2018-2019

Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program

Our mission: to serve, to heal, to educate.
Welcome to Cooper’s Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program

Cooper University Health Care is the largest academic medical center (635-bed) and only Level 1 Trauma Center in southern New Jersey. The medical center serves the needs of a broad patient population consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary medical care. Consumers and physicians recognize the system as being South Jersey’s leading medical center. In annual surveys assessing the region’s medical care, Cooper’s physicians are frequently recognized as “Top Doctors” in their fields. These world-class physicians are the teachers with whom you will interact during your educational experience.

The Division of Infectious Disease is a component of the Department of Medicine. The Department of Medicine at Cooper University Health Care comprises 13 divisions and employs full-time faculty members committed to delivering the finest care to patients as well as providing the best education for our next generation of physicians.

Cooper University Health Care is the major clinical site of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU). All faculty and fellows are intimately involved in the education of CMSRU medical students. Infectious Diseases faculty hold academic appointments at CMSRU.
Educational Experience

The Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Cooper University Health Care is an ACGME-accredited two-year comprehensive clinical program that offers two positions per year. The program has an extremely diverse patient population, which allows fellows to see a wide range of infectious diseases in both the hospital and outpatient settings.

There are two hospital ID consultation services. Each service usually has one attending and one fellow. Other members of the consultation services may include a PharmD, internal medicine and podiatry residents, and medical and pharmacy students. There is a third non-teaching service.

One half-day per week is devoted to a continuity clinic where fellows see general ID or HIV patients. During their ambulatory weeks, fellows also attend two public health clinics where they gain experience in treating tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, and they see outpatients for travel-related evaluations.

Infectious diseases fellows spend one month in the PGY-4 year in the microbiology lab. During the PGY-5 year, fellows spend one month at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) for solid-organ transplant experience. Fellows are active in our antibiotic stewardship program and attend infection prevention committee meetings.

All fellows are required to pursue a scholarly project, which can be a lab-based (Dr. Henry Fraimow maintains an active lab where many fellows have worked) or clinical project, as well as a practice-improvement or quality-improvement project.
Conference Schedule

Didactic conferences are held regularly and include the following:

Management Conference
Cases that pose a diagnostic dilemma or have unusual findings are presented by fellows who then may also discuss a review of the literature and evidence supporting treatment.

Research Conference
Fellows present their research project progress to the faculty and other fellows every four months. This gives them the opportunity to seek additional help with any problems they may be having with their projects and to receive further constructive criticism.

Board Review
During these interactive sessions, ABIM-style questions are used to stimulate discussion of all pertinent aspects of a particular topic. This includes pathophysiology, epidemiology, clinical manifestations, diagnostic approach, prognosis, and evidence-based management of relevant disease processes.

Journal Club
Journal Club is presented by fellows and attendings (alternating). A recent article is reviewed and critically appraised.

Early Intervention Program Multidisciplinary Conference
In continuing its strong commitment to comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and research, the Division of Infectious Diseases features a premiere HIV Early Intervention Program (EIP). The Cooper EIP is 100 percent funded through Ryan White grants administered by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and the New Jersey Department of Health, with research support provided from the National Institute of Health (NIH). Once a week, the clinic staff, which includes administration, nurses, case managers, research staff, psychotherapists, nurse practitioners, fellows and attendings, meet to discuss patients, research and ancillary services. Fellows must be involved with practice improvement projects in the clinic and may present their data and recommendations during this conference. We also invite outside speakers to update us on HIV-related topics.

Summer Core and Didactic Lectures
Each July and August, basic core lectures are given three days per week. From September onward, didactics covering a broad range of topics are given once per week on Fridays.
Cooper Research Institute

Through basic and clinical research, faculty at Cooper University Health Care are bringing scientific discoveries to life with access to cutting-edge treatments in fields such as cancer, cardiology, critical care, diabetes and gene therapy. Cooper faculty members conduct National Institutes of Health (NIH) and industry-sponsored clinical trials each year in South Jersey, many of which are only available at Cooper. Annual NIH and federal grants together with aggregate research funding makes Cooper one of the top regional medical campuses in the country. Past research by Cooper faculty has led to new standards of care and novel therapies in fields such as cancer, cardiology, surgery and orthopaedics.

