

Why choose UAB for your Pulmonary and Critical Care training?

2015 Highlights from the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine

Thank you for your interest in our fellowship program. These are exciting times for us and this document is meant to give you an update on some of the new initiatives and programs our division has established during the last few years.

The UAB Department of Medicine is one the largest and most diverse in the Nation. In 2014, our Department ranked 18th nationally in with over \$70 million in NIH funding, ahead of institutions such as Northwestern, University of Chicago, Harvard, and Emory. The UAB Tinsley Harrison. Internal Medicine Residency Program attracts stellar candidates from medical schools across the country, and our division has been recognized for **21 years in a row as the best in education.**

Our Division has been training generations of pulmonary and critical care specialists for more than 40 years. Our graduates are highly competitive for private practice positions. In recent years, many have been very successful in pursuing academic careers. We are proud to offer a rigorous and broad clinical training along with ample opportunities for mentored projects in quality improvement as well as bench, translational and clinical research. The excellence of our clinical and clinical research programs have been recognized with our selection to membership in the NIH-funded COPD and IPF Clinical Research Networks (COPDnet and IPFnet, respectively) as well as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Therapeutics Development Network and the Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Clinical Care Network. Many of our faculty serve in a number of NIH study sessions and advisory panels, and hold leadership positions at ATS, ACCP, and other professional organizations.

Clinical Programs

Our faculty has grown to more than 50 members. We have recently recruited faculty from prestigious institutions such as Harvard University, University of Colorado/National Jewish Health, Iowa University and the Cleveland Clinic. The Division has also matriculated UAB fellows into both research and clinical positions. These talented individuals are enhancing our pool of potential mentors for our present and future fellows.

Our lung transplant program has new surgical leadership and is on track to perform more than 30 transplants this year. The fellows now have the opportunity of being exposed to all aspects of the lung transplantation process: evaluating patients in pre- and post-transplant clinics, managing post transplantation ICU care, and participating in organ procurement and harvesting. Moreover, the Advanced Lung Disease Service staffed by our lung transplant faculty is one of the busiest ECMO providers in the Nation.

Fellows gain expertise in the breadth of critical care medicine through our critical care rotations. At University Hospital, a fellow and faculty attending are paired with each of the two-housestaff teams. Fellows also have the opportunity to work with our ICU nurse practitioner service, where an upper level fellow has graduated autonomy with appropriate attending supervision, oversight, and a focus on more fellow-centric education. Our fellows rotate in the VA ICU, nested into the housestaff team. Fellows gain experience in airway management during dedicated rotations with the rapid response team. These experiences, combined with formal training and didactics in complex airway problems and ICU-related ultrasonography, create an excellent platform for clinical training in critical care medicine. For those interested in ICU-related quality and process improvement projects, there is opportunity for involvement in these endeavors.

We are expanding our interventional capabilities with a nearly 1 million dollar capital upgrade pending for our inpatient bronchoscopy suite. Our Interventional Bronchoscopy Program allows trainees to be exposed to a number of different techniques in advanced bronchoscopy such as endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS), medical thoracoscopy, and bronchial thermoplasty (BT). Established clinical programs in environmental medicine, COPD, interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, mycobacterial infections, and lung cancer allow our fellows to have a deep and diverse exposure to all aspects of pulmonary medicine.

First year fellows are now paired with a senior fellow and faculty mentor. This facilitates training in ICU-related procedures and helps the junior fellow to efficiently devise a self-learning plan and to eventually identify a mentor for either a research or a quality improvement project.

Research Programs

Our NIH-funded T-32 *Training Program in Lung Biology and Translational Medicine* provides multidisciplinary training in a stimulating and collaborative environment that nurtures the development of highly competent and innovative biomedical research scientists. The program supports 2-3 years of structured and rigorous research training for M.D. or Ph.D. postdoctoral fellows. The multidisciplinary nature of the proposed training is fostered by the diversity of over 20 faculty mentors who hold primary appointments in nine UAB departments. Selected fellows interested in an academic career may be able to seek Masters' level degrees in Public Health or Physiology as part of their career development plan.

Additionally, our division has a well-organized biospecimen repository as well as a comprehensive clinical database that are available to support both fellow and faculty-initiated research projects.

A few years ago, the NIH established a new funding mechanism called "Program Project Grants" believing that "a collaborative research effort can accelerate the acquisition of knowledge more effectively than a simple aggregate of research projects that have no

interaction or thematic integration”. These are high profile, multi-investigator grants and our Division had successful applications for one themed around COPD and another one themed around IPF.

In summary, our diverse clinical programs and our enhanced research portfolio offer ample opportunities to support the career development of physicians seeking training in pulmonary and critical care. Please feel free to learn more about our program by visiting our website (www.uab.edu/medicine/pulmonary) and we are looking forward to hearing from you soon!