Johns Hopkins Hospital Fellowship Program:
Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology

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Program Overview

1.1 Goals:
   a) The primary goal of the Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology (ESN) fellowship program is to produce successful trainees who have demonstrated sufficient competence in Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology techniques to enter practice in the field without direct supervision.

   b) The ESN fellowship program will provide fellows with an organized, comprehensive, supervised, full-time educational experience in endovascular surgical neuroradiology.

   c) The ESN program will ensure fellows are fully trained in the care and management of patients with neurovascular disorders, such as cerebral aneurysms, vascular malformations, and stroke.

   d) Fellows in the ESN program will be given the opportunity to perform endovascular surgical neuroradiology procedures under close guidance, with active participation carefully tailored to their learning curve and growing technical ability.

   e) The ESN fellowship program focuses on integrating endovascular surgical neuroradiology techniques into the comprehensive clinical management of patients.

   f) The ESN program emphasizes the need for a tight collaboration between various subspecialties, including neurological surgery, neurology, and ophthalmology, in order to offer optimal management options in an environment that relies heavily on multimodality and collegiality.
1.2 Objectives:
The ESN program will train fellows in the following objectives; by the end of the fellowship program fellows will be competent in the following objectives:

Patient Care and Procedural Skills:
Fellows must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Fellows must be able to competently perform all medical, diagnostic and surgical procedures considered essential for the area of practice.

   a) ESN fellows will be instructed in the respective risks and benefits of the procedures they perform, and will initially observe consent processes led by attending physicians.

   b) The fellow will serve as consultant under the supervision of ESN practitioners to ensure that appropriate standards of care and concern for patient welfare are strictly maintained.

   c) The diversity of illnesses within the patient population allows fellows to participate in, and personally perform and analyze, a broad spectrum of endovascular procedures, from which broad experience in endovascular surgical neuroradiology therapy can be obtained.

   d) Fellows will make daily rounds with the endovascular surgical neuroradiology faculty members during which patient management decisions are discussed and made.

   e) As the ESN fellow’s ability to lead a consent process and family conferences independently is adequate, they will perform these duties autonomously. The presence of an attending physician during at least part of the consent process remains, however, mandatory.

Medical Knowledge:
Fellows must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

   a) ESN fellows will be trained to:
      o adequately interpret relevant imaging studies
      o evaluate indications for neuroendovascular therapy
      o establish a treatment plan for neurovascular conditions commonly encountered in clinical practice.

   b) ESN fellows will be trained to perform the following procedures independently:
      o diagnostic cerebral and spinal angiography
      o superselective intracranial microcatheterization
      o intra-arterial drug administration (such as tPA)
      o embolization of head and neck lesions (such as vascular malformations or tumors, hemorrhages)
      o embolization of spine tumors prior to surgery
      o percutaneous vertebroplasty
c) ESN fellows will be exposed to and gain experience with the following procedures (with a degree of involvement based on previous experience and individual skill development):
   - embolization of intracranial lesions (such as aneurysm coiling) - extracranial angioplasty and stenting
   - neurovascular embolization with liquid embolic agents
   - embolization of spinal vascular malformations
   - intracranial angioplasty and stenting

d) ESN fellows will be expected to attend:
   - ESN posted journal club meetings
   - the Interventional Neuroradiology hosted weekly Neurovascular conference
   - Neuroradiology hosted CORE curriculum conference
   - morning work rounds
   - attending rounds
   - Grand Rounds
   - their choice of national conventions/conferences, such SIR

Interpersonal and Communication Skills:
Fellows must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.

   a) ESN fellows will be encouraged to actively interact with patients and relatives in the presence of an attending physician.

   b) ESN fellows will be able to provide patients and their relatives with clear and honest information about diseases and treatments, and obtain informed consent in an informative, ethical, and respectful way.

   c) ESN fellows should be able to discuss treatment indications and plans with referring physicians. This requirement implies a basic understanding of common therapeutic alternatives that will be gained through daily interactions with physicians from other subspecialties, as well as from weekly multidisciplinary neurovascular case conferences.

   d) Close guidance of ESN fellows at every stage of patient management will be provided. The fellow’s degree of autonomy will be progressively increased as they build their ability to run the service independently, based on individual skills and progress.

   e) The ESN learning process and skill building will be discussed informally on a daily basis after completion of the clinical duties, and reviewed every 3 months during formal evaluation.

   f) Throughout the ESN program, a table of the catalog of objectives is reviewed during every fellow evaluation, to help document the rate and areas of progress, and identify specific needs of every fellow.
**Professionalism:**
Fellows must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles.

a) The ESN fellow is expected to communicate to patients with compassion, integrity and respect, regardless of race, or social or economic background.

b) The ESN fellow is expected to respect the contributions of other members of the program, teaching staff and other health care team members the fellow may come into contact with.

c) The ESN fellow will be expected to perform any leadership roles, or actively participate in challenging circumstances with an open and positive attitude.

**Practice-based Learning and Improvement:**
Fellows are expected to develop skills and habits to be able to systematically analyze practice using quality improvement methods, and implement changes with the goal of practice improvement; and locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients’ health problems.

a) ESN fellows will be trained to:
   o understand the basic layout and functioning of an angiography suite
   o be familiar with standard radiographic projections
   o understand and apply basic principles of radioprotection techniques.

The ESN program will ensure that these goals are met during the daily clinical practice.

b) Fellows are encouraged to investigate and evaluate their own patient care, clinical performance, and faculty appraisals to maintain personal and program goals and standards. Evaluations are completed every quarter and reviewed with teaching faculty.

c) ESN fellows are required to attend and participate in the weekly Neurovascular conference, the division’s weekly journal clubs monthly M&M meetings.

**Systems Based Practice:**
Fellows must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.

a) ESN fellows will undergo training at both Johns Hopkins Hospital & Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Campus to encourage team work and interaction across patient care systems.

b) ESN fellows will be trained to use and understand health care based information technology systems, at both training institutions, to optimize learning and patient care.

c) Fellows will be encouraged to participate in the weekly, multi-disciplinary Neurovascular conference in order to work within an inter-professional team to enhance patient safety and patient care quality.
d) An important component of Systems Based Practice for ESN fellows is to optimize coordination and collaboration within inter-departmental and trans-departmental entities. For example, coordinating patient care with nursing staff and social services.

e) ESN fellows are encouraged to be involved with their patients from the registration process through to discharge, including improving interactions with administrative nursing staff.

f) ESN fellows have the opportunity to work in collaboration with city, state, and even at times, international centers for patient care to coordinate optimal care and transfer of patients when necessary.

Additional Information
Positions Offered: 2
Duration: 12 months