

UCLA/VA Endocrinology Fellowship Expectations for Scholarly Activity

The overall goal of the endocrine fellowship training program at UCLA is to position our fellows to become leaders in academic medicine, clinical practice, or other career paths in the field of endocrinology. As part of this, the research component of the training program is designed to provide an immersive experience in basic science, clinical, translational, or health services/population-based research concurrent with formal and informal educational opportunities. Through these experiences, fellows will acquire the combination of critical thinking, analytical, and investigative skills, which are essential whether one ultimately pursues an academic career, becomes a practicing clinician in the community, or seeks a position in public health, administration, or industry.

Specific objectives: To achieve this, with the guidance of the program director and associate directors, division chief, and faculty advisors, all fellows are anticipated to accomplish the following through a series of formal and informal didactic and research experiences:

- Learn how to examine and critically analyze the medical and scientific literature;
- Understand various study designs, research methods, and types of data analysis;
- Gather the skills necessary to present your expertise on a given topic, present original data, or summarize published medical and scientific literature.
- As appropriate, learn how to articulate a specific research question and hypothesis, summarize the background literature, choose a study design, analyze data, present results, and formulate conclusions.

Expectations: All fellows are expected to engage in at least one scholarly activity during the course of the two-year fellowship, toward the aim of publishing and/or presenting their work at a national or regional conference. Fellows will work with a faculty mentor with expertise in their field of interest to accomplish their activity. Examples of scholarly activities include:

- Participating in an original research project for publication; projects may include conducting a prospective study, conducting a retrospective chart review, developing and implementing a quality improvement program for a specific clinical problem, or assisting in the conduct of an ongoing clinical trial.
- Writing a book chapter or other review for publication.
- Writing a case report for publication, including *Proceedings of UCLA Health*.

Presentations: All fellows should plan to present a summary of their scholarly activity at the Division of Endocrinology's Grand Rounds at least once during their two-year fellowship. If applicable, fellows should also plan to present their work at a national or regional conference, at the guidance of their mentor.

Protected time: Time to work on scholarly activities will be allotted based on the time needed to complete a given project. Requests for research time should be made one month prior and will be accommodated when fellows are on outpatient blocks, when the fellow is not otherwise scheduled for continuity clinic or VA clinics.

Mentorship: Each fellow will track their progress in meeting these goals through semi-annual meetings with either the program director or an associate program director. In advance of these meeting, fellows are expected to complete a formal evaluation of their scholarly activity, including progress towards the above objectives, evidence of productivity, and overall experience. This does not take the place of ongoing interaction between fellows and their point of contact with either the program director or associate program director throughout fellowship; rather, this provides a formal opportunity to assess the fellow's overall experience and progress at reasonable intervals, which will ensure that each fellow is on track to achieve his/her career goals.

As applicable, the program director or associate program director will arrange fellows to be paired with appropriate research mentors. With their research mentor, fellows are encouraged to formulate additional objectives as appropriate, such as applying for an Endocrine Fellows Foundation grant, writing research protocols, attending training and educational seminars, etc.

Teaching: Fellows are also expected to participate in *formal* educational modules for medical residents and students. Examples include participation in small group discussion sessions during the endocrine blocks for the medical school and presenting lectures during the residents' didactic lecture series.

Timeline:

Year One

- July-October: Fellows are to choose a scholarly activity goal and work with their assigned program director/associate program director to identify potential faculty mentors.
- October 1st: Deadline for each fellow will identify a formal research mentor to work with in completing their scholarly activity. For STAR applicants, submit STAR application if not already done.
- December and June: Meet with assigned program director or associate program director to review progress.

- Remainder of Year One: Make progress in developing, implementing, and completing their planned scholarly activity. For formal research projects, complete the mandatory institution laboratory or human subjects research training (e.g., CITI, DLAM, Biosafety) and submit any IRB or IACUC protocols as necessary.

Year Two

- By December 1st: Definitive plans made to submit research abstract to a national or regional conference for presentation, or to submit scholarly activity for publication.
- January-June: Anticipate presenting a summary of completed scholarly activity at the Division of Endocrinology's Grand Rounds series.
- December and June: Meet with assigned program director or associate program director to review progress.

**For STAR fellows*

- Formal choice of a research laboratory and PI should be identified by the end of Year One.
- Years Two and Three: Continue clinical rotations and make progress toward work in the lab. Beginning in Year 2, STAR fellows will also enroll in classes toward completion of their chosen track (basic science, health services, clinical research, postdoctoral research training).