

Frequently Asked Questions

1. In what settings do the pediatric pathology fellowship graduates find employment?

Pediatric pathologists are employed in stand-alone Children's Hospitals, University hospitals and private groups.

2. Is there a board certification in the specialty of pediatric pathology?

Yes, the American Board of Pathology offers an examination every year. Graduating fellows who successfully pass that exam are awarded an ABP Diploma that is valid for 10 years.

3. What is the salary of a pediatric pathologist?

This is quite variable and depends on the type of practice (private group versus Children's Hospital versus University Hospital). In general for a recent graduate of a pediatric pathology fellowship program with no prior experience, and a full-time appointment, the range could be 120-170,000 USD per annum. For a pediatric pathologist who has been in practice for 10 years, the salary range for a full-time appointment could be 190,000-240,000 USD per annum. Pathologists without an ABP board certification tend to get a lower compensation.

4. What does the curriculum of a pediatric pathology fellowship program look like?

A Fellow can expect to be on surgical pathology service for majority of the time as the ACGME requires trainees to work on 2000 surgical cases and 50 frozen sections. Autopsies comprise a second major component to fulfill the ACGME requirement of 40 autopsies. In addition to the above, various Programs have a mix of cytogenetics, clinical pathology, molecular genetics, subspecialty rotations of GI, neuropathology, hematopathology, renal pathology, dermatology and others. The mix of additional rotations is mostly dependent on the Institution where the Fellowship is based.

5. What is the gender distribution of trainees entering pediatric pathology?

Each year can be different in terms of the ratio of females to males entering the pediatric pathology fellowship programs. For the 2011-12 class, the female to male ratio was 1.4 to 1

6. How many programs in the US do currently offer ACGME-accredited fellowship training in pediatric pathology?

There are 21 programs that offer mostly 1 position per year and rarely 2 -3 positions per year in the US. For contact information of these programs please check item III of the Fellowship webpage of this site.

7. Are there research opportunities in pediatric pathology?

The field of pediatric pathology provides abundant opportunities for a curious mind to undertake research. With the explosion of genomics and proteomics there are now new tools to perform research. In several instances even without the aid of sophisticated molecular or ultrastructural tools, researchers have uncovered valuable information pertaining to pediatric pathology. Some Fellowships offer a second year which is largely research oriented with a few interspersed pathology service rotations.