UAB Infectious Diseases Fellowship Goals and Objectives
All Years
“Getting the Most Out of Your Fellowship”

Goal of UAB Infectious Diseases (ID) Fellowship

The overall goal of ID fellowship is to expand infectious diseases knowledge and clinical management skills in diverse aspects of infectious diseases. All fellows will embark on scholarly activities in preparation for their next post-fellowship step, whether it is a focus on clinical education, clinical/translational/benchacademic research focus, public health, or industry. All ID fellows will be expected to be productive in ID scholarly activities, with presentation of their investigations at local and/or national meetings and conferences, resulting in publications. This will assure that all ID fellows gain expertise in networking within the local and national infectious diseases cadre of physicians who have selected ID as their chosen career. A minimum of two years ACGME clinical activity is required to meet the ID ABIM board requirement.

The UAB School of Medicine/Department of Medicine Infectious Diseases Fellowship Training Program is a two-year program, with the option of additional one to two years of formal training for fellows who are interested in academic research. Our clinical training and faculty promote the achievement of ACGME Milestones across the six core competencies as fellows transition from an early infectious diseases subspecialty learner up to and beyond that expected for unsupervised practice. Hospital- and ambulatory-based clinical training occurs primarily over the first two years, with flexibility in the schedule for unique goals of our trainees. Trainees work with ID attending, residents and students on inpatient ID/General Medicine services and three ID consulting services. Trainees participate in several outpatient clinics focusing on HIV/AIDS, STD, transplant/immunocompromised host, tuberculosis, general infectious diseases and travel medicine. Division-wide conferences are held weekly. All ID fellows are expected to participate in mentored scholarly activities throughout fellowship. Areas of focus for clinical research are virology including antiviral therapy, mycology including antifungal therapy, vaccines, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV and AIDS, international medicine, and opportunistic infections in compromised hosts such as transplant recipients and AIDS patients. Opportunities for in-depth translational and bench laboratory experiences in molecular virology, immunopathogenesis of disease, genetic markers of disease, microbial resistance, etc., are also available with faculty preceptors or mentors located either within the ID Division, or in other Medicine divisions or other departments. We provide opportunities for fellows to receive training through Masters programs (MPH or MSPH) at the UAB School of Public Health including structured curriculum via multiple existing long-standing funded T-32 training grants within/outside of ID at UAB.

The UAB ID Fellowship training program is a legacy program for the entire region and country. Many of the leaders in Infectious Diseases were trained at UAB dating back to the training era of internal medicine by Dr. Tinsley Harrison. We have high-acuity complex inpatient populations, cutting-edge technology, world-class ID leadership who write national/international treatment guidelines and textbooks/websites, breadth across all disciplines within Infectious Diseases subspecialties, and robust ambulatory training in general ID, HIV/HCV, STD, Transplant/IC Host, Travel/Global Health, AFB/MOTT/MDR-TB, Pediatric elective at Children’s Hospitals.
The overall over-arching goals of our comprehensive ID fellowship training program are to:

1. Develop clinical proficiency in the diagnosis, management, and prevention of infectious diseases by expanding broad knowledge and clinical management skills in diverse aspects of ID within both the hospital and outpatient settings.

2. Assist with understanding the approaches and tools of modern clinical, translational, and basic research, including providing opportunities for robust scholarly activities and research investigation.

3. Develop fellows to achieve their individualized career goals. We wish to support both clinician-educators (years 1 and 2), as well as those interested in an academic research career (optional years 3 and 4) with the overall goal being the opportunity to groom academic ID physician-scientists leaders for tomorrow.

4. Ensure ongoing program improvements via program evaluation and by provision of rigorous clinical training and dedicated scholarly activity/research mentorship to guarantee our trainees’ success.