VETERINARY ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY
2008

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Biomedical Sciences
THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The Section of Pathology supports a residency program in anatomic pathology. This program is designed to address the national need for veterinary diagnostic pathologists, preparing competitively selected veterinarians for their careers by providing disciplinary skills and efficiency in modern pathology. The rigorous training consists of rotating exposure to the extensive case material available through the necropsy, surgical pathology, and clinical pathology laboratories.

Learning via responsibility for diagnostic case work is supplemented by slide seminars, lectures, diagnostic journal clubs, tutorials, and rotation through specialty service laboratories in the Section of Pathology and the AHDC. Summer program courses are conducted in topics such as diagnostic electron microscopy, immunohistochemistry, in situ hybridization, laboratory animal pathology, and toxicology pathology. The time spent in the residency program is determined by the entry-level skill of the resident and disciplinary competence is the primary training goal. An applicant to the program with no prior training in veterinary pathology would seek admittance as first-year resident. Others, with some previous experience, would apply for appointment at the second-year level.

The residency in anatomic pathology is a three year program. During this time, the trainee receives comprehensive exposure in anatomic pathology and acquires considerable skills in the recognition and description of pathologic lesions, the formulation of morphologic diagnoses, the correlation of antemortem functional changes with postmortem structural alterations, and the conceptual approach to understanding the pathologic expression of a wide variety of disease processes affecting the common animal species. One outstanding third year resident may be appointed Senior Resident, which is a position with some autonomy. This is decided by the faculty toward the end of year two of training.

Residents are required to attend and actively participate in the departmental and extra-departmental educational programs as described in this section. The general schedule for fall and spring semesters appears below. During scheduled school vacation periods, all seminars are usually cancelled unless make-up or special seminars are schedules. During the summer months, a special schedule will be announced for departmental seminars. Faculty critique and evaluation of residents’ performance during the seminar series provides a major source of information for the annual evaluation of the progress being made by each resident. This ongoing review determines in part the reappointment potential of each trainee at the end of year one and year two.
Seminar in Surgical Pathology
Fall and spring terms, 1 credit. For residents and graduate residents. Seminar, Tuesday @ 8:00 a.m., Dr. Schlafer and staff.
The major objective of this course is to introduce the resident to the microscopic features of surgical pathology. Selected material from the Surgical Pathology Service or from personal collections is prepared by the faculty member in charge (on a rotational schedule) and offered in advance for independent review by the residents. In addition, appropriate guest lecturers cover specific areas of interest and special topics not encountered in the departmental service program. Residents will be asked to submit board-quality descriptive pathologic reports for critique by the faculty.

Gross Pathology Rounds: “Show and Tell”
Interesting gross specimens from the week’s necropsy case material are presented by the pathologist and residents on duty, affording opportunity for discussions of disease mechanisms and often correlative clinical impressions from attending clinicians.

Avian and Exotic Animal Rounds
Dr. Buckles, faculty and residents discuss clinical and pathological aspects of diseases of avian species, zoo species, exotic animals, reptiles, etc. The Wildlife Medicine faculty, residents and students are invited.

Tumor Board
Pathology faculty and other members of the tumor board invite speakers from the College to discuss research studies, clinical management, pathology, surgery, etc. related to neoplastic diseases. This meeting is organized with assistance from the oncology section from CUHA.

General Pathology Review/Veterinary Pathology Journal Club
Following the first eight chapters of the R & C book, the discussion of the journal club focuses on specific topics, ranging from basic science to clinical studies. Each resident is required to organize the session twice a year, in coordination with Dr. Alcaraz.

Reproductive Pathology Rounds
Dr. Schlafer presents various topics with examples of gross and microscopic pathology. Theriogenology clinicians provide the clinical perspective.
AFIP Slide Seminar Review
Review of the AFIP Wednesday Slide seminar lets us see cases not seen in our diagnostic service, such as exotic or foreign animal diseases or spontaneous cases of new diseases occurring in other geographic areas. This collection allows us to keep up-to-date in the knowledge and understanding of anatomic pathology.

Residents’ Seminars
Each year of the residency program, each trainee will be expected to deliver a scholarly presentation to faculty and peers. Presentations will be prepared under the guidance of a faculty advisor.

Departmental Seminars; Special Seminars
Presentations and lectures by local or visiting scientists are offered regularly at the veterinary school and elsewhere on the Cornell campus. Each resident is encouraged to attend as often as his/her schedule permits.

Senior Seminar
Required of all fourth-year veterinary residents. Oral presentation of three clinical cases in an atmosphere in which discussion and exchange of ideas is created and fostered.

The College of Veterinary Medicine
The teaching, research, and service programs of the College of Veterinary Medicine are recognized as among the best in the world. Each mission supports the others and contributes to the vitality of the program as a whole. A staff of almost 900 now supports the college’s programs. The college’s instructional activities include the professional degree (DVM) program for 320 men and women, graduate programs leading to a master’s or PhD degree in the graduate fields of veterinary medicine, immunology, physiology, environmental toxicology, and others for another 115 students, and intern and residency programs in the Section of Pathology and the Department of Clinical Sciences that educate approximately 30 DVMs for advanced training in clinical areas. For more information, please visit the college website: http://www.vet.cornell.edu
The Pathology Diagnostic Units

The Section of Pathology has two diagnostic service units: Necropsy and Surgical Pathology.

Necropsy Service

The Necropsy Service performs approximately 800 autopsies per year on a variety of vertebrate animals. Accessions are from the Cornell University Hospital for Animals (CUHA) and its various sections, laboratory animals and research animals, and cases from practicing veterinarians of the state of New York, accessioned through the Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC). Necropsies are performed conjointly by pathology residents and senior veterinary residents under the close supervision and guidance of a faculty member.

Surgical Pathology Service

The Surgical Pathology Service receives approximately 5,500 specimens per year. These accessions include biopsy materials as well as individual or multiple tissues and organs. Eighty-five percent of the surgical cases are submitted through the AHDC and the remainder through the CUHA. The Surgical Pathology Service is supported by state-of-the-art histopathology laboratories. In addition to routine H&E sections, these laboratories perform histochemical tests, as well as immunohistochemistry; in situ hybridization techniques are being developed.

The Diagnostic Laboratory

The Section of Pathology service units enjoy a close working relationship with the AHDC, which is located in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Together, these diagnostic support laboratories provide laboratory analyses and consultation on diagnostic and field problems and assist practicing veterinarians and the animal industries they serve. The AHDC consists of the divisions of clinical pathology, bacteriology, brucellosis, virology, toxicology, automated serology, endocrinology, parasitology, and field services/extension for testing, consultation, and field outbreak investigation as well as preventive and disease surveillance programs. The laboratory conducts approximately 700,000 tests per year. Research is conducted on new test development, pathogenesis, epidemiology, and preventive health programs. The AHDC also provides testing for disease surveillance and control programs for such diseases as bovine brucellosis and equine infectious anemia for the...
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The laboratory has cooperated with the state animal industries and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to provide a disease-eradication and certified-disease-free heard program for cattle, sheep, goats, and horses. This program includes the following diseases: paratuberculosis (Johne’s disease), bluetongue disease, bovine leukosis, and potamac horse fever.

Clinical Pathology Service

The Clinical Pathology Service operates in the AHDC, with a faculty of three ACVP-boarded clinical pathologists. It offers routine diagnostic tests in hematology, clinical chemistry, microbiology, immunology, and cytology, providing these services to clients in the CUHA, in New York State, and throughout the country. Clinical Pathology also works with researchers at the college and in industry on drug-related projects and performs most of the laboratory tests required for patients in the CUHA.
APPLYING TO THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Potential applicants are encouraged to apply well in advance of the November 1st deadline. All applicants MUST submit:
(1) current curriculum vitae including your current mailing and email addresses
(2) one page brief statement as to career goals and availability
(3) sealed official transcript(s) of DVM and higher degree
(4) three letters of reference
(5) completed “Application Face Page” - you can download and print this document from [http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/pathology/residency.htm](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/pathology/residency.htm) (Adobe Acrobat Reader required).

Applicants whose primary language is not English must provide proof of competency in English by submitting an official TOEFL test score issued from ETS (university code 2098; department code# 60). Please note that it takes 3-4 weeks for our office to receive it through ETS.

Please mail residency application materials to:

Dr. Donald Schlafer  
Director of Residency Training  
Department of Biomedical Sciences  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University  
T3004 Veterinary Research Tower  
Ithaca, New York  14853-6401  USA

Application materials are not returned once they are submitted.

Inquiries may be sent by e-mail to ap14@cornell.edu  
Telephone (607)253-3336  
Fax (607) 253-4447.

All documents MUST arrive by the close of business on November 1st for positions beginning the following July. Potential applicants are encouraged to apply well in advance of the November 1st deadline. Please be aware that FedEx and UPS are the only express services that can guarantee door-to-door delivery to our office. The USPS mail posted a week before the deadline is unlikely to arrive at our office in time. Applications from minority groups are particularly encouraged.

Please visit our web site:

[http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/pathology/residency.htm](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/biosci/pathology/residency.htm)

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