

**Dialysis Fellowship
Division of Nephrology
University of Washington**

The Division of Nephrology at the University of Washington offers a Dialysis Fellowship recognized by the International Society of Hemodialysis (ISHD) as a formal Advanced Nephrology (academic/research track)/Dialysis Fellowship endorsed by the ABIM.

The inception of the Advanced Nephrology (academic/research track)/Dialysis Fellowship recently started in 2007, and is a novel offering with a unique opportunity to train those who have already completed education in an accredited nephrology fellowship training program and conduct research in the dialysis field and gain advanced training in dialysis techniques. Recognizing the importance of increased involvement of the nephrologist in the dialytic care of the patients, the Center for Medical Services (CMS) has emphasized the central role of medical director in the dialysis facility. The Medical Director is responsible for the quality of care of all patients, and the quality of technical services such as water treatment in the facility and the continued education of the dialysis staff. Thus, there is a need for advanced training in the field of dialysis care to improve quality of care by education, encourage innovative research to improve care at reduced cost by training in research and technology, and to train nephrologists in the regulatory areas so that they can fulfill the role of the medical directors of dialysis facilities.

Eligibility

This 12 month fellowship is offered to those who have completed a formal ACGME Nephrology Fellowship Training Program and are Nephrology board eligible.

Curriculum Objectives

- To improve advanced research in the field of dialysis.
- To provide practical experience in the interpretation and implementation of the regulatory issues and roles and obligations of a medical director of a dialysis unit.
- To provide advanced educational opportunities in clinical research methods.
- To provide advanced training in dialysis technologies to encourage innovation and improvement in patient care.
- To provide the professional training necessary to excel as a clinician educator in an academic position.
- To provide teaching methods necessary to improve essential educational skills.
- To provide exposure to placement of both vascular and peritoneal access.

The program is expected to raise the level of technical expertise in the field of dialysis, along with generating innovative research advances in the field. It is our hope that fellows will disseminate novel approaches to the care of dialysis patients, and become leaders in academic, clinical and administrative fields.

Training

- Rounding on dialysis patients with the teachers/mentors
- Caring for both acute and chronic dialysis patients
- Following dialysis patients in clinic (at least 15 hemodialysis, both center and home, and 5 peritoneal dialysis patients, for a minimum of 6 months)
- Getting advanced training in all dialysis techniques including hemofiltration, hemodiafiltration, SLED, and all forms of home dialysis techniques and technologies
- Attending all relevant patient care and dialysis unit meetings
- Selecting and undertaking a research topic and having the fellow's work approved by an appropriate thesis committee

Meetings/Committees to attend

- Northwest Kidney Center Medical Staff meetings
- Northwest Kidney Center Medical Staff Executive Committee meetings
- Northwest Kidney Center Medical Directors meetings
- Northwest Kidney Center Peritonitis CQI Committee meetings
- Scribner Kidney Center Long Term Care Plan meetings
- Scribner Kidney Center Research meetings
- University of Washington Vascular Access Committee

Research Topics for participation

- Technical Innovations: Many dialysis innovative projects to choose from, few recent examples:
 - Liver dialysis: involved in the design and initial testing of a new system for albumin based liver dialysis (thesis project of former dialysis fellows).
 - On-line Hemodiafiltration: Design and early testing of a novel hemodiafiltration system, to be used in out-patient setting
 - Development of novel dialysate solutions
 - Use of extra-corporeal therapy in gene therapy for muscular dystrophy
- Clinical Studies: Many opportunities, few recent examples:
 - Hemofiltration in patients post out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and in trauma patients: involved in early study design to look at outcomes in trauma patients, and those with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, when treated with high-volume hemofiltration.
 - Role of Co-enzyme Q10 in maintenance dialysis patients
 - Role of ACEI / ARB in maintenance dialysis patients
 - Intra-operative dialysis with citrate dialysate during orthotopic liver transplant.
 - Slow Low Efficiency Dialysis Data Repository.