Description: The Infectious Disease Pathology Branch (IDPB), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides histopathologic, immunohistochemical, and molecular diagnostic consultation to pathologists, medical examiners, clinicians, and epidemiologists across the United States and around the world on cases of disease caused by various bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic agents. IDPB also works closely with investigators at CDC and other academic institutions on studies of pathogenesis and host responses to microbial infections. IDPB offers a limited number of one or two-year fellowships in infectious disease pathology. During this training program, fellows will have ample opportunity to learn infectious disease pathology caused by common agents (e.g. invasive streptococcal and staphylococcal infections), unusual agents (e.g., Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Ebola hemorrhagic fever) and agents associated with epidemics or outbreaks (e.g., influenza, West Nile virus) through rotation on the clinical diagnostic service with the staff pathologists in IDPB. The fellow will hone their skills at developing a differential diagnosis based on histopathologic, clinical, and epidemiologic clues, and use this to apply various specialized techniques, including IHC, ISH, EM, and PCR to arrive at an agent-specific diagnosis.

The program provides a unique opportunity for pathology residents to further their training in infectious disease pathology and to experience work at a national reference center. IDPB maintains close collaborative ties with many other groups at the CDC that work on infectious diseases, providing numerous opportunities to learn about the roles of multiple groups during the development of assays for the detection of various pathogens and the use of these methods during isolated cases or epidemics of infectious diseases. IDPB has played a pivotal role during many recent national global outbreaks, including hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, leptospirosis, West Nile virus, anthrax, influenza, SARS coronavirus, monkeypox, transplant-associated rabies and lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, and many other emerging infectious diseases.

Fellows will also undertake a research program that will be based on the application of immunologic and molecular technology to the diagnosis of infectious disease, or can use cell culture or animal models to study pathogenesis of particular infectious diseases. Specific projects will be discussed with applicants and consideration given to the fellow’s interests and the programmatic goals of IDPB. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity to pursue a rotation through the microbiology laboratories in the Pathology Department at Emory University Hospital. The fellow will receive direction from IDPB Chief and other senior staff members in designing and implementing research studies aimed at examining the pathogenesis of emerging infectious diseases in humans.

Facilities: The program is located at Building 18, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Atlanta, GA 30333.
Staff: CDC: Sherif R. Zaki, MD, PhD, Chief IDPB; Christopher D. Paddock, MD, MPHTM, Staff Pathologist; Wun-Ju Shieh, MD, MPH, PhD, Staff Pathologist
Emory University Hospital: Angela Caliendo, MD, PhD, Professor & Vice Chair, Pathology Department.
Stipends: Available for limited number of one or two-year fellowships and commensurate with postgraduate education level and experience.
Applications: A current CV and two letters of reference should be forwarded for consideration to Sherif R. Zaki, MD, PhD, Chief, Infectious Disease Pathology Branch, 1600 Clifton Rd., NE, Mailstop G-32, Atlanta, GA, 30333. E-mail: SZaki@cdc.gov; Phone: (404) 639-3133 Fax: (404) 639-3043.