Welcome to Cooper’s Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program

Cooper University Hospital is the largest academic medical center (594-bed) and only level 1 trauma center in southern New Jersey. The medical center serves the needs of a broad patient population consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary medical care. Consumers and physicians recognize the system as being South Jersey’s leading medical center. In annual surveys assessing the region’s medical care, Cooper’s physicians are frequently recognized as “Top Doctors” in their fields. These world-class physicians are the teachers with whom you will interact during your educational experience.

The Division of Infectious Disease is a component of the Department of Medicine. The Department of Medicine at Cooper University Hospital (CUH) comprises 11 divisions and employs 193 full-time faculty members committed to delivering the finest care to patients as well as to providing the best education for our next generation of physicians.

Cooper University Hospital is the major clinical site of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), which opened its doors to the first class of medical students in August 2012. All faculty and fellows are intimately involved in the education of CMSRU medical students. Infectious Disease faculty hold academic appointments at CMSRU.
Educational Experience

The infectious diseases fellowship at Cooper University Hospital is an ACGME-accredited two-year comprehensive clinical program that offers two positions per year. The program has an extremely diverse patient population, which allows fellows to see a wide range of infectious diseases in both the hospital and outpatient settings.

There are two hospital ID consultation services. Each service has one attending and one fellow. Other members of the consultation services may include a PharmD, Internal Medicine and Podiatry residents, and medical and pharmacy students. There is a third non-teaching service.

One half day per week is devoted to a continuity clinic where fellows see general ID and HIV patients. During their Ambulatory weeks, fellows attend two public health clinics where they gain experience in treating tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections, and they see outpatients for travel related evaluations.

Infectious disease fellows spend one month in the PGY-4 year in the microbiology lab and during the PGY-5 year, spend one month at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) for solid-organ transplant experience. Fellows are active in our antibiotic stewardship program and attend infection prevention committee meetings.

All fellows are required to pursue a scholarly project, lab-based (Dr. Henry Fraimow maintains an active lab where many fellows have worked) or clinical project, and a practice-improvement project.

Infectious Disease/Critical Care Medicine Training

For those applicants interested in a combined training career path, the infectious disease fellowship program has partnered with Cooper’s critical care medicine (CCM) fellowship program to offer one position per year for a third year of training in CCM. Qualified fellows pursuing this training track will be expected to select a research project that would pertain to both specialties.
Didactic conferences are held regularly and include the following:

**Management Conference**
Two to three cases that pose a diagnostic dilemma or have unusual findings are presented by fellows who then discuss a review of the literature.

**Research Conference**
Fellows present their research project to the faculty and other fellows every 6 months. This gives them the opportunity to seek additional help with any problems they may be having with their projects and to receive further constructive criticism.

**Board Review**
During these interactive sessions, ABIM-style questions are used to stimulate discussion of all pertinent aspects of a particular topic. This includes pathophysiology, epidemiology, clinical manifestations, diagnostic approach, prognosis and evidence-based management of relevant disease processes.

**Journal Club**
All fellows present at each journal club. The first half hour is for brief presentations of recent journal articles by fellows and attendings. The second half hour one fellow presents an article in depth followed by a discussion.

**Early Intervention Program Multidisciplinary Conference**
In continuing its strong commitment to comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and research, the Division of Infectious Diseases features a premiere HIV Early Intervention Program (EIP). The Cooper EIP is 100 percent funded through Ryan White grants administered by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) and the New Jersey Department of Health, with research support provided from the National Institute of Health (NIH). Currently the program receives over $2 million in grant funding support.

Once a week clinic staff, which includes administration, nurses, case managers, research staff, the psychotherapist, nurse practitioners, fellows and attendings, meet to discuss patients, research and ancillary services. Fellows are involved with practice improvement projects in the clinic and present their data and recommendations during this conference. We also invite outside speakers to update us on HIV-related topics.

**Summer Core and Didactic Lectures**
Each July and August, basic core lectures are given three days per week. From September onward didactics covering a broad range of topics are given once per week.
Cooper Research Institute

Through basic and clinical research, faculty at Cooper University Hospital are bringing scientific discoveries to life with access to cutting-edge treatments in fields such as cancer, cardiology, critical care, diabetes and gene therapy. Cooper faculty members currently conduct about 340 National Institutes of Health (NIH) and industry-sponsored clinical trials each year. In South Jersey, many of these are only available at Cooper. The campus now holds about 46 NIH and federal grants and nearly $30,000,000 in aggregate research funding, making it number one among the regional medical campuses in the country. Past research by Cooper faculty has led to new standards of care and novel therapies in fields such as cancer, cardiology, surgery and orthopaedics.

Coriell Institute of Medical Research

The Coriell Institute for Medical Research is an independent, not-for-profit research organization dedicated to understanding human genetic diseases and providing the highest quality genetic resources. Its affiliation with Cooper University Hospital provides an excellent opportunity to our residents to participate in a variety of basic science research.
Pola de la Torre, MD, an Associate Professor of Medicine at CMSRU, is the Program Director of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship. She received her medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in Washington, DC, and completed her medicine residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA, where she was the recipient of the Elmer E. Hinton Book Award for “outstanding patient/physician relationships.” Her fellowship in infectious diseases was completed at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. de la Torre is an Assistant Director of the Elizabeth Blackwell Advisory College of CMSRU. She also serves on the CMSRU Graduate Medical Education Strategic Planning Subcommittee on Outcomes and Milestones, and was a member of the Admissions Committee from 2011 to 2014. She has a strong interest in medical education and in 2012 she was nominated to Alpha Omega Alpha by the medical students from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Dr. de la Torre has been a reviewer for *Annals of Internal Medicine, Clinical Infectious Diseases* and *Clinical Investigation*. She has been a principal investigator and well as co-investigator of numerous clinical studies in both general ID and HIV. Her clinical interests include hepatitis B and C in HIV-infected patients, sexually-transmitted infections and tuberculosis. She is fluent in English, Portuguese and Spanish.
Program Leadership

John D. Baxter, MD, is Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Medical Director of the Early Intervention Program at Cooper University Hospital. He is Professor of Medicine at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Dr. Baxter attended medical school at Pennsylvania State University – Hershey Medical Center and completed his medicine residency at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. He completed his infectious disease fellowship at Cooper University Hospital.

Dr. Baxter has participated in NIH-sponsored HIV clinical trials since 1994, initially as the Southern New Jersey Principal Investigator for the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA), and subsequently for the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG). He currently serves as the Site Leader and Network Laboratory Principal Investigator for the International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT) network.

Dr. Baxter has conducted many research studies in the area of HIV/AIDS, published numerous scientific papers and lectured widely on the subject of HIV clinical management. He has expertise in antiretroviral clinical trials and the clinical application of HIV resistance testing. He was protocol chair of the CPCRA GART study, one of the first studies demonstrating the clinical utility of genotypic resistance testing in patients failing antiretroviral therapy. His research findings have influenced the treatment guidelines for care of HIV-infected individuals.

Dr. Baxter is a member of multiple professional organizations including the American College of Physicians, International AIDS Society, Infectious Diseases Society of NJ, the Coriell Institute Institutional Review Board, and has served on a number of data safety monitoring boards (DSMBs) and expert guidelines panels. He currently chairs the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU) Appointments and Promotions Committee, the Cooper Research Bioethics Committee and the Cooper Institutional Conflict of Interest Committee.

Dr. Baxter is also an award-winning clinician recognized regionally and nationally for his abilities. He has been repeatedly named “Top Doc” in every major publication in the region including Philadelphia Magazine, New Jersey Monthly, South Jersey Magazine, U.S. News and World Report and Inside Jersey Magazine. In addition, he has been recognized as one of the “Best Doctors in America.” Dr. Baxter has a special interest in HIV medical care, HIV drug resistance, HIV clinical trials and general infectious diseases.
How to Apply

The Infectious Disease Fellowship Program at Cooper University Health Care participates in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Information regarding the ERAS application process and timeline is available on the websites listed below.

Association of American Medical Colleges
www.aamc.org/eras

ERAS Fellowship Document Office
aamc.org/students/medstudents/eras/fellowship_applicants

ERAS applications must contain the following information in order for your application to be considered:

- Common application form
- Curriculum vitae
- Medical school transcript
- Three original letters of recommendation, one of which must be from your current or most recent training director
- Personal statement describing your training goals and future career plans
- ECFMG certification (IMG Only)
- USLME reports (1,2 and 3)

Program Eligibility

Eligibility for the Infectious Disease Fellowship requires a minimum of three years of ACGME medical training in internal medicine. Individuals accepted for a position in the fellowship program must be U.S. citizen, classified as a resident alien, or hold a J-1 visa.

Applications are accepted via ERAS starting July 15, 2016 and the application deadline for the 2017-18 academic year is August 31, 2016.
The Cooper Campus and Surrounding Area

It is extraordinary to have such a high concentration of leadership at one institution but, then, Cooper is an extraordinary hospital.

Cooper University Hospital is the center of a growing health science campus that includes the main hospital, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the internationally acclaimed Coriell Institute for Research, Three Cooper Plaza medical offices and the Ronald McDonald House.

Adjacent to the Cooper Plaza/Lanning Square neighborhood, Cooper has a long history of outreach and service efforts to its local community. Some of these initiatives include health and wellness programs for the neighborhood, development of three neighborhood parks and playground, and outreach to programs into local schools.

The Hospital’s 312,000-square-foot, 10-story Roberts Pavilion houses state-of-the-art patient care facilities, including 120 private patient rooms, a 30-bed medical/surgical intensive care unit, 12 technologically advanced operating room suites with hybrid imaging capabilities, an advanced laboratory automation facility and a 14,000-square-foot Emergency Department. The Emergency Department features 25 beds, dedicated isolation suites and autonomous CT scanning technology. Two new floors in the Roberts Pavilion, each with 30 private patient rooms, opened in August 2014. The two floors are designed to serve specific patient populations with Pavilion 8 serving a growing advanced-care surgery patient population and Pavilion 9 serving the Cooper Heart Institute for hospitalized heart patients. The Pavilion features an expansive lobby and concourse, a restaurant and coffee shop, health resource center, business center, gift shop and chapel.

The Pavilion also houses the 25,000-square-foot Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit. A design showcase for patient and family-centered care, the unit features 30 private patient rooms equipped with the latest in advanced technology, and allowing 360-degree patient access. Five patient rooms are capable of negative pressure isolation, and five rooms have chambered isolation alcoves. In addition, an enlarged room with operating room caliber lighting is outfitted to perform bedside exploratory laparotomy in patients too unstable for transport to the operating room.

In 2013 Cooper celebrated the opening of MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the $100 million, four-story, 103,050-square-foot center located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in Camden, dedicated to cancer prevention, detection, treatment and research. MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper offers South Jersey’s only dedicated inpatient, 30-bed cancer unit adjacent to the new cancer center at Cooper University Hospital. The center includes bright, spacious chemotherapy treatment areas, patient exam rooms, conference centers and advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies. The designers incorporated an aesthetic approach to healing with abundant natural light, a rooftop Tranquility Garden, an illuminated floor-to-ceiling “Tree of Life” centerpiece and more than 100 pieces of original art created by 71 New Jersey artists.
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The new $139 million building, which opened in July 2012, was designed for CMSRU’s curriculum with spaces and technologies to support faculty and students in their educational process. In 2012, CMSRU welcomed the class of 2016 with 50 students.

The Cooper campus is located in the heart of the Camden's business district. The academic medical center campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation—the commuter high-speed line and bus terminal are located a half-block from the campus. Cooper is a short walk or drive from the exciting Camden waterfront where the New Jersey State Aquarium, the River Sharks stadium, the USS New Jersey and Susquehanna Bank Center are located.

Cooper is conveniently close to Philadelphia. Just a mile-long drive over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge or a ferry boat ride will put you at the doorstep of Philadelphia’s cultural, culinary and historic venues.

South Jersey also offers a range of living and entertainment options. Quaint towns such as Haddonfield and Collingswood are just 10 minutes away. The lights and action of Atlantic City and those other popular beach towns such as Cape May and Ocean City are a one-hour drive from Cooper.
Cooper Campus Map

The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at:
CooperHealth.org/Directions