



**University of California, Los Angeles  
UCLA Medical Center**

**Division of Allergy, Immunology & Rheumatology**

**Allergy & Immunology Fellowship Program**

**Clinical Medicine Program Description**

## **Overview of the Program**

The principal goal of the program is to develop physician-scientists skilled in the diagnosis, treatment and investigation of disorders involving immune dysregulation, including allergic inflammation, immune deficiency, autoimmunity, and auto-inflammatory disorders. Key focuses of the program are diagnostic methods in immune deficiency, interventional immunology, pharmacology of asthma and angioedema, asthma pathogenesis & air quality, and food allergy.

## **The Six Core Competencies**

1. Patient Care (PC): Provision of health care to individual patients and families.
2. Medical Knowledge (MK): The knowledge base that enables appropriate clinical and research decision-making.
3. Practice-Based Learning (PBL): Translation of clinical practice problems into learning opportunities.
4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills (CS): Appropriate and effective communication of information between all members of the health care community.
5. Professionalism (P): Projection of an appropriate image and maintenance of ethical patient care and research practices.
6. Systems-Based Practice (SBP): Provision of medical care within the context of the health care system.

## **Patient Care**

**Be able to reach an appropriate differential diagnosis and formulate satisfactory diagnostic and therapeutic plans, at least for the common Allergy & Immunology disorders.**

- Take a complete history, perform an appropriate physical examination, review of medical records, formulate a differential diagnosis, and design a plan for evaluation for all patients seen in clinic and inpatient services.
- Present patients to the attending faculty who verifies certain issues in the history or physical findings. After discussion with the faculty, order the necessary tests, prescribe medications, provide patient education, and arrange for follow-up.

- Provide skilled performance and interpretation of basic allergy testing, including allergy skin testing, pulmonary function testing, oral food challenge tests, desensitization, IVIG therapy, selection and interpretation of in vitro allergy tests, and prescription and management of immunotherapy programs.

### **Medical Knowledge**

Develop fundamental research and grant writing skills.

- Bring a research project from inception and funding to publication over the course of the fellowship.

Apply scientific understanding to the medical care of patients; understand the pathophysiology of inflammation and its relation to asthma, allergic rhinitis, chronic sinusitis, atopic dermatitis, and autoimmune disease; understand the pathogenesis of primary and secondary immune deficiencies; be able to apply these principles to the identification of new treatments and diagnostic modalities.

- Attend scheduled conferences and didactic sessions; complete monthly homework questions and required reading.
- Attend national courses (especially Immunology Advanced Course and CIS schools) and national meetings.

### **Problem-Based Learning**

Identify clinical areas of personal interest and develop plans to improve skills in these areas.

- Identify to Program Director at first performance review three clinical areas in which improvement is desired and present a plan to improve those areas.
- Use evaluations from faculty and others to improve practice; use evidence from scientific studies.
- Incorporate new pharmacologic agents and treatment programs into the treatment of immunologic disease.
- Incorporate diagnostic and management decisions using guidelines and practice parameters as well as new studies.

### Application of research methods to practice

- Use database skills to identify best practices in patient care, teaching or research and apply this to practice.
- Bring best practice learned through problem-based learning to others through teaching; teach medical students, residents and other fellows during clinics and rounds; present lectures on research or clinical topics at didactic sessions.

### **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

#### Learn to communicate and create a therapeutic relationship with patients despite language and/or education barriers.

- Interact with all members of the medical team, patients and families in a professional manner, and project a competent, affable image to patients, families and colleagues.
- Generate a written report to the referring or primary care physician, which in some cases may be preceded by a telephone call.
- Follow-up phone calls (refills, laboratory follow-ups, problems) when on call; obtain appropriate informed consent for procedure and research protocols.

#### Be able to communicate research findings to an audience with broad interests.

- Present research findings at a national conference (AAAAI, ACAAI, FOCIS or other identified and approved by the Program Director).

### **Professionalism**

#### Be appropriately available to patients and families while learning to protect research and personal time.

- Assume responsibility for continuity of patient care and follow-up, to the extent possible, to the natural conclusion of disease.

#### Perform research, academic and clinical responsibilities to ethical standards as developed by legal and professional code, international treaty, UCLA policy and personal standards.

- Attend ethical training through the M261 Course and academic pediatrics course.
- Demonstrate to approval of attending physicians, nurses, ancillary personnel and patients respect for the dignity of all people.

### **System-Based Practice**

Understand the manner in which immunologic care is currently delivered at UCLA and in California and be able to critically appraise that system and contrast its methods and structure with those of other health care systems nationally and abroad.

- Review the structure of the program with attending physicians and Program Director continually and at scheduled program reviews and actively participate in the development of system improvements.
- Participate, to the satisfaction of attending physicians and Program Director, in the ongoing care and follow-up of all patients seen by the Division, communicating information and observations to others to provide the best possible care to the patient.
- Develop sufficient knowledge of billing and insurance procedures to practice independently and profitably.