic for patients with blistering diseases, connective tissue

diseases, and other dermatologic conditions requiring systemic immunosuppressant agents; often these patients are referred from other dermatologists.

- In addition, psoriasis and pigmented lesions clinics provide high volume and expertise in management for common diseases that the general dermatologist encounters.
- At NCH, Drs. Patricia Witman, Esteban Fernandez Faith, and Joy Mosser run multiple general pediatric clinics. Drs. Witman and Fernandez Faith also run a multidisciplinary hemangioma and vascular malformation clinic.
- Residents spend 2 half days weekly at the Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care VA Center, and the remainder of the time is spent in elective clinics.
- Cosmetic dermatology is intentionally underrepresented in the program, but if desired, residents can use elective time for laser and cosmetic clinic opportunities with Drs. Mas-sick, Plotner, and Fichtel.

Surgery

Mohs surgery clinics are precepted by Drs. David Carr and David Lambert at OSU, with additional opportunities available at the VA. There are required surgery clinics but also extensive elective opportunities if residents choose to spend additional time practicing surgical technique. The residents also spend time at the Corrections Medical Center, which services prisoners from across the state; performing surgery for skin cancers in a resource-poor setting. The residents have the opportunity to be aggressive with skin cancer excisions on the face and elsewhere that normally would be treated with Moh's micro-graphic surgery in a different setting.

Didactics

Because the program takes place at multiple sites throughout Columbus, didactics take place once weekly when residents are excused from all obligations. During this time, there is typically a book review, a faculty lecture/kodachrome session, an outside speaker/journal club, and an hour of dermatopathology. Friday mornings have an additional 1-2 hour dermatopathology session.

Autonomy

Resident autonomy is generally progressive throughout the program. From the initiation of the residency, an emphasis is placed on autonomy in the continuity clinic with an equilibrium achieved for the appropriate level of supervision for the resident's individual level of competency, a luxury afforded given the small size of the program. The VA clinics particularly emphasize autonomy given that residents are permitted to see patients they feel comfortable with without staffing with the attending physician. Specialty clinics offer increasing lev-

els of autonomy dependent on the physician and the ability of the resident. Resident surgery clinics, VA, and Corrections clinics all give the resident opportunities to do full surgeries after the first 6 months. Mohs clinics allow increasing autonomy depending on interest and ability.

Research

Research can be conducted during administrative time that is chosen by the residents during the monthly lottery selection process. In addition, senior residents may conduct more in-depth research after discussion of their project interests with a primary mentor and the program director.

Fellowships

About half of residents do fellowships including pediatric, procedural, and dermatopathology. Our program offers one pediatric fellowship per year and two positions in dermatopathology.

In conclusion, Ohio State offers a small program within a large academic medical center, a high faculty-to-resident ratio, great pathology, and an innovative scheduling system that is resident-oriented to allow for early niche and specialty development among many specialty medicine and surgery clinics.

Disclosures

None of the authors have declared any relevant conflicts.

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