

## **Transplant Infectious Diseases Concentration, Clinical Scholars Track UCLA Multi-Campus Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program**

Introduction: The Transplant Infectious Diseases Concentration is designed for fellows who desire a career with a specific focus on solid organ transplant or hematopoietic cell transplant. The UCLA multi-campus program includes clinical services for a range of transplant patients (heart, lung, kidney, liver, pancreas, small bowel, and hematopoietic cell transplant), as well as pre-transplant candidates including mechanical circulatory device recipients. Opportunities for clinical and scholarly work span across the UCLA Westwood and Santa Monica campuses to Cedars Sinai Medical Center. Upon entry into the program, individuals will work with a Transplant ID mentor from within the Division of Infectious Diseases for career mentorship and to design one or more scholarly activities. Fellows participating in this concentration area will be prepared to pursue jobs in transplant infectious diseases. Those individuals desiring an additional year of dedicated transplant clinical training will be well-prepared to embark on this experience and will be equipped to compete for spots in the top programs nationally.

Faculty Director: Joanna Schaenman, MD PhD

Objectives: This concentration aims to promote excellence in the following areas:

1. Clinical knowledge in the care of solid organ and hematopoietic cell transplant recipients including patient care, risks for infection, and interpretation of relevant diagnostic testing results, and care of pre-transplant patients including those on mechanical circulatory devices;
2. Research training in topics important to Transplant ID with a focus on achieving the trainee's career goals;
3. Development of communication skills and professionalism, improved understanding of ethical issues relevant to transplantation;
4. Skills in working with inter-disciplinary transplant teams (surgery, medicine, psychiatry, social workers, UNOS, etc.).

Skills obtained through this concentration will include:

- Knowledge of key resources in Transplant ID including the American Society of Transplantation guidelines;
- Practice base learning through direct patient care as well as participation in faculty-led case-based discussions;
- Understanding the processes of consent, donor, and recipient selection, allocations systems, and considerations regarding limited resource utilization;
- Understanding the structure and function of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network and the United Network for Organ Sharing including the Disease Transmission Advisory Committee;
- Understanding immunosuppression, assessment of immune function, the impact of enhanced immunosuppression, and frailty and immune senescence in the older transplant recipient;

- Identifying the major pathogens of opportunistic and other common infections as well as the major clinical syndromes that occur in solid organ and hematopoietic cell transplant recipients;
- Understanding strategies for prevention of infection and principles of treatment of infections in immunocompromised hosts.

#### Track Activities:

- Fellows will identify a mentor and design and implement a project or scholarly activity. All fellows are encouraged to submit an abstract to IDWeek in the spring of their 1st year with conference funding provided to all fellows with accepted work. Project examples include:
  - Utilization of epidemiologic and statistical methods to answer a question relevant to the field of transplantation using existing clinical data (medical records, databases from completed projects, program data, etc.);
  - Writing a case report or case series;
  - Performing a review of the literature on a transplant ID topic (with submission for publication);
  - Developing Transplant ID curriculum for the fellowship program and performing rigorous evaluation (can be done in conjunction with the medical education concentration area);
  - Performing a Quality Improvement project in an area of need for one of the Transplant ID services.
- Fellows will be encouraged to spend extra time working on inpatient Transplant ID services based on their specific area of interest within the field. Transplant ID inpatient experiences can be added into the first year of training and elective time is available (typically 2-4 weeks) during the second year of training on most of the multi-campus Transplant ID services.
- Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in outpatient Transplant ID clinics during their clinic blocks in both the first and second years (selected half days).
- Fellows will also be encouraged to teach residents and medical students Transplant ID by providing lectures in components of the core curriculum and leading case discussions at conferences.

Resources: UCLA and Cedars Sinai physicians with expertise in Transplant ID, West Coast Transplant Infectious Diseases Group, national Transplant ID meetings/conferences, and online resources including those made available through the American Society for Transplantation (<https://www.myast.org/education>) and the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (<https://www.ishlt.org/guidelines>).

Contact Information: For questions or more information, please contact Dr. Joanna Schaeenman: JSchaenman@mednet.ucla.edu