

Andrology Program

Overview of Fellowship Program

- **Program Name:** Andrology Fellowship
- **Program inception date:** 2005
- **Institution (s):** Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Department of Urology
- **Andrology Fellowship Director:** Robert E. Brannigan, MD
- **Summary of the Program:**
 - The Andrology Fellowship will enhance awareness of the management of male sexual, endocrine, and reproductive health acquired by a urology trainee, particularly in the non-surgical disciplines. Our goal is to train the physician-scientists who will lead the field of andrology in the future.
 - The fellowship is designed to augment and support Northwestern Memorial Hospital, the Department of Urology at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, and to advance the overall field of men's health consistent with the goals of the above-mentioned institutions.
- **Fellowship Faculty:** Dr. Robert E. Brannigan
- **Number of Positions per Year:** 1
- **Duration of Fellowship:** 1 year
- **Accreditation:**
- **Who to contact regarding the program:** Mary Kate Keeter

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<http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/sites/urology/education/fellowships/andrology.html>

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The Andrology Fellowship will enable the fellow to acquire an advanced body of knowledge and level of skill in the management of reproductive, endocrine, and sexual health diseases in order to assume a leadership role in teaching and research in the field. This will include:

- Understanding of the classification and evaluation of erectile dysfunction.
- Understanding of the basic techniques of testicular biopsy, evaluation and tissue processing.
- Recognition of basic testicular pathology and knowledge of pathologic prognostic factors.
- The ability to counsel patients on treatment options for therapy for erectile dysfunction and reproductive health abnormalities.
- The ability to evaluate erectile dysfunction and reproductive dysfunction in an office-based setting.
- Understanding of the indications, complications, techniques, and results/biology of erectile dysfunction treatments.
- Understanding of the indications, results, and basic biology of localized and systemic treatment for reproductive dysfunction.
- Understanding of the biology, evaluation, and treatment of local therapies to the penis and testis.
- Understanding of male contraceptive management, including the ability to counsel patients and perform vasectomy procedures.
- Understanding of hypogonadism (primary hypogonadism/intrinsic testicular failure etiology), including diagnosis and treatment with testosterone replacement therapy. This includes the large category of men with age-related hypogonadism (androgen decline in the aging male).
- The ability to counsel and treat patients with hypogonadism of hypothalamic and pituitary origin (secondary hypogonadism), including the use of gonadotropin agents and testosterone replacement therapy.
- The ability to diagnose, evaluate, and treat men with Klinefelter syndrome.

By the program completion, fellows will have the expertise to reach the specialty of andrology, as well as organize a multidisciplinary approach to erectile dysfunction, endocrine dysfunction, and male infertility care.

Description of Program:

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- This is a mentorship style fellowship in which Dr. Brannigan and the fellow work side by side in the clinic and operating room. Autonomy is encouraged in order for the fellow to feel comfortable with all aspects of andrology clinical care at the completion of the program.
- Andrology clinic is typically 3 days per week with the majority of patients presenting with andrology health concerns in addition to those seeking general urologic care. The fellow will assist Dr. Brannigan with office-based procedures, including percutaneous epididymal sperm aspiration (PESA), testicular biopsy, testicular sperm extraction (TESE), vasectomy, duplex penile ultrasound, testosterone pellet implants, and penile injections.
- The fellow will spend approximately two days per week in the operating room with Dr. Brannigan and a urology resident. Examples of high volume cases performed throughout the year include micro-TESE, microscopic vasectomy reversal, vasectomy, microscopic varicocelectomy, orchiectomy, orchiopexy, hydrocelectomy, and spermatocelectomy.
- Andrology fellows teach urology residents and medical students on a daily basis during clinic sessions and operative procedures. Fellows also present more formal, didactic lectures to third year medical students on andrology topics 2-3 times/year.
- There are regular multidisciplinary conferences for female and male reproductive specialists. These conferences are designed to improve patient care by educating fellows from both management groups in an interactive session to improve overall knowledge regarding management of the couple. There are also opportunities to collaborate with reproductive endocrinologists in a clinical setting to provide a comprehensive experience when evaluating and treating couples with infertility.
- Fellows are expected to attend weekly andrology and M&M conferences, as well as urology grand rounds.
- There are no call duties. Opportunities for urology moonlighting exist and are encouraged to help fellow maintain general urology skill set as long as call does not interfere with fellowship duties.

Fellowship Summary

- There is a growing need for talented physicians who are knowledgeable and trained in our field. As a department, we strive to train physicians who are not only superior clinical care providers, but who will also pursue thoughtful research initiatives to help advance men's health for our growing and aging male population. Our goal is to train the physician-scientists who will lead the field of andrology in the future.

Program Weighting:

Male Infertility/Sexual function/Andrology: 80%, 10%, 10%

Clinical/Research: 80%/20%

Education Program:

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Type of Experience	Weekly Structured
Surgery	2 days per week
Andrology Clinic	3 days per week

Unique qualities:

One on one mentorship style clinical fellowship located in the heart of downtown Chicago offering a large volume experience focusing on the diagnosis and management of the various disease processes associated with andrology. Fellows are encouraged to participate in research, resulting in several abstracts at large scale conferences, as well as publication in high impact journals.

There are opportunities for urology moonlighting and no call requirements which help the fellow to not only further their education, but also enjoy a wonderful city during fellowship.

Our prior graduates have an outstanding record of accomplishment both during and after completion of their fellowship training. Over two thirds of graduates from our program currently hold academic appointments as andrology subspecialists within their respective academic departments.