



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases

Kenneth A. Alexander, M.D., Ph.D.
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Dear Applicant:

Thank you for inquiring about our program in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. I am enclosing an application form that will provide us with basic information about your training. The program in Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Chicago Children's Hospital is a 3-year program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Our program prepares individuals for careers in which investigative efforts, at the bench or in the clinical arena, are combined with clinical service. We offer flexibility in the design of the individual fellowship program in order to address the many different settings in which our trainees may function under the guise of a Pediatric Infectious Diseases subspecialist.

The full-time faculty members in the Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases are Kenneth Alexander, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Section Chief, Robert S. Daum, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, Susan Boyle-Vavra, Ph.D., Research Associate (Associate Professor), and John F. Marcinak, Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Associate Director of the University of Chicago Hospitals' Infection Control Program. Adjunct faculty members include Barbara Hendrickson, M.D., Clinical Associate, Rima McLeod, M.D., Jules and Doris Stein RPB Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Pathology, and Medicine, and Susan Gerber, M.D., Lecturer in Pediatrics. Two new faculty members are being recruited.

The first year of fellowship is spent acquiring clinical and teaching skills in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, and identifying an area of investigative interest. Fellows are required during this time to spend one month in the Diagnostic Microbiology Laboratories and one month on the Adult In-Patient Infectious Diseases Service. The University Hospitals Outpatient clinic experience also begins during the first year.

The focus in the second and third years is intensifying the chosen area of investigation with some time available for continued clinical work. The third year is reserved primarily for research. Course work in molecular biology and statistics, as examples, is recommended, particularly for those developing skills at the bench. Recently, the University of Chicago received NIH support to offer three levels of courses and other formal training opportunities in areas relevant to the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical research. This is a wonderful opportunity for clinical fellows to supplement their program training. The goal of the program is to provide an environment

for individuals to become capable of independent investigation and to become competitive for grant funding. The organization of the program is consistent with the goals of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society of America.

During the early part of the fellowship, the faculty will provide guidance regarding the choice of an investigative area. Ideally, this choice would dovetail with that of a Section member, but exceptions are made. The resources of the entire University Medical Center are available and flexibility is the rule. Dr. Daum and Dr. Boyle-Vavra focus on the pathogenesis of staphylococcal infections and molecular mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance. They are particularly interested in glycopeptide antimicrobials and their interaction with peptidoglycan on the cell surface of staphylococci and other gram-positive organisms. Dr. Daum is also involved in developing strategies to deal with immunization barriers in inner-city children. Dr. Alexander studies the molecular interactions that underlie the coordinated control of human papillomavirus transcription and replication. Projects in his laboratory include studies of the roles of basal transcription factors and DNA polymerase in HPV pathogenesis. Related studies concern the roles of innate immune pathways in HPV pathogenesis and the use of backbone-modified short interfering RNAs (siRNAs) as therapeutic agents for the treatment of HPV infections and HPV-induced malignancies. Dr. Alexander is also performing studies directed at improving uptake of HPV vaccine among adolescents. Dr. John Marcinak's interests include Hospital Infection Control, Community Acquired Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, and Pediatric HIV Infection. Dr. Rima McLeod studies congenital toxoplasmosis, as well as the immunogenicity and pathogenesis of this important apicomplexan infection.

The Adult Infectious Disease Faculty members are closely allied with our Section and interact with us on a regular basis. Dr. Dave Pittrak, the Acting Section Chief of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine has expertise in hospital epidemiology, hospital acquired infections and infections in liver transplant patients. Dr. Stephen Weber is the Director of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiologist for the University of Chicago Hospitals. A major recruitment is underway for new leadership in Adult Infectious Diseases.

An exciting new liaison involving our Section has recently been formed with the new Committee and Department of Microbiology. Dr. Olaf Schneewind chairs this new effort. The new Microbiology administrative units will provide opportunities for developing research programs for Pediatric Infectious Disease fellows.

Additionally, the University has received NIH support to offer formal training opportunities in areas relevant to the design, implementation, and analysis of clinical research. A course, "The Essentials of Patient – Oriented Research" is now incorporated into our fellowship program. There are also opportunities to become further involved in collaborative studies with the Chicago Department of Public Health to combine training opportunities with those in Infectious Disease. There are also opportunities for coursework in Microbiology, Virology, Immunology, Molecular Genetics and Cell

Biology. Integrating these courses into an Infectious Disease Fellowship is something that should be discussed during your interview.

As a fellow in Pediatric Infectious Diseases, you will have the opportunity to work with members of the Diagnostic Microbiology Laboratory and will also have the possibility of working with basic science faculty in Microbiology, Virology, Immunology, Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology. Should these be of interest, these opportunities can be explored at the time of your interview.

I hope you will indicate your interest by completing the enclosed application. When your credentials are complete, including your application, three letters of support, and a current CV, we will contact you regarding a fellowship program interview.

Please do not hesitate to call if I can be of additional assistance or can provide further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth A. Alexander M.D. Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and 'A'.

Kenneth A. Alexander, M.D., Ph.D.



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APPLICATION FOR FELLOWSHIP IN PEDIATRIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES

BEGINNING 2009

(Type or print; black ink is preferred.)
(Please feel free to continue answers on a separate sheet of paper.)

1. Name:
2. Address:
3. Date of Birth:
4. Social Security No.:
5. Telephone No.: Day Night
6. Permanent Address: () same as above
7. Permanent Telephone No.: () same as above
8. Citizenship: () U.S. () Other _____
9. Visa Status (if applicable): Temporary () Specify: () J-1 () H-1
() Permanent

10. National Board/FLEX/ECFMG Status where relevant: (Note: Be specific and give relevant dates, certificate numbers, etc.)

11. Licensure: State(s) and Year(s) Obtained:

12. Undergraduate Education:

Name of Institution:

City:

State:

Month/Year of Matriculation:

Month/year of Graduation:

Degree Earned:

Relevant Comment:

13. Medical School:

Name of Institution:

City:

State:

Month/Year of Matriculation:

Month/Year of Graduation:

Relevant Comment:

14. Other Graduate Education: () None

Name of Institution:

City:

State:

Month/Year of Matriculation:

Month/Year of (anticipated) Graduation:

Degree Earned:

Relevant Comment:

15. Internship/Residency:

Institution and Address:

Affiliation (if applicable):

Years:

Type of Program, e.g., Pediatrics:

16. Research Experience: () None

Name, Address and Title of Supervisor(s):

Title(s) of Project(s):

Dates During Which Work Was Performed:

Comment:

17. Bibliography: () None

18. What Activities Occupy Your Time Beyond Your Medical Interests?
19. Career Goals: Please briefly explain why you are interested in a career in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. (Use separate sheet of paper if necessary.)
20. References: Please provide the names of 3 individuals who know you well professionally and will serve as references for your application. Please request that these individuals submit a letter of support on your behalf.
- A. Name and Title:
- Institution:
- Address:
- Telephone:
- B. Name and Title:
- Institution:
- Address:
- Telephone:
- C. Name and Title:
- Institution:

Address:

Telephone:

Signature: (Please sign this application.)

Date: _____

Please return the completed application, a current copy of your CV, and a personal statement to:

LaKesha Lloyd
Pediatric Infectious Diseases
The University of Chicago
5841 S. Maryland Avenue, MC 6054
Chicago, Illinois 60637-1470

All letters of support should be addressed to:
Kenneth Alexander, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Chief, Section of Infectious Diseases
The University of Chicago
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