Coriell Institute of Medical Research

The Coriell Institute for Medical Research is an independent, not-for-profit research organization dedicated to understanding human genetic diseases and providing the highest quality genetic resources. Its affiliation with Cooper University Health Care provides an excellent opportunity to our residents to participate in a variety of basic science research.
Program Leadership

Rosalie Pepe, MD, is Program Director for the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program. Dr. Pepe graduated from Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University (Philadelphia, PA). She completed her residency in internal medicine and fellowship training in infectious diseases at Hahnemann University Hospital (Philadelphia, PA). For more than ten years, she has been a faculty member in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Cooper. Her interests include HIV infection, travel medicine, and quality improvement.

Dana D. Byrne, MD, MSCE is the Associate Program Director for the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program. She is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU). Dr. Byrne attended medical school at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (Camden, NJ) and completed her internal medicine residency and infectious disease fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA).

Dr. Byrne serves as the chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee for Cooper University Health Care and is also a member of the Research Committee at CMSRU. She has completed her Masters of the Sciences in Clinical Epidemiology (MSCE) from the University of Pennsylvania, and has published several first author publications in the last few years. Dr. Byrne received a Cooper Foundation Grant in 2015 for the project “Risk of Severe Liver Injury in Chronic Hepatitis C.” She also has had several poster presentations at national conferences since 2014. She is a co-investigator on several clinic studies at Cooper University Hospital.

Dr. Byrne precepts the general ID fellows clinic. She has interest in antimicrobial stewardship, gram negative resistance, and Hepatitis C.
John D. Baxter, MD, is Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Medical Director of the Early Intervention Program at Cooper University Health Care. He is Professor of Medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Dr. Baxter attended medical school at Pennsylvania State University–Hershey Medical Center and completed his medicine residency at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. He completed his Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program at Cooper University Health Care.

Dr. Baxter has participated in NIH-sponsored HIV clinical trials since 1994, initially as the Southern New Jersey Principal Investigator for the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA), and subsequently for the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG). He currently serves as the Site Leader and Network Laboratory Principal Investigator for the International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT) network.

Dr. Baxter has conducted many research studies in the area of HIV/AIDS, published numerous scientific papers and lectured widely on the subject of HIV clinical management. He has expertise in antiretroviral clinical trials and the clinical application of HIV resistance testing. He was protocol chair of the CPCRA GART study, one of the first studies demonstrating the clinical utility of genotypic resistance testing in patients failing antiretroviral therapy. His research findings have influenced the treatment guidelines for care of HIV-infected individuals.

Dr. Baxter is a member of multiple professional organizations including the American College of Physicians, International AIDS Society, Infectious Diseases Society of NJ, and the Coriell Institute Institutional Review Board. He has served on a number of data safety monitoring boards (DSMBs) and expert guidelines panels. He currently chairs the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) Appointments and Promotions Committee, the Cooper Research Bioethics Committee, and the Cooper Institutional Conflict of Interest Committee.

Dr. Baxter is an award-winning clinician recognized regionally and nationally for his abilities. He has been repeatedly named “Top Doc” in every major publication in the region including Philadelphia Magazine, New Jersey Monthly, South Jersey Magazine, U.S. News and World Report and Inside Jersey Magazine. In addition, he has been recognized as one of the “Best Doctors in America.” Dr. Baxter has a special interest in HIV medical care, HIV drug resistance, HIV clinical trials and general infectious diseases.
The Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program at Cooper University Health Care participates in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Information regarding the ERAS application process and timeline is available on the websites listed below.

