

Department of Anesthesiology: Regional Anesthesiology and Acute Pain Medicine
Fellowship

Curriculum for Research Elective Rotation

Description of Educational Experience

The Research Elective Rotation is a 1-month rotation that the fellows can rotate through during their fellowship training. During this time, fellows have the opportunity to design and augment a longitudinal research project. Fellows who participate in the research elective must have a pre-approved research plan and concrete goals. Research may be clinical, bench, or educational. The fellow will write a scientific abstract and submit to a regional or national research meeting prior to the conclusion of the rotation.

1. Patient Care and Procedural Skills

Goal

The fellow must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. By the end of the rotation, the fellow will be expected to:

Competencies/Objectives

- Use one's experiences in caring for patients to develop research questions
- Consider health care delivery, management of specific disease processes, screening for diseases or other aspects of health care as an area to study
- Demonstrate competence by following standards for patient care and established guidelines and procedures for patient safety, error reduction, and improved patient outcomes

2. Medical Knowledge

Goal

The fellow must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social behavioral sciences, as well as the applications of this knowledge to patient care. By the end of the rotation, the fellow will be expected to:

Competencies/Objectives

- Generate patient-centered clinical questions to drive knowledge acquisition when designing a research study
- Identify and efficiently locate the best available information resources to address one's question in developing a research project
- Select the appropriate study design to answer one's question
- Know the indications for IRB approval including studies using patients, patient medical records, and other data specifically to patients that can compromise confidentiality

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3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Goal

The fellow must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning. By the end of the rotation, the fellow will be expected to:

Competencies/Objectives

- Compare one's data to that previously collected and determine the differences
- Read current literature to substantiate one's findings
- Determine the application to patient care that one's study has and describe how patient care can be changed accordingly

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Goal

The fellow must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals. By the end of the rotation the fellow will be expected to:

Competencies/Objectives

- Discuss project with advisor and appropriate consultants including statisticians and other specialists in research design and or scientific knowledge
- Present one's project as a forum at its conclusion
- Write a scientific abstract and submit to a regional or national research meeting
- Strive to write one's project into a scientific paper at the conclusion of the project

5. Professionalism

Goal

Fellows must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles. By the end of the rotation, the fellow will be expected to:

Competencies/Objectives

- Respect patients' privacy of medical information in performing research
- Understand the function of an IRB and how it serves to protect patients
- Discuss the ethics of research, including subject recruitment, informed consent, patient privacy and the role of Institutional Review Boards
- In performing research that involves seeking information from patients and their families, respect privacy in obtaining such information

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- Be honest in one's report of data
- Present data in aggregate manner to eliminate identification of specific patients in one's report

6. Systems Based Practice

Goal

Fellows must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care. By the end of the rotation, the fellow will be expected to:

Competencies/Objectives

- Understand the costs of research
- Determine the best methods of performing research within the constraints of residency and the medical system
- Understand when research is appropriate and when it is not; considering the health of the patient, his/her understanding of the project
- Advocate for research to promote understanding of various disease processes or ways to deliver care

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Teaching Methods
Didactic Lecture
Problem Based Learning Discussions
Reading Assignments
Written QI Projects

Assessment Method (fellows)
Each resident must complete a QI project that must be submitted in writing to the Program Director for evaluation
Performance on written examinations
360 evaluations
Self and portfolio evaluation
Simulation and OSCE scenario
Direct Observation