

Fellow perspectives

Why did you choose the UMN ID fellowship program? What would you say are the strengths of our program?



As an under-represented minority, one of my career goals is to work with the ethnic minority community. The Twin Cities is home to a vast array of immigrants and refugees whose infections are unique to their group and not commonly found elsewhere. With the Fellowships' robust Global Health focus and strong ties with the Minnesota Department of Health, my career ambitions can be easily achievable.

- PGY4 ID Fellow

I love the diversity of training sites; the staff are all so engaged and approachable and MN is a great place to be to learn medicine. After matching I've learned that MDH is also an amazing asset for our training program. I think for those interested in global health we also have many opportunities to highlight. Fellows are valued and respected here, and learning (not just clinical work) is very clearly the primary objective in our fellowship program.

- PGY5 ID Fellow

I chose the University of Minnesota for multiple reasons.

1) I wanted a strong clinically focused two-year program. University of Minnesota has a very strong clinical program with no major weaknesses - we spend plenty of time caring for patients with HIV, transplant patients, and general ID patients. We also have a really strong diverse group of hospitals we rotate at. HCMC, a county hospital/safety-net hospital, gives us valuable experience treating refugees, immigrants, and persons who use drugs. We see a lot of tropical diseases as well at HCMC (which applicants may not realize, applying to Minnesota). UMN does all major transplant types and is a large tertiary center. The VAMC is also a referral center but you get plenty of "bread and butter" ID here which was really important to me.

2) Wellness. I think our program strikes a nice balance between working hard when you are on service (we do need to see plenty of patients to learn) with sufficient time off service. I typically am able to leave by 5pm and only very rarely would have to stay later than 6pm (perhaps once or twice a month). We also balance clinic well - all sites and faculty want to know when your clinic afternoon is and balance the workflow to make sure you are done with inpatient work (including notes) by noon so you can leave to go to clinic and not have inpatient work at the end of the day. The 2-month orientation period to take boards, have a few days at the different sites, and "bootcamp" is another great example of wellness. That 2-month period was such a welcome break after a grueling IM residency - helped me remember what my hobbies actually are! Lastly, being able to have a full 6-weeks of paternity leave - on top of my other time away - without having my fellowship extended was amazing!

3) Faculty at all sites are amazing. They all want to teach, have varied research interests, and are fun to work with and learn from. Having only 3 fellows a year with 3 full clinical sites means that the staff also

love to work with fellows where their research interests match! It was very very easy to find a mentor.

- PGY5 ID Fellow

Flexibility in schedule and ability to tailor to career interests. Broad opportunities in research and global health. Wellness endorsement for fellows by the program.

- PGY7 ID Fellow