**Association of American Medical Colleges**

www.aamc.org/eras

**ERAS Fellowship Document Office**

aamc.org/students/medstudents/eras/fellowship_applicants

ERAS applications must contain the following information in order for your application to be considered:

- Common application form
- Curriculum vitae
- Medical school transcript
- Three original letters of recommendation, one of which must be from your current or most recent training director
- Personal statement describing your training goals and future career plans
- ECFMG certification (IMG Only)
- USLME reports (1, 2 and 3)

**Program Eligibility**

Eligibility for the Infectious Diseases Fellowship requires a minimum of three years of ACGME medical training in internal medicine. Individuals accepted for a position in the fellowship program must be U.S. citizen, classified as a resident alien, or hold a J-1 visa.

Applications are accepted via ERAS starting July 15, 2017 and the application deadline for the 2018-19 academic year is August 31, 2017.
The Cooper Campus and Surrounding Area

It is extraordinary to have such a high concentration of leadership at one institution, but then, Cooper is an extraordinary health care system.

Cooper University Hospital is the center of a growing health sciences campus that includes the hospital, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the internationally acclaimed Coriell Institute for Medical Research, Sheridan Pavilion at Three Cooper Plaza medical offices, and the Ronald McDonald House. Adjacent to the Cooper Plaza/Lanning Square neighborhood, Cooper has a long history of outreach and service efforts to its local community. Some of these initiatives include health and wellness programs for the neighborhood, development of neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and outreach to programs into local schools.

The hospital’s 312,000-square-foot, 10-story Roberts Pavilion features an expansive lobby and concourse, a restaurant and coffee shop, health resource center, business center, gift shop, and chapel. State-of-the-art patient care facilities include private patient rooms, technologically advanced operating room suites with hybrid imaging capabilities, and an advanced laboratory automation facility. The Emergency Department features 25 beds, dedicated isolation suites, and autonomous CT scanning technology. Designated floors serve specific patient populations including those needing advanced surgical and heart care, along with South Jersey’s only dedicated 30-bed inpatient cancer unit.

Also in the Roberts Pavilion is the 25,000-square-foot Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit—featuring 30 private patient rooms equipped with the latest in advanced technology, and allowing 360-degree patient access. Five patient rooms are capable of negative pressure isolation, and five rooms have chambered isolation alcoves. In addition, an enlarged room with operating room caliber lighting is outfitted to perform bedside exploratory laparotomy in patients too unstable for transport to the operating room.

MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, a four-story, 103,050-square-foot center located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in Camden, is dedicated to cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and research. The center includes bright, spacious chemotherapy treatment areas, patient exam rooms, a conference center, and advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies.

The design incorporates an aesthetic approach to healing with abundant natural light, a rooftop Tranquility Garden, an illuminated floor-to-ceiling “Tree of Life” centerpiece, and more than 100 pieces of original art created by 71 New Jersey artists.

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University’s (CMSRU) Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The building, which opened in July 2012, was designed for CMSRU’s curriculum with spaces and technologies to support faculty and students in their educational process.
The Cooper Health Sciences Campus is located in the heart of Camden’s business district. The academic medical center campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation via the commuter high-speed line and bus terminal adjacent to the hospital.

Cooper is a short walk or drive from the exciting Camden waterfront which includes a magnificent waterfront park and marina; the Adventure Aquarium; and the BB&T amphitheater, which hosts nationally renowned entertainment throughout the year. Nearby are the Sixers Training Complex, L3 Communications complex, Lockheed Martin, Rutgers University Camden Campus, and Camden County College. There are expected to be $350M in transportation and infrastructure improvements within the next four- to five-years to handle the influx of thousands of new employees to the area and students at nearby growing academic campuses.

Cooper is conveniently close to Philadelphia. Just a mile-long drive over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge will put you at the doorstep of Philadelphia’s cultural, culinary, and historic venues. South Jersey also offers a range of living and entertainment options. Quaint towns such as Haddonfield and Collingswood are just 10 minutes away. The lights and action of Atlantic City and popular beach towns such as Cape May and Ocean City are a one-hour drive from Cooper.
Cooper Campus Map

The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at:

CooperHealth.org/Directions
World Class Care. Right Here. Right Now.

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