

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 Texas Tech University Dermatology Residency Program. 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: Texas Tech University Dermatology Residency Program

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The Department of Dermatology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) has a long history of excellence in serving the residents of west Texas and eastern New Mexico. Positioned as a major referral center, the department provides care to a significant majority of patients who live in primarily rural areas with limited access to dermatological services.

The residency program is composed of nine residents, three in each year of training. Our four full-time faculty members include one general dermatologist, one fellowship-trained Mohs surgeon, and two fellowship-trained dermatopathologists. In addition to our outstanding faculty, there are six part-time clinical associate professors, community physicians who contribute their time to teaching in the department and staffing clinics when needed. The TTUHSC is the primary site of training, boasting over 15,000 patient visits each year. The adjacent University Medical Center provides the setting for our inpatient consult service. Other associated sites of training include the Lubbock VA Outpatient Clinic, the City of Lubbock STD Clinic, the Schwartzentraub podiatry clinic, and Laser Dynamics, a community laser treatment center. A robust teledermatology practice serving incarcerated patients, as well as pediatric patients at an established medical site in El Paso, Texas, further extends the reach of the department, and allows the residents to provide care for additional underserved individuals.

Didactics at TTUHSC include a weekly textbook review, clinical dermatology lectures by faculty, a rotating weekly chief



lecture, procedural dermatology lectures and hands-on labs, journal club, and dermatopathology conference with weekly unknowns. Grand rounds occurs each Friday, with patients presenting from our primary clinical sites, as well as from community physician offices. These sessions are highly educational, and often present uncommon to rare cases. Residents additionally attend the Texas Dermatological Society meeting twice yearly, and all residents are able to attend the American Academy of Dermatology Annual Meeting.

Residents obtain a strong foundation in procedural dermatology including Mohs surgery, lasers, and cosmetic dermatology. First-year residents begin residency with ½ to a full day of Mohs surgery and excisions weekly, which increases up to two full days weekly for upper level residents. Varied cases with a number of complex repairs are managed under the direction of our Mohs surgeon. Cosmetic dermatology including botulinum toxin, fillers, intense pulsed light and carbon dioxide laser, and sclerotherapy are scheduled weekly. Dermatopathology is an equally strong area of training with all residents having a total of four months of dedicated dermatopathology training during residency. Slide reading and sign-out occur daily as the resident works one-on-one with each of our two dermatopathologists. During this rotation, the dermatopathology resident is also responsible for inpatient consults during clinic hours. Evening and weekend consults are covered for a total of six weeks per year by each resident on a rotating basis. Continuity clinic is a dedicated half-day clinic for residents, with monthly 2nd year resident clinic and weekly 3rd year clinic. A significant degree of autonomy is afforded in this clinic, with input from attending physicians as needed. The STD clinic at Lubbock Health department is staffed by residents bi-weekly who see a wide range of pathology from syphilis to genital warts.

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Community engagement extends outside of the Department of Dermatology through a free-clinic sponsored by the Texas Tech University Health Science Center's partnership with a community organization, Lubbock Impact. Each Wednesday night, a multi-specialty clinic is held at a local church facility with the goal of serving the homeless and working poor. Most dermatology residents volunteer at the free clinic at some point throughout residency, working alongside our faculty and providing free care including biopsies, excisions, and general dermatological care with provision of necessary medications as made possible by community grants. Annually, the dermatology department sponsors a free skin cancer screening where up to 500 patients are provided full or partial skin exams by residents, faculty, and community physicians.

The Texas Tech University Dermatology Residency is a strong, growing program with outstanding clinical faculty who have notable dedication to the education of residents, and a commitment to provide exceptional care to the residents of West Texas.

Disclosures

None of the authors have declared any relevant conflicts.

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