Transplant Rotation

The Kidney Transplant Program at Albany Medical Center has long enjoyed a robust relationship between the Divisions of Nephrology and Transplant Surgery. The renal transplant curriculum and rotation for the nephrology fellows is created with one main objective – to furnish graduating nephrology fellows with the comprehensive knowledge and experience necessary to provide transplant care to patients that is expected of general nephrologists today, and in the future. The rotation and curriculum is designed to cover all aspects of Transplant Nephrology, and provide the fellows experience in the longitudinal care of transplant patients. Some of the features of the program are:

- Albany Medical Center Transplant Program is recognized by the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network as the only 5-Star program in New York State
- Patient and transplant graft survival rates have been consistently recognized by the Organ Procurement and Transplant Network (OPTN) to be among the highest in the nation.
- Comprehensive program with social work, dieticians, pharmacists, and close working relationship with local area nephrologists and dialysis centers.
- Continuity of transplant care – fellows experience includes:
  - Pre-transplant clinics – initial and follow-up evaluations for transplant candidacy
  - Multi-disciplinary transplant candidacy meetings
  - In-patient perioperative medical management and induction immunosuppression.
  - Post-transplant clinics – assess and manage maintenance immunosuppression and complications in recent and remote transplant patients.
- Living donor assessment and follow-up clinics.
- Close academic and research relationship with original research opportunities for fellows. An example of a collaborative research project lead by one of the nephrology fellows:
  - Prospective study to accurately assess renal allograft function in the immediate post-transplant period.
- Prepare interested fellows for a renal transplant fellowship.

The Division of Transplant Surgery also works closely with the Division of Nephrology in the areas of dialysis access and surgical management of patients with secondary and tertiary hyperparathyroidism. As a part of their rotation, nephrology fellows gain exposure to the surgical aspect of arteriovenous fistulas and grafts, peritoneal access evaluations, placement, complications, as well as assessment and post-operative management of patients undergoing parathyroidectomy.