OVERVIEW OF THE NEONATAL-PERINATAL MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The NYU Neonatal Perinatal Medicine (NPM) fellowship program, initiated in 1992 is accredited by the Residency Review Committee for Pediatrics which includes the American Board of Pediatrics.

Clinical Education for Neonatal Perinatal Fellows is provided at two Clinical training sites.

1) The Tisch New York University NICU is a NYS designated Regional Perinatal Center located on 530 First Ave at the NYU Medical Center and has approximately 540 annual admissions.

2) Bellevue Hospital Center NICU also a NYS designated level IV Regional Perinatal Center is the oldest public hospital in the country and part of the Health and Hospital Corporation has 360 annual admissions.

3) Together both centers provide quality oversight to approximately 24,000 deliveries approximately 1/5th of the deliveries in the city of New York.

Eight Neonatologists provide direct patient care and education at both institutions. The Tisch NICU provides a Neonatology educational resource for residents from the NYU School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. The Bellevue NICU is staffed by Neonatal Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to provide clinical care.

The Clinical Hospitals serve a wide referral area geographically and from all socioeconomic groups. Both Regional Perinatal Centers provide all aspects of neonatal intensive care. The NICU serves as a referral source for other NICUs in the area, receiving patients with cardiac and surgical problems from the five boroughs of NYC and the tri-state area and Staten Island; in all, the two RPC’s care for 31% of the births in New York City region.

Approximately 15% of the annual admissions to the 2 Hospitals are transported by ground ambulance transport service. The neonatal-perinatal medicine fellows are an integral part of the transport service, providing the physician coverage. The NICU at Tisch Hospital receives referrals from throughout the tristate area for critically ill cardiac and other surgical patients. The Bellevue NICU receives referrals from affiliate hospitals in the Health and Hospital Corporation network. Approximately 33% of the annual admissions to Tisch are transported by ground ambulance transport service.
The neonatal-perinatal medicine fellows are an integral part of the transport service, providing the physician coverage. Additionally, the fellows receive experience in the NYS accredited Infant APNEA SIDS Program and the Neonatal Comprehensive Continuing Care Program for infant follow-up. Fellows also receive intensive training in clinical and basic science research projects and protocols within the Division of Neonatology.

The staff Neonatologists are: Pradeep Mally, MD (Interim Division Chief); Sean Bailey, MD; Martha Caprio, MD; Yang Kim, MD; Michael Espiritu, MD; Anthony Orsini, DO; Randi Wasserman MD; Elena Wachtel, MD, MPH.

CURRICULUM:
The NPM Fellowship Program consists of the following components as outlined by the Program Requirements for Education developed by the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) and ACGME Resident Review Committee (RRC) for Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Fellows are assigned to these components in an educationally appropriate sequence over 36 months of training.

The Clinical curriculum is based on providing PL-4 fellows (1st year) with a high degree of direct patient contact and responsibility in the NICU, and graduated supervised responsibility for 2nd and 3rd year fellows. All fellows in addition have gradual and increasing supervisory responsibilities for PL-1/2/3 residents and medical students.

The first year consists of the heaviest clinical and scholarly activities schedule, approximately 6 months with a graduated increase in scholarly activity during the second two years. The fellowship requires 15 months of clinical training rotations, and fellows will spend six months of the first year receiving clinical training between the two NICUs as a clinical fellow. The clinical fellow functions as a junior staff Doctor in the supervision of the hour-to-hour care of critically ill newborn infants. In addition, fellows generally have four-five months of clinical experience during the second and third years. During the third year of clinical service, the fellow is expected to function fully as an attending Neonatologist with supervision. Formal training in NRP, transport of the critically ill newborn infant and Apnea management are provided. Participation in the NICU Follow-up Clinic is required during all three years of the fellowship. Administrative education is also part of this curriculum including experience in colleague scheduling and the administrative working of the clinical NICU’s such as equipment, maintenance of quality of laboratory, pharmacy etc.

The Scholarly Curriculum: The remainder of the Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship consists of 18 months of scholarly activity. As per the ABP, “all fellows will be expected to engage in projects in which they develop hypotheses or in projects of substantive scholarly exploration and analysis that require critical thinking. Areas in which scholarly activity may be pursued include, but are not limited to: basic, clinical or translational biomedicine; health services; quality improvement; bioethics; education; and public policy.” Traditional clinical or basic research or other scholarly
activities, within Neonatology, Perinatology and other University departments are facilitated by the mentors in Neonatology.

Neonatologists and subspecialists in other pediatric divisions supervise these studies and are instrumental in developing individual projects with appropriate specific curriculum (e.g., laboratory meetings, journal clubs, and coursework). The Division has been involved in many collaborative projects over the past 10 and ongoing collaborations exist between division members and members of the School of Dentistry (Ananda Dasanayake BDS, MPH, PhD, FACE and Yihong Li PhD), Division of Pediatric Cardiology (William Coetzee PHD), Department of Immunology (Ron Litman PHD), Department of Cell Biology (David Moscatelli PHD and David Sabatini PHD) and Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology (Mort Levitt PHD). Fellows also have the opportunity to participate in graduate-level coursework offered by the University at the Wagner School of Public Policy and the NYU School of Global Public Health to obtain a Masters of Public Health.

**Ongoing clinical and scholarly educational programs**

There are several ongoing educational programs that include the weekly Fellows’ Conference, composed of our Neonatal Research Conference, the Neonatal Physiology Course (based on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine: Diseases of the Newborn Infant, 8Pth P edition; editors: Fanaroff & Martin), Journal Club, therapeutic Protocol, case presentations and other didactic lectures. The NYU Department of Pediatrics provides an annual Core Research Curriculum for Graduate Medical Education, a lecture series that covers topics pertinent to all graduate-level fellows in research and statistical methods. The table below provides a listing of the major conferences offered and the frequency at which they occur.