

RESEARCH TRACK

A. Overview - Fellows do 2 years of research and one year of clinical training. The clinical year may be done first (year 1) or last (year 3), depending upon the wishes of the fellow and the availability of clinical spots.

B. Research fellowship curriculum for research fellows

(1) Research Sites – Basic or clinical research are conducted at the VA or at University Hospital, depending upon the location of the mentor.

(2) Research Schedule - Research fellows identify a mentor within the first month of their fellowship. Depending upon the fellow's preference and the number of clinical fellows, the research fellow will do their clinical year either at the beginning or the end of their fellowship. Once the fellow starts in the laboratory, they will do this exclusively for two years with the exception that they will maintain a 1/2 day general nephrology continuity clinic throughout their entire fellowship.

(3) Goals and Objectives of Research Program

- a. Understand fundamentals of basic or clinical research. For both clinical and basic research, this includes research design and data analysis (biostatistics). For clinical research, this also includes public policy, economics, health education, designing trials, recruiting subjects and other epidemiology issues, and outcomes analysis.
- b. Gain hands-on experience with conducting a basic or clinical research project including research design (where feasible), conducting the study, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. It is expected that the fellow will generate at least one peer-reviewed original research publication from this work, although this is not a requirement for graduation from the program.
- c. Understand principles of grant writing.
- d. Provide sufficient experience in basic or clinical research to allow Fellows to make an informed decision about their academic career choices.
- e. Provide sufficient exposure to basic or clinical research to allow Fellows to interpret basic and clinical research literature.

(4) Educational Training

- a. Didactic courses
 1. CRC course - Fellows interested in clinical research attend a two day general clinical research course given in August of their first year by the Clinical Research Center at the University of Utah. Topics covered include basics of research design, ethical conduct of research, responsible use of informed consent, data analysis (biostatistics), public policy, economics, health education, designing trials, recruiting subjects and other epidemiology issues, and outcomes analysis.
 2. Division of Nephrology Statistics course – Fellows attend 10 two-hour sessions held on Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 PM dedicated to understanding medical statistics. The course is taught by members of the nephrology division as well as University of Utah statisticians.
 3. Division of Nephrology Clinical Research course – Fellows interested in clinical research attend a one-hour session each month devoted to understanding basics of research design, data analysis (biostatistics), public policy, economics, health education, designing trials, recruiting subjects and other epidemiology issues, and outcomes analysis. The course is run by Dr. Beddhu and is largely based on the JAMA publications devoted to these areas.
- b. The research mentor-Fellow relationship is the primary means by which Fellows will achieve training in basic or clinical research.