The Pathology Laboratory consists of several learning formats; each is a separate entity with different but recurrent themes relating to didactic lecture material.

The following are general guidelines that can be found additionally in more detail in the hardcopy version.

OBJECTIVES:

- Understand basic pathologic terminology and concepts.
- Correlate concepts with both gross and microscopic images.
- Reinforce clinical scenarios and integrate pathophysiologic mechanisms.

The 'Pathology Laboratory' has four components:

1. Laboratory sessions.
2. Clinico-pathologic conferences (CPCs).
3. Small group sessions.
4. Autopsy

A. LABORATORY SESSIONS:

Each session will visually illustrate specific examples of the particular pathologic reactions or organ/system diseases. The intent of these classes is to illustrate gross and microscopic lesions, to review didactic information and to incorporate clinical material. We begin most systemic labs with a short review of normal histology. Some of the slides presented in General Pathology (when we discuss reaction patterns), will again be shown in Systemic Pathology to depict specific disease entities.

All images are taken from the Webpath internet resource. In addition, the specific images covered in each lab can be found at this site accessed under 'Laboratory sessions', are posted on blackboard and can be found in the hardcopy of your Lab Manual.

B. CLINICO-PATHOLOGIC CONFERENCES (CPC's)

CPC's are one of the major teaching activities for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate medical education in most academically-oriented hospitals. Faculty from many departments such as Medicine, Surgery, Oncology, and Pediatrics join us to present interesting cases.

A CPC will commence with 'Clinical Case'. This consists of the clinical presentation, clinical history, physical findings, laboratory data and hospital course. This case will be discussed by the clinician and will include a discussion of the differential diagnosis.

Typically, there are a few unanswered questions and these should be clearly enunciated. The pathologist will review the findings from any pathology specimens or autopsy. This will give insight into the underlying disease and the clinical course and most importantly
explain patho-physiological mechanisms at play. This allows for a scholarly, organized approach to understanding of the disease.

To facilitate clinical problem solving, selected cases from the files of the Department of Pathology have been adapted to a format suitable for students. The entire class will meet as one large group.

The cases are in your laboratory manual and the pathology images of these cases can be accessed in this site under 'CPC's' and are posted on blackboard each quarter.

C. SMALL GROUP SESSIONS:

We will continue our program of small group discussions this year. The course has been formatted such that a given system will begin with didactic lectures to be followed sequentially by a laboratory, CPC and finally dedicated study time and small group discussion.

Small groups will consist of discussion of cases which will highlight the important concepts in a clinical context and bridge the gap between the basic science and clinical medicine. The discussion will be lead by a faculty member from the Department of Emergency Medicine. You are expected to be actively involved in the case discussion. The cases to be discussed are in your laboratory manual and are available on the internet either through the main Online Pathology Manual website (direct links) or DML/educationalsoftware/second year/Interactive Case Study Companion to Robbins Pathologic Basis of Disease.

The software is licensed to GU and access is limited by password:

Login ID: User ID
Password: Your own

Attendance:

Attendance will be taken for each small group session. Each session is worth three points for a total of 24 points that are part of your final grade.

E. AUTOPSY:

Autopsies have been the cornerstone of modern medicine for the past two centuries and continue to provide critical insights into difficult clinical problems. Approximately, 65 autopsies are performed annually at Georgetown. Dr. Marie Pierre-Louis is the interim Chief Medical Examiner for the District of Columbia. Approximately 1300 autopsies are performed annually at the ME Both labs and CPCs make extensive use of visual materials which are posted on the internet. Autopsies will supplement these with a ‘hands on’ experience in pathology.
Students may attend an autopsy at the District of Columbia Medical Examiners Office. Please print the Autopsy Form which can be accessed at this site under 'Autopsy Form' and take it with you to be signed by the Medical Examiner.

**Location:**

The ME office in DC is located at 1910 Massachusetts Ave, SE (17th and Mass) Building 27. Directions and a map are included in the manual. Georgetown medical students should report to the ME office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. A ‘triage conference’ is held at 8:30AM in which the cases of the day are discussed. You should attend this meeting to understand the decision making process.

**Sign Up:**

The rotation will commence the first week of the second quarter and continue through February. Your class officers will be in charge of sign-up procedure. Eight students can attend on any given day.

**Materials:**

You are required to have the following materials before going to the ME:

1. **Scrubs and shoes** (your own). Please note open toed sandals/shoes are unacceptable and violate OSHA regulations – so please do not wear them.

2. **Fit-tested mask.** All students are required to be ‘fit-tested’ for a specific respiratory mask prior to their visit to the medical examiner’s office. This is performed through the Dean’s office. Please save and take the mask with you to the ME office.

3. **Other items** (disposables) will be given to you at the time of ‘fit testing’.
   a. Face mask and eye shield
   b. Shoe covers
   c. Apron
   d. Gloves

**Assignment:**

*Each student is asked to complete a written autopsy report. This will be worth 15 points toward your final grade.*

The autopsy report should consist of the following components:
1. Introduction: Including the patient's age, sex and any pertinent history. Do NOT include the patient's name or date of birth.

2. Findings: Including a description of the body and gross organs.

3. Assessment: Make critical and methodical observations.

4. Pathophysiologic Correlation/Discussion: This is the most important part of the report!! and must be included. Correlate clinical and physical findings and what you have learned about a particular disease. You do not need to worry about the final 'cause of death' if it is not definitely known, however, a succinct discussion of underlying disease mechanisms for your case is mandatory.

5. Please turn in final reports (hand in or email) along with the signed ME form to Dr. Furlong. A final deadline will be issued during the third quarter.

Examples of Autopsy reports can be found in the hardcopy Laboratory Manual.

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