Medical Genetics Directed Residency Training

Medical Genetics is the specialty of medicine which translates the scientific advances of genetics to patient care. Geneticists are M.D.’s or M.D.-Ph.D’s who see patients with known or suspected genetic conditions. Since genetic conditions manifest themselves in every organ system and at every age, medical genetics encompasses all of medicine. Exome and genome sequencing approaches are altering the training and practice of medical genetics.

Prior to entry into a Medical Genetics Residency, candidates must finish a minimum of two years of training in an ACGME certified residency, such as Internal Medicine. For practical purposes, the process is similar to applying for a fellowship in a subspecialty of Internal Medicine, however, Medical Genetics is not a subspecialty of the ABIM, but a primary board of the American Board of Medical Specialties.

The mission of the UW Medical Genetics training programs is to identify and train the next generation of academic Medical Geneticists. The Residency is two years in length, leading to board eligibility in Clinical Genetics, but the majority of trainees spend longer, in order to acquire the investigational background (either laboratory or clinical) needed to create a niche in the field. Substantial participation in research is required of our trainees, and supported by a long-standing NIH T32 postdoctoral fellowship program. Each trainee receives mentorship and support to develop research skills. Information about the UW Residency is available at the Division of Medical Genetics website: http://depts.washington.edu/medgen/Residency.shtml

Information about programs at other institutions is available through the American Board of Medical Genetics: http://www.abmg.org/pages/training_accredprog.shtml

Information about the field of Medical Genetics is available through the American College of Medical Genetics at http://www.acmg.net

The most helpful rotations include:
Medical Genetics (for 1 month, probably best in the second year)
Neurology
Cardiology
Endocrinology
Hematology/Oncology

Interested trainees should meet with the program director near the beginning of the Internal Medicine training to plan for application to programs and to understand how training works.

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