The University of Cincinnati Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine is recognized as a national leader in education, research and clinical medicine.

Research

Areas of particular interest to the faculty include asthma, innate immunity, cystic fibrosis, critical care, rare lung disorders, health care outcomes, emphysema, interstitial lung disease, sleep disorders and lung cancer and interventional pulmonary medicine. The division has a strong record of extramural funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Defense, the Food and Drug Administration, the American Lung Association, the American Heart Association and elsewhere to support top-level basic and translational research into the mechanisms of these diseases.

Clinical Medicine

The division consists of 33 full-time physicians and basic scientists engaged in research, teaching and patient care. Most of these activities take place at the College of Medicine's Medical Sciences Building, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, UC Health University Hospital, Cincinnati Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) Medical Center, Drake Center, and UC Health Physicians Offices in Clifton and West Chester.

We are pleased to provide one medical student per year with a focused educational experience. The student will have the opportunity to work with and be mentored by a faculty member in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine as well as to participate in specially selected educational experiences within the division. The details of the four-year experience are outlined below.

General Description

The Specialized Track in Pulmonary/CC Medicine 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 pulmonary medicine that are typically available only at the level of a clinical fellow.

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 of 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 Pulm/CC:

Year 1

The student will meet monthly with their faculty mentor. Dr. Alex Garbarino will serve as a liaison to pair the student with a longitudinal mentor that they will meet with all 4 years of the program. Together, the student and their mentor will outline a plan for an enriched experience in pulmonary and critical care medicine that augments the student’s first year of study. Depending upon the student’s schedule, they may attend a variety of conferences, rounds, procedures and other activities at the VA and University Hospitals to include (but are not limited to):

- Pulmonary Grand Rounds
- Morbidity and Mortality Conference
- Critical Care Conference
- Fellows Conferences
- Chest Radiology Conference
- Interventional Pulmonary Conference
- Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) Conference
- Pulmonary Journal Club
- Pulmonary Case Conference
- MICU, MSD or Consult and Rounds and Huddles
- Interventional Pulmonary Procedures
- Pulmonary Subspecialty Clinics

Any conferences given virtually will be accessible to the student via Zoom, Teams, or WebEx. As the student progresses through their four years, they are encouraged to attend as many of these conferences and activities as their schedule allows.

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 an abstract at an institutional, regional, or national meeting, a medical or a scientific competition, or a publication. Dr Garbarino will help the student to choose a project and a research mentor as the summer approaches. Funding/stipend for the summer is
contingent upon the project and mentor selected: At this time the division cannot guarantee a research stipend for every student.

Year 2

The student will continue to meet monthly with their mentor. Depending upon the student’s schedule, they may attend the conferences or other activities listed above.

Year 3

Students will continue to meet monthly with their mentor 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. It is hoped that the relationship between the student and mentor will result in a letter of support for residency applications. The clinical and didactic conferences above will remain an option. There is a 2 week “selective” in Year 3 in the Medical ICU (MICU). This student will be given top priority for this selective if desired by the student. They may also continue to attend conferences or other activities listed above as their schedule allows.

Year 4

The students will continue to meet with their mentor. Also available for elective rotations in year 4 are the Medical ICU (MICU) and the Pulmonary Consult service at UCMC or the VAMC if the student chooses. The student may opt for their elective acting internship to be performed in the MICU. They may also continue to attend conferences or other activities listed above as their schedule allows.

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 Garbarino 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. 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 their 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 they participated in.

Mentor: Alex Garbarino, MD
Administrative support: Jay Asplan, MA