

University of Cincinnati College of Medicine  
Focused Educational Experience In  
Nephrology and Hypertension

<https://med.uc.edu/intmed/divisions/nephrology-and-hypertension/about>  
<https://med.uc.edu/intmed/divisions/nephrology-and-hypertension/research>

The Division of Nephrology, Kidney CARE (Clinical Advancement, Research and Education) Program consists of over 23 full- or part-time physicians and basic scientists engaged in the tripartite mission of patient care, research, and teaching. These activities are conducted at our four campuses: University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, UC Health West Chester Hospital, Drake Hospital, and a network of outlying dialysis units.

**Mission:**

- Deliver patient-centered care in chronic kidney disease, dialysis and transplant, and related disorders
- Advance knowledge by conducting cross-disciplinary research
- Train the next generation of leaders in clinical, research and education disciplines

**Mission Statement:**

*"The division will strive to become the "hub" of excellence in the delivery of clinical care, lead or contribute to nationally recognized clinical and translational research, and nurture the next generations of leaders in nephrology. We will partner with local and regional renal and primary care communities, and continue to serve as the academic center with focused areas of expertise within the field of kidney disease. By leveraging the strengths and resources of its members and the institution, we aim to be recognized as one of the premier academic renal divisions in the country."*

The division provides excellent academic training and career development opportunities. Our fellowship program provides diverse experience in all disciplines of clinical nephrology, including acute care/ICU nephrology, long-term acute care (LTAC), chronic kidney disease and dialysis, fluid-electrolyte and acid-base disorders, organ transplantation, hypertension, and interventional nephrology.

General Description of Medical Student Track

The Specialized Track in Nephrology and Hypertension allows one student per year to enrich their COM educational experience over a four year period with opportunities in the classroom,

the clinical setting, the procedural setting and in either basic or clinical research. The student will engage in a mentoring relationship with a faculty member in the division and complete a scholarly project. A curriculum as outlined below will be adapted from existing educational opportunities to include the student at the appropriate learning level. In addition, the student will have unique opportunities and access to more specialized areas of medicine that are typically available only at the level of a clinical fellows.

### Learning Outcomes

1. Nurture a mentoring relationship with a division attending as well as fellows and internal medicine residents
2. Explore the field as a possible career path and begin to understand the depth and focus a subspecialty in internal medicine
3. Develop communication skills and become proficient in the use of specialized clinical vocabulary used in pulmonary and critical care medicine
4. Gain exposure and beginning facility with the specialized procedures and clinical technology used primarily in this discipline.
5. Enrich the clinical experience in Internal Medicine with experiences focused on the care of the patient with these issues.
6. Complete a scholarly project in a chosen area under the mentorship of a faculty member in the field

### Curriculum

#### Focused Educational Experience In Nephrology and Hypertension:

Year 1

The student will meet monthly with his/her faculty mentor. Dr Charuhas Thakar will serve in this capacity for the first student in the new track. Together, the student and Dr Thakar will outline a plan for an enriched experience that augments the student's first year of study. Depending upon the student's schedule, s/he may attend a variety of conferences to include:

Nephrology Clinical Conference, weekly

Core Renal Curriculum, weekly

Kidney CARE Grand Rounds, weekly

Focused Educational Experience In Nephrology:  
Summer Experience

Between years 1 and 2, the student will participate in a minimum of 200 (5 weeks) work hours in a summer research experience under the direction of a faculty member. This experience will culminate in a project that could potentially result in a medical or a scientific competition or a publication. Dr Thakar will help the student to choose a project and a research mentor as the summer of 2018 approaches.

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) offers a TREKS and KIDNEY STAR program geared towards medical students. The presentation of this research could occur at the annual meetings of ASN, and opportunities to participate in the TREKS and KIDNEY STAR programs.

The Division will fund the student the amount of \$1,500 for the summer work experience.

Focused Educational Experience In Nephrology:  
Year 2

The student will continue to meet monthly with Dr Thakar. Depending upon the student's schedule, s/he may attend the conferences listed above.

Additional opportunities could include, interaction with our special programs in renal transplantation and interventional nephrology.

Focused Educational Experience In Nephrology:  
Year 3

Students will continue to meet monthly with Dr Thakar who will provide advice and support for the preparation of a didactic paper or an abstract to be submitted to the Ohio State American College of Physicians (ACP) meeting in October of each year. The Department of Internal Medicine has been successful in mentoring students through the state abstract competition for almost a decade – winning either the gold or silver medals as a department for each of the last 3 years.

The clinical and didactic conferences above will remain an option. Students may also opt to rotate on the Nephrology Inpatient service for the 4 week required Internal Medicine inpatient rotation. In addition, there will be opportunities to develop customized elective/clinical experience in satellite dialysis, tele-medicine, interventional nephrology and transplant nephrology.

There will be additional opportunities to be part of scholarly activities which includes several ongoing quality improvement and patient safety projects within the division.

It is hoped that the relationship between the student and mentor will result in a letter of support for residency applications.

## Focused Educational Experience In Nephrology:

Year 4

The students will continue to meet with Dr Thakar. Also available for elective rotations in year 4 are the Nephrology Consult Service and Transplant Nephrology electives.

### Admission Criteria

Eligible students should have a strong interest in pursuing a residency in Internal Medicine. After the initial application process, only chosen students will be interviewed by Dr Thakar or division faculty. Please do not contact the faculty outside of the designated process. Special consideration will be given to students who have already exhibited an interest in the field and who have demonstrated independent learning skills. Research experience is a plus, but is not a requirement.

**To apply:** click the following link to MedOneStop [www.medonestop.uc.edu](http://www.medonestop.uc.edu) . Once logged in, the application can be found under the Extracurricular tab named Medical Student Scholars Program (MSSP).

### Evaluation

This experience is a mentored, self-directed learning experience. It is assumed that the student who embarks on this experience has given careful consideration to his/her ability to complete enrichment activities outside of the required college of medicine curriculum and thus no attendance accountability is planned as part of the adult learning process. Students will meet regularly with the faculty mentor, provide a written summary of activities since the last meeting, and provide verbal feedback on the opportunities that s/he participated in.

Mentor: Charuhas Thakar, Division Director

Administrative support: Theresa Huber