

Resident Duty Hours
University of Pittsburgh
Department of Pathology, Neuropathology Fellowship Program

General Statement on Duty Hours:

Fellows typically work an 8-10 hour day, 5-6 days/week. Because the program does not have in-house call the way that other departments do, it is rare for a resident to work more than 55-60 hours/week. Because of this, the program does not keep a formal log of resident work hours. Excluding call from home, the number of continuous hours worked by a resident rarely exceeds 12-14 hours/day. On average, our residents have 6 days in a four-week period free from all educational and clinical responsibilities. On average, residents have 15 hours off duty between duty shifts.

Duty Hour rules and regulations are given and explained to residents when they begin the program. These policies are also made available at our Pathology Residents Web Server. Changes to policy, when they occur, are circulated to residents via e-mail before being incorporated to the website.

Monitoring and Violations:

Having been made aware of the policies regarding Duty Hours, residents are instructed to report to the rotation and/or program director immediately if they feel they are approaching 80 work hours in a given week. Should this occur, the rotation and program directors will work together to see that the resident's hours average less than 80 hours/week over the course of a month. Additionally, teaching faculty are made aware of resident Duty Hour policies. Annually, each rotation director individually gives assurance (via e-mail) to the program director that they understand and are in compliance with the program's policies regarding Duty Hours.

Should there be a violation in policy, faculty and fellows will work together with the Program Director to identify a process to assure violations will not occur in the future.

Moonlighting:

Although rare, Moonlighting is only permitted for residents when 1) it clearly does not interfere with the resident's academic goals, 2) total hours are well within the 80 hour week limit and 3) patient care and similar service issues are not adversely effected.

The program director regularly reviews all moonlighting activity including the number of hours the fellow is working.

Clayton A. Wiley MD/PhD
Program Director

Date