



# Frequently *asked* questions

## BSOM/PCMH Pathology Residency Training Program

### What is the pass rate on the boards?

Of residents taking the exam for the first time in 2008, 75% passed the AP portion and 100% passed the CP portion of the board examination. Residents who received only part of their training in our program did not do as well.

### How are residents prepared for boards?

There are 12 hours of required core lectures in both clinical pathology and anatomic pathology each month, including clinical pathology didactic conference, systemic pathology conference, cytopathology conference, autopsy conference, bone marrow conference, surgical pathology glass slide conference, anatomic pathology journal club and grand rounds. Additionally, there are numerous interdisciplinary conferences and tumor boards, including dermatology, melanoma, bone marrow, renal, breast, hematology oncology, and infectious disease conferences. Residents take the ASCP in-service examination each year. Rotation directors receive a listing of frequently missed questions from the in-service exam to use in designing rotation content. Senior residents are funded to attend an ASCP or Osler board review course. Residents and teaching faculty also receive board review questions and answers via e-mail from PathMD. Even given all of these ways in which the department helps prepare the residents for the boards, residents must realize that they themselves are ultimately responsible for mastering the material required to pass.

### What do residents do after they complete the program?

Most of our residents enter fellowship training following completion of the program. Some go directly into practice. Of the 23 most recent graduates, 21 went into fellowships, including fellowships in surgical pathology, dermatopathology, hematopathology, molecular pathology, renal pathology, and forensic pathology. Two went directly into practice. Responses from their respective employers in regards to if they would hire other residents from the ECU training program have all been a resounding yes, including “If they have similar credentials as [past resident], yes absolutely” and “Yes, if [past resident] is representative of the quality of residents from your program.”

### Do residents go to national meetings?

After the first year of training, the department makes funds available for residents to attend meetings. The department additionally pays for residents to attend meetings when they are presenting research, as long as they are in good standing in the program and the research leads to submission of manuscripts. Over the last two years, the department has spent approximately twenty-two thousand dollars sending 8 residents to meetings.

### **Do residents receive a book allowance?**

Residents receive a book and travel allowance of \$800 each year. The department also maintains a library located in the department. Over the last 3 years, the department has spent over \$9,000 purchasing new books for the library.

### **What are normal duty hours?**

Normal duty hours vary depending on the rotation, but are generally from 8 to 5 PM. Call is taken from home. There is no in house on call. On the anatomic pathology service, residents who are on call covering frozen sections may need to come in after hours, and implementation of an autopsy call is being discussed. On the clinical pathology service, residents typically take call a week at a time and average 2-3 calls per week.

### **Do residents preview surgical pathology slides?**

Inpatient and large outpatient cases are signed out on a three-day cycle. Residents have the day after they gross in the specimens to preview cases. They also cover frozen sections on this day. Residents sign out inpatient cases with attending pathologists on the third day of the three-day cycle. Biopsies are signed out on a two-day cycle the afternoon of the day after the specimens are grossed in. In order to give residents adequate time to preview cases, the residents gross in less than half of the department's surgical pathology volume. Pathology Assistants and the Surgical Pathology Fellows gross in the remaining cases.

### **Do residents have time for research?**

Elective time in the fourth year may be used for research. Residents also conduct research during rotations. At our last accreditation, we were commended for the productivity of our residents related to research. Over the past year, residents presented or published over 15 abstracts and manuscripts.

### **How many residents are you taking this year?**

We are a four-year program approved for a total of 12 residents. Because some residents are "off cycle," we do not always take three residents per year, and sometimes have openings mid-year. We accepted 4 positions through the match in 2009.

### **Is there a "cut off" for USMLE scores?**

There is no "cut off", but USMLE scores are considered in ranking applicants. Applicants chosen to interview for positions typically have USMLE scores that are better than the 80th percentile.

### **Do you accept international graduates?**

International graduates are considered. The same criteria that we use when ranking graduates of US medical schools are applied to international graduates.

### **Do you take residents outside of the Match?**

We do not have any open positions at this time.

### **Can I train only in anatomic pathology or only in clinical pathology?**

We are a combined AP/CP program. We do not offer AP only or CP only training.

## How do I get additional information?

For additional information, please contact the Pathology Residency Coordinator, Justin Gomes, at (252) 847-4951 or via e-mail at [gomesj@ecu.edu](mailto:gomesj@ecu.edu).



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**The information provided is accurate as of June 1, 2009. Program policies may change. Please contact Justin Gomes, at 252-847-4951, should you have any questions.**

## *Recent Graduates & Fellowships*

*Aruna Dash, MD*  
*Vanderbilt University*  
*Renal Pathology Fellowship*  
*Nashville, TN*

*J. Brently Davis, MD*  
*Forensic Medical Management Services, PLC*  
*Forensic Pathology Fellowship*  
*Nashville, TN*

*Thomas Kocher, MD*  
*University of Washington*  
*Hematopathology Fellowship*  
*Seattle, WA*

*Christopher Lochmuller, MD*  
*University of New Mexico*  
*Forensic Pathology Fellowship*  
*Albuquerque, NM*

*Ronald Mageau, MD*  
*Virginia Commonwealth University*  
*Hematopathology Fellowship*  
*Richmond, VA*