OVERALL EDUCATIONAL GOAL OF ELECTIVE:
To expose the rotating medical student to the clinical practice of surgical and autopsy pathology in a tertiary care setting. Emphasis is placed on giving the rotating student a working concept of the role of pathology in the overall health care system and in individual patient care.

OBJECTIVES:
- At the end of the rotation, the medical student will understand how the surgical pathology laboratory functions by actively participating in daily work-flow including frozen section analysis, gross surgical pathology, and the multifaceted diagnostic approach (clinical/radiographic correlation, molecular, immunohistochemical, ultrastructural, cytogenetic correlation) to interpretation of surgical pathology specimens.
- Extent of exposure will depend on length of rotation. One week rotations will essentially represent an observation of the functioning of the laboratory. Students on longer rotations will be expected to show familiarity with the handling of non-complex surgical specimens in the gross laboratory and be able to verbalize their diagnostic approach to non-complicated surgical specimens. This level of familiarity will be assessed during daily interactions with the surgical pathology faculty. Additionally, students on longer electives may opt to spend time in subspecialty areas of pathology (cytopathology, hematopathology, renal pathology) at the discretion of the course director.
- At the end of the rotation, the medical student will be able to demonstrate familiarity with general hospital autopsy procedures including pre-autopsy procedures (consent review, medical examiner referral, chart review, clinician contact), autopsy procedures (universal precautions, external examination, internal examination, evisceration, organ dissection and sectioning), special autopsy procedures (angiograms, radiography, pneumothorax testing, cytogenetics, flow cytometry, bone marrow biopsy aspiration), post-autopsy procedures (provisional diagnosis reporting, microscopic review and dictation, final reporting). In addition, the medical student will become familiar with medical photography. Students on shorter rotations will only be able to participate as observers but students on longer rotations will progress from observer to assistant to the attending pathologist and resident. It is anticipated that a medical student on a four-week rotation will follow at least one autopsy from pre-autopsy procedure through final reporting.

I. Patient care
- Understand the role of the pathology laboratory in providing safe, effective patient care.
- Be able to identify clinically unsuspected findings at autopsy and understand how these are reported to clinicians and used to increase the quality of patient care.
II. Medical knowledge
- Formulate a working differential diagnosis for uncomplicated gross surgical pathology specimen.
- Formulate a working differential diagnosis for uncomplicated microscopic surgical pathology specimens.
- Formulate basic anatomic diagnosis from autopsy.

III. Practice-based learning and improvement
- Preview select uncomplicated surgical pathology cases prior to review with attending – assess accuracy of the diagnoses throughout rotation.

IV. Interpersonal and communication skills
- Effective communication with residents, technical staff and faculty.
- Effective communication of diagnostic findings to clinicians with appropriate clinico-pathologic correlation.

IV. Professionalism
- Attend daily sign outs and be prepared with preview of select cases.
- Assist with autopsies and preview chart.

V. Systems-based Practice
- Perform literature review for autopsies and surgical cases. Use University library resources.
- Respect universal precautions

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
Time will be partitioned between post mortem examination, surgical gross description, microscopic sign out and observation of gross surgical pathology description