

DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

Forensic Pathology

Course Number	CLNS 874		Duration	4 weeks
Credit Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clinical Elective	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Clinical Elective	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-Internship	<input type="checkbox"/> ICU
Available Blocks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14			
# of Students per Rotation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One	<input type="checkbox"/> Two	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Faculty Evaluator(s)	Hannah Kastenbaum, MD			
Prerequisites	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Phase II Clerkships	<input type="checkbox"/> Department specific clerkship/rotation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Visiting Students Accepted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic MD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Domestic DO	<input type="checkbox"/> International	<input type="checkbox"/> None
Accept Students Off-Cycle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes – with department permission	<input type="checkbox"/> No		
Add/Drop Policy	ADD: 30 days	DROP: 30 days	Other: with permission and notification of clerkship contact and evaluating faculty	
Clerkship Contact(s)	Jeanne Lay	jlay@salud.unm.edu	505-925-0516	

Goals and Unique Aspects:

The goals for this rotation include understanding the many roles of forensic and autopsy pathology in the hospital and community settings. The rotation affords the student the opportunity to review normal anatomy, observe evisceration and organ dissection techniques, learn how different organ systems are affected by common disease processes, and understand the process and importance of death certification and medicolegal death investigation. This rotation is based in the state of the art New Mexico Scientific Laboratories Building which houses the Office of the Medical Investigator. In addition to being one of the most well-established medical examiner offices and forensic pathology training programs in the country, the OMI operates at the cutting edge of forensic medicine by maintaining its own CT and MR scanners and a close relationship to the Department of Radiology for evaluation of injuries and other pathologies in the postmortem setting. Students will have the opportunity to correlate autopsy pathology with the imaging findings and learn about the use of adjunct radiology in forensic autopsy diagnosis.

Objectives:

By the end of this rotation, the medical student will be able to do the following as assessed by daily interactions in morning and afternoon report, the morgue, and other conferences with faculty, residents, and fellows:

1. Explain which cases do or do not fall under the jurisdiction of the OMI and which of those cases require a medicolegal autopsy
2. Begin to formulate a differential diagnosis list and plan for a work-up of an apparent natural death
3. Suggest appropriate scenarios for usage of ancillary studies (radiology, toxicology, etc.)
4. Summarize the differences between a medicolegal and hospital autopsy with particular attention to the issue of consent
5. Define and distinguish between cause, manner, and mechanism of death
6. Compose cause and manner of death statements for natural deaths
7. Describe the basic process of an autopsy

Responsibilities:

Observational: Student attends and participates in daily morning report and observes autopsies subsequently performed. When appropriate, the student may visit scenes of death or accompany faculty to courtroom proceedings. Student attends afternoon report and may present the findings from the case observed. Student has the opportunity for increasing participation in the dissection of an autopsy case.

Teaching: Student has no formal teaching duties. On occasion, she/he may assist with demonstrations for non-physician trainees or conferences for medical personnel.

Required: Student is present daily from 8:00am-5:00pm in the Office of the Medical Investigator, unless specifically excused by the supervising pathologist.

Supervision and Teaching:

Amount and type: Close one-on-one supervision and instruction by the faculty, fellows in forensic pathology, and residents in anatomic pathology. Direct supervision is relatively constant in the autopsy suite, where the student spends approximately half the time. The other half is devoted to directed reading (primarily in forensic pathology) and other activities.

Didactic Content: Required to attend morning and afternoon report, biweekly forensic pathology educational sessions, unknown slide conferences, consensus/case conference, and neuropathology rounds. Staff reviews microscopic slides of selected cases with the student.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be based on performance in the autopsy room, participation during morning and afternoon report, quality of verbal and written reports, participation in conferences, and application of new knowledge from readings and experience at the OMI. To receive an "outstanding" grade, the student must be evaluated as superior by faculty and give a 15 minute presentation on a topic of their choice, based upon an autopsy that was observed/performed during the rotation, during the last week. The presentation should be reviewed beforehand with the attending in charge of the particular autopsy case.

Additional Information:

Suggested reading:

- Dolinak, Matshes and Lew Forensic Pathology, Principles and Practice; Elsevier
- Robbins & Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease; Saunders