

Academic Half Day

Child Neurology Residency Program

Starting July 2022, the Child Neurology and Adult Neurology residency programs at URMU transitioned to an academic half day for residency didactics. We consider this model superior to the Noon conference model for the following reasons:

1. Ability for residents to focus their attention on learning without rushing to get food, eat, get paged, and worrying about afternoon tasks building up. Residents have the afternoon to focus on learning the topic of the day.
2. Ability for the residents to take a mental break to eat lunch and get caught up with notes or other tasks during the Noon – 1 PM (every weekday other than Wednesday).
3. Individual topics can be coordinated in a thoughtful manner and delivered with good continuity over the course of 6-10 weeks.
4. Increased opportunity to add active, case-based learning and self-directed study time.

Overall Schedule

The yearly schedule has topics clustered together to improve continuity of learning. Typical there will be a cohort of 2-3 topics at any given time. The two residency programs coordinate their topics so that there can be intermixing of learners. For example, during some sessions on Stroke, the PGY-3 child neurology residents will join the adult program sessions, and sometimes the adult neurology residents will join the child program session. Here is an example of the annual block schedule:

Date Range	7/6/22 – 9/7/22 (10)	9/14/22 – 10/26/22 (7)	11/2/22 – 1/11/23 (10)	1/18/23 – 3/1/23 (7)	3/8/23 – 5/10/23 (10)	5/17/23 – 6/21/23 (6)
Adult Curriculum	LOCALIZATION STROKE/NCC	EPILEPSY I NMD I <i>OTHER (1)</i>	NI NONC <i>OTHER (1)</i>	EPILEPSY II NMD II ID	MOV SLEEP PSYCH <i>OTHER (1)</i>	HA MAKE-UP <i>OTHER (1)</i>
Child Curriculum	LOCALIZATION STROKE/NCC DEV	EPILEPSY I NMD I <i>CAREER (1)</i>	NI NONC/PALL GEN/MET I	EPILEPSY II NMD II ID GEN/MET II	MOV SLEEP PSYCH <i>CAREER (1)</i>	NEO HA

KEY: NCC = Neurocritical Care
 DEV = Neurodevelopmental Disabilities
 NMD = Neuromuscular disorders
 NI = Neuroimmunology and white matter disorders
 NONC = Neuro-oncology
 PALL = Palliative Care
 GEN/MET = Genetic and metabolic disorders

ID = Infectious diseases
 MOV = Movement disorders
 NEO = Neonatal Neurology
 HA = Headache
 Career = Special career development day

Half Day Schedule

Each didactic is on Wednesday afternoon from 1 – 5 PM (after Grand Rounds, which occurs from Noon – 1 PM). The afternoon starts with residents watching 2 pre-recorded videos (no longer than 20 minutes each) on the day’s topic. Typically, residents of different levels will watch different videos geared towards their level. The videos are available for residents at any time throughout the year to review if desired. Next, the residents all get together and go through high yield cases with a faculty expert, asking questions and discussing as a group. Following that, there is a miscellaneous active session that may be related to the day’s topic (e.g. neuro-imaging workshop related to the day’s topic) or unrelated (e.g. Quality Improvement). The final hour is typically dedicated self-study time for the residents to review various suggested articles. Here is an example of an afternoon schedule:

STROKE I

Time	Resident Group	Category	Format	Session Title/Instructions
1:00	PGY-3 <i>Join Adult Sessions</i>	Cerebrovascular	Pre-recorded	<i>Diagnostic approach to stroke – subtypes (adult)</i>
				<i>Diagnostic approach to stroke – clinical syndromes (adult)</i>
	PGY-4	Cerebrovascular	Pre-recorded	Overview of pediatric stroke
				Acute evaluation and management of pediatric stroke
	PGY-5	Cerebrovascular	Pre-recorded	Anticoagulation review
				Review: Acute evaluation and management of pediatric stroke
2:00	All residents + Adult PGY-3	Cerebrovascular	In-person	Cases in acute management and treatment of stroke in children
3:00	All residents	Neuro-imaging	In-person	Neuroimaging: Cerebrovascular disease (angiography)
4:00	All residents	Cerebrovascular	Self-study	Articles to review: - NIHSS in pediatrics - International Pediatric Stroke Study - Stroke and COVID

Coverage

All residents are pulled off their rotations and active patient care responsibilities from 1 – 5 PM on Wednesdays. Each week there is one resident on-call to help cover the child neurology inpatient service if it gets busy, and this call is shared by all PGY-4 and PGY-5 residents (each resident is on-call every 5-6th Wed). We have other rotators (students, off-service residents on elective) working with the inpatient attending as much as possible to minimize residents being pulled out of didactics. This is the first year we are instituting the academic half, but we project that the on-call resident will be pulled out ~25% of the time (i.e. each resident will only miss 2-3 sessions per year due to coverage responsibilities).