

Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellowship

Trainee Position Description and Essential Functions

Pediatric Neurosurgery

Position Identification: Non-ACGME Fellow (Acting Instructor)

Position Summary: The Department of Neurological Surgery offers a one-year fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery designed to foster careers in academic neurological surgery. One Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow is appointed each year in this program.

The Fellow actively participates in pediatric neurosurgical services involving patient care, research, and teaching. The Fellow works extensively with attending neurosurgeons at Seattle Children's Hospital, all of whom are faculty members of the University of Washington School of Medicine.

The Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow is appointed as an Acting Instructor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at the University of Washington. Progressive independence in patient evaluation and management is encouraged throughout the fellowship.

The Fellow actively participates in the management of all aspects of pediatric neurosurgery. This includes extensive mentorship in tumors, epilepsy, craniofacial disorders, hydrocephalus, minimally invasive endoscopic neurosurgery, management of spasticity (including selective dorsal rhizotomies and placement of baclofen pumps), spine disorders, infections, complex trauma cases, and neural tube defects, including myelomeningocele, lipomyelomeningocele, and tethered spinal cord. Strong emphasis is placed on clinical and/or basic science research productivity, with several ongoing faculty research projects in place.

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General Overview of the Fellow Role

A Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow is a post-residency physician in advanced training managing neurosurgical conditions in infants, children, and adolescents. Fellows gain progressive independence across clinic, ward, ICU, ED, and OR settings, treating tumors, hydrocephalus, epilepsy, trauma, and congenital disorders. Training includes operative care, multidisciplinary collaboration, teaching, research, and quality improvement.

UW GME Expectations for Professional Behavior

Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellows must demonstrate professionalism, ethics, accountability, and patient-centered care aligned with institutional and ACGME standards. They are expected to uphold integrity, safety, confidentiality, and informed consent while maintaining fitness for duty. Fellows must communicate effectively, support teamwork, ensure reliable performance, and participate in teaching, quality improvement, and scholarly activity.

- All Fellows must comply with the [UW Medicine Policy on Professional Conduct](#) and the UW Medicine [Compliance Code of Conduct](#)

- All Fellows must comply with [GME Policies](#)

Essential Functions

Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellows' essential functions include evaluating and managing neurosurgical conditions in infants, children, and adolescents across outpatient, inpatient, ED, ICU, and OR settings. Fellows perform supervised procedures (e.g., shunts, tumor resection, epilepsy and cranial surgery), provide perioperative and ICU care, coordinate multidisciplinary teams, communicate with families, and engage in documentation, teaching, and quality improvement.

Administrative Functions

The Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow completes onboarding, credentialing, licensure, mandatory training, and maintains required system access and compliance. Responsibilities include managing schedules, rotations, call coverage, and operative case logs; ensuring timely and accurate EHR documentation; coordinating consults and follow-up care; and participating in conferences, quality improvement, patient safety initiatives, and program evaluations.

Core Educational Functions

Core Educational Functions for a Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow include structured clinical, operative, didactic, and systems-based training across clinic, ward, ICU, ED, and OR settings. Fellows gain progressive operative experience in CSF diversion, tumor, epilepsy, craniofacial, spinal, and trauma surgery, while participating in conferences, call coverage, research, teaching, and multidisciplinary care.

Patient Care

Patient Care requires fellows to demonstrate supervised care for children with neurosurgical conditions across clinic, ward, ED, ICU, and OR settings. Responsibilities include evaluation, imaging interpretation, perioperative and ICU management, and multidisciplinary coordination. Fellows assist in pediatric neurosurgical procedures, manage emergencies, provide family counseling, and ensure longitudinal follow-up with progressive responsibility.

Shift and Schedule Functions

Shift and Schedule Functions of a Pediatric Neurosurgery Fellow include coverage across outpatient clinics, inpatient wards, ICU, emergency department, and operating room settings. Fellows work variable day, night, weekend, and holiday shifts, and provide in-house and home call for urgent pediatric neurosurgical consultations and emergencies.

Cognitive Functions

Fellows are required to provide supervised care across clinic, ward, ICU, ED, and OR settings. Duties include evaluation with exam and imaging, inpatient and postoperative

management, and multidisciplinary coordination. Fellows assist in pediatric neurosurgical procedures, manage emergencies and complications, and provide longitudinal follow-up, family counseling, and progressive responsibility under supervision.

Communication

Fellows must demonstrate clear verbal and written communication with patients, families, and multidisciplinary teams. Fellows explain diagnoses, treatments, risks, and outcomes, support informed consent, and provide timely updates. They ensure accurate documentation, safe handoffs, effective emergency communication, and contribute to academic writing and continuity of care.

Physical and Psychomotor Functions

Fellows must demonstrate sensory acuity for interpreting imaging and intraoperative detail, and auditory awareness in high-acuity settings. Fellows require endurance for prolonged procedures, mobility across clinical areas, and fine motor precision for microsurgery, including dissection, suturing, and instrument handling with steady bimanual dexterity and control.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The University of Washington prohibits discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns, make complaints, or direct inquiries to the Civil Rights Compliance Office. Please refer to the University's Statement of Nondiscrimination for additional information.

This document reflects requirements, established practices, policies, procedures, and resources as of the date of publication; however, portions of this document may be updated periodically in accordance with changes in applicable laws, accreditation requirements, institutional policies, clinical practices, and available resources. Continued participation in the fellowship program constitutes acknowledgment of and agreement to adhere to such updates. The program will communicate substantive changes to fellows through official program communications and institutional channels.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

A fellow must be able to perform the essential functions of the fellowship position with or without an approved reasonable accommodation. Reasonable accommodations are determined through an interactive process involving the fellow, the fellowship program, Graduate Medical Education, Human Resources, and applicable institutional offices in accordance with federal, state, and institutional policies.