

University of Washington



University of Washington Molecular Medicine Training Program*

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Structure of the Clinical Experience

MOLMED513

Medical Genetics Clinic Rotation for Graduate Students

10 weeks (1 quarter)

Half day per week in clinic

Medical Genetics Journal Club, 1 hour

Medical Genetics Clinical Conference, 1 hour

Medical Genetics Seminar, 1 hour

Presentation to Medical Genetics Faculty



Why did we choose this pathway?

We could--with relatively little new effort

Apply for a new class

Discuss with Medical Genetics faculty

Of all the options we could see, we thought that this clinical model was best organized to resonate with the approaches that students were taking the bench

We could present solved (at the nucleotide level) disorders and unsolved

We could let them see that Medicine is an experimental system



Rotations

Complete HIPAA and IRB training on line,
3-4 hrs each prior to starting in Clinic

Rotations in:

Adult Genetics

Adult Cancer Genetics

Pediatric Genetics

Biochemical Genetics

Molecular Genetics Laboratory signout

Cytogenetics Laboratory signout

Repeat rotations in 2 clinics (student choice)

In these Clinics we see about 3000 families a year



Preparation for Clinic

Read GeneReviews review on topics

<http://www.genetests.org>

Read 2-3 recent publications on the molecular basis or treatment of the disorder (e.g., Mouse model of Marfan syndrome and development of treatment with losartan—angiotensin receptor blocker—and clinical trial in people)

Dress appropriately

Have permission to attend, wear identification



Activity in Clinic

Be present from beginning to end, including physical examination and discussion

After Clinic

Discuss family, disorder, genetics, science with the clinician

Write a 1 paragraph presentation of the clinical issues raised, the current state of science, their perceptions of the process



The clinicians have been uniformly positive in response

The graduate students are far more enthusiastic about the rotation than medical students and residents from other specialties—they “get it”

HIPAA and IRB training is all on line and required

Seattle Children’s Hospital had been a little touchy about having people come, but that was solved once they understood it was a class

This requires some dedication from the student and agreement by the laboratory mentor. We are not aware of any instances in which the mentor said no



Other Clinical experiences

Pathology course with Medical students

Anesthesiology rotation proposed

Similar in structure to Medical Genetics

Under consideration

