Description of Nephrology Conferences

The Nephrology Fellowship Program has a structured, year-round conference schedule aimed to cover core curriculum topics, as well as provide a forum for renal grand rounds and journal clubs to advance academic learning opportunities for the fellows.

Renal Grand Rounds and case presentations are scheduled on alternate Mondays, weekly didactic curriculum lead by a clinical faculty every Thursday, and a monthly pathology/renal biopsy conference, journal club, board review and review of landmark nephrology studies on subsequent Fridays. Additionally, the Glomerulonephritis Program conducts a Vasculitis conference every 12 weeks, with a collaborative, multispecialty case-based approach.

We also have an introductory “Summer School Series” in the first 2 months of fellowship and cover an array of essential basics in nephrology for the incoming fellows.

Please see the details of each conference.

Grand Rounds:
Each fellow presents 2-3 grand rounds annually. Fellows are encouraged to chose topics that address specific areas of interest within Core Topics in nephrology, i.e. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), CKD complications: Anemia, CKD-Mineral Bone Disease, Hypertension, End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) to enhance a fundamental understanding of these key topics.

Monthly Case Presentation:
Case-based discussion of commonly encountered renal pathology, electrolyte disturbances, dialysis related questions, with the goal of addressing 2-3 key questions with evidence based approach for clinical management.

Pathology conference:
Monthly biopsy conference led by Dr. Llewelyn Foulke, allows fellows adequate training in reviewing renal biopsies. Examples of cases include transplant pathology, acute and chronic rejection, polyoma virus infection, vasculitis cases including ANCA associated vasculitis, lupus nephritis, as well as amyloidosis, immunotactoid, fibrillary and other deposition diseases. Common pathologies such as diabetic and Hypertensive Nephropathy, Acute Interstitial Nephritis, and other pathology related to nephrotic and nephritic syndromes, are also covered.

Didactics Curriculum Conference:
During the 2-year nephrology fellowship, a core nephrology textbook is used as a teaching aid for in-depth discussion of topics. Fellows are expected to prepare in advance for the discussion, and the session is lead by a clinical faculty member. Didactics are targeted to cover ABIM exam content and core nephrology topics in detail.

Board Review:
Monthly board review sessions facilitated by core faculty allows preparation for ABIM Nephrology Board Exams.

Journal Club:
Journal Club meets once a month. The conference is led by one of the four fellows to critically appraise and review recent, leading articles in nephrology.

Critical Appraisal of Landmark Trials:
Faculty-led discussion of historical, landmark studies in nephrology so that the fellows have adequate knowledge and discussions about the trials that shaped the field of nephrology.

Vasculitis Conference:
This is a quarterly, multi-specialty conference and collaborative effort between Rheumatology, Pulmonology and Nephrology. A fellow from each specialty participates in a combined presentation of a challenging case with multi-organ involvement and review of evidence based guidelines and literature to guide patient care. Examples of cases that may be included are ANCA Vasculitis, Anti-GBM Disease, SLE and scleroderma.