

# TRANSPLANT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

University of Nebraska Medical Center

The transplant fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center is a two-year training program, which is approved by the American Society of Transplant Surgeons with the objective to develop proficiency in the surgical and medical management of patients with endstage diseases amenable to transplantation. This is a clinical fellowship in which the transplant fellows have the responsibilities for the care of both adult and pediatric patients in both on the ward and in the intensive care units. We also have a xenotransplant program, which is being initiated in large animals, and it is anticipated that the fellows will have an active role in this as well.

Typically, the first year of the fellowship program is spent on the kidney and pancreas service. At this time, the fellow gains experience in taking care of the patients following kidney and pancreas procedures as well as seeing patients in the clinic. Surgically, the fellow will become experienced and qualified to perform kidney and pancreas transplant procedures. Approximately 80 kidney transplants and 20 pancreas transplants are performed per year. The fellow will be involved in virtually all cases. The fellow also at this time develops expertise in the performance of multiple organ donor procedure. Also, numerous donor operations, including multiple organ donor retrievals, will be performed. Associated with this first part of the fellowship are numerous conferences including a weekly Transplant Patient Evaluation Conference and weekly Transplant Research Conference.

The second half of the fellowship program is mostly spent on the liver and intestinal transplant service. This service incorporates both adult and pediatric transplantation. It is anticipated during this time that the fellow will build on his or her previous training experience and work towards performing adult liver transplant procedures on an independent basis. The fellow will also gain extensive experience in intestinal and pediatric liver transplantation. We perform about 100 liver transplants and 20 intestinal transplants per year. Also, numerous donor operations, including multiple organ donor retrievals, will be performed. The fellow will also have a moderate amount of exposure and experience in the performance of numerous hepatobiliary surgical procedures (about 30 to 40 per year). The fellow is also responsible for the care of all the in-hospital patients, which include a number of adult and children intensive care unit patients. Associated with the second half of the fellowship program, are numerous conferences including weekly Transplant Research Conference, bi-weekly Histology Conference, weekly Transplant Patient Evaluation Conference, and weekly Inpatient and Outpatient Meetings.

We train transplant surgeons who not only are well versed in the technical aspects of procurement and transplantation and the immediate post-operative care of the transplant recipient, but also in the intricacies of immunosuppression and long-term care of the transplant recipient. Also, fellows will have an intimate acquaintance with the laboratory and radiologic procedures used in the diagnosis of rejection, infection, and other problems. In addition, we require fellows to participate in research projects to fully complete their exposure to the science of transplantation. During this time at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, it is anticipated that the fellow will complete one or two clinical papers per year.

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