

Endocrinology Subspecialty Training Program

Reproductive Endocrinology: Goals and Objectives

Description

The University of Florida-Jacksonville Endocrinology Educational Program is a two-year program encompassing both clinical and research experiences. A rotation for second year fellows includes up to one block (4 weeks) at the Brown Fertility Clinic. Fellows have ambulatory care responsibilities and participate in the evaluation and management of patients with reproductive disorders under the guidance of Board Certified reproductive endocrinologists. Instruction methods include direct instruction in the clinic of the faculty member, core curriculum conferences and weekly case conferences. Evaluation methods include direct observation and feedback at the time of the encounter and the month end evaluation.

Overall Program Goals

The goals of the University of Florida Jacksonville Endocrinology Subspecialty Training Program at Brown Fertility Clinic are:

1. Provide comprehensive instruction and experience in clinical reproductive endocrinology, including evaluation and treatment of disorders of the hypothalamus, pituitary, thyroid, gonadal, and adrenal glands, as well as diabetes mellitus, obesity, dyslipidemias, neuroendocrine diseases, and metabolic disorders sufficient for the fellow to acquire additional education in the field of reproductive endocrinology.

Medical Knowledge

Goal

Fellows must acquire knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, as well as apply this knowledge to patient care.

Specific objectives:

1. Fellows are expected to:
 - a. Explain biochemistry and physiology, including cell and molecular biology, as related to endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism, and will be expected to:
 1. Illustrate genetic concepts as they relate to endocrine diseases and reproduction.
 2. Describe developmental endocrinology, including growth and development, sexual differentiation, and pubertal maturation.
 3. List endocrine abnormalities that prevent conception and normal childbirth
2. Safely and effectively evaluate and manage hormonal disorders including diseases, infections, neoplasms and other causes of dysfunction of the following endocrine organs:

- a. hypothalamus and pituitary;
 - b. thyroid;
 - c. adrenal cortex and medulla;
 - d. ovaries and testes; and
3. Select appropriate utilization and interpretation of clinical laboratory, radionuclide, and radiologic studies for the diagnosis and treatment of endocrine and metabolic diseases, as well as knowledge of basic laboratory techniques, including quality control, quality assurance, and proficiency standards as they specifically relate to reproductive patients at different stages of pregnancy.

Patient Care

Goal

Fellows must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health in male and female reproductive subjects.

Specific objectives:

Fellows must develop an evaluation and management plan for endocrinologic diagnosis and treatment and must be able to order and interpret appropriate laboratory tests and imaging procedures with the following specific objectives:

1. Fellows will develop skills in the evaluation and management of hormonal problems including diseases, infections, neoplasms and other causes of dysfunction of the following endocrine organs which have a particular bearing on fertility:
 - a. Hypothalamus and pituitary
 - b. Thyroid gland
 - c. Adrenal cortex and medulla
 - d. Ovaries and testes
2. Fellows will develop skills in the evaluation and management of type 1 and type 2 diabetes as they relate to reproduction:
 - a. Acute, life-threatening complications of hyper- and hypo-glycemia
 - b. Intensive management of glycemic control in the ambulatory setting
 - c. Diabetes detection and management during pregnancy
 - d. Principles of patient diabetes education and management programs
 - e. Fellows will develop skills in the formulation of a evaluation and management plan for multifactorial disorders associated with hormonal regulation including:

1. Disorders of fluid, electrolyte, and acid-base metabolism
2. Endocrine adaptations and maladaptations to systemic diseases
3. Endocrine aspects of psychiatric diseases
4. Nutritional disorders of obesity, anorexia nervosa, and bulimia
5. Genetic screening and counseling for endocrine and metabolic disorders

Technical and Other Skills:

1. Fellows will develop skills in the performance of the following:
 - a. Interpretation of laboratory studies, including the effects of pregnancy and nonendocrine disorders on these studies.
 - b. Discuss with patients the effects of endocrine disorders on developing fetus.
 - c. Interpretation of radiologic and imaging studies for diagnosis and treatment of endocrine and metabolic diseases.

Practice- Based Learning and Improvement

Goal

Fellows must safely and effectively investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to improve continuously patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning. Fellows are expected to develop skills and habits to be able to:

Specific objectives:

1. Fellows will:
 - a. Locate, appraise and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their infertile patients' health problems and use information technology to optimize learning (e.g., computer based information systems).
 - b. Describe ways to systematically analyze practice, using quality improvement methods, and implement changes with the goal of practice improvement
2. Fellows are expected to review current literature and apply evidence-based medical practices in the care of patients.
3. All fellows will attend conferences at Jacksonville Center for Reproductive Medicine.

4. Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits in one's knowledge and expertise of reproductive endocrinology;
5. Set learning and improvement goals; identify and perform appropriate learning activities;
6. Systematically analyze practice, using quality improvement methods, and implement changes with the goal of practice improvement;
7. Participate in the education of patients, families, fellows and other health professionals.

Systems Based Practice

Goal

Fellows must practice 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.

Specific objectives:

1. Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to a systems based issue that influences patient care.
2. Describe ways to analyze systematically the elements in the process, using quality improvement methods.
3. Utilize patient resources within the community relevant to needs of patients with diabetes and disorders of the endocrine system (e.g., educational resources, consumer organizations, advocacy and support groups, and professional societies)
4. Retrieve patient records and laboratory data from within the local system, and from referring health care providers, or previous and concurrent sites of patient care.
5. Learn appropriate avenues for obtaining laboratory and imaging tests and recommended therapies for patients belonging to contracted health management organizations and insurance providers.
6. Participate as a team member in situations requiring interdisciplinary patient care in outpatient settings.

Professionalism

Goal

Fellows commit to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.

1. Fellows are expected to render:
 - a. Compassion, integrity, and respect for others

- b. Responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest
- c. Respect for patient privacy and autonomy
- d. Accountability to patients, society, and the profession
- e. Sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation
- f. Commitment to scholarship through presentations of conferences, literature reviews, or publications related to personal research and clinical cases.
- g. Development of effective teaching skills for instruction of patients, peers, and other health care professionals through conference presentations and on an individual level.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Goal

Fellows must practice interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and teaming with patients, their families, and professional associates.

Specific objectives:

1. Fellows are expected to:
 - a. Communicate effectively with patients and families across a broad range of maturity, socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
 1. Use simple nontechnical language for oral and written communications and instructions
 2. Use appropriate interpreters for language barriers and/or sensory impairments
 - b. Communicate effectively with physicians, other health professionals, and health related agencies
 1. Write timely, appropriately comprehensive consultation notes and letters with clear assessments and management plans.
 2. Write or relay unambiguous orders, instructions, and recommendations.
 - c. Maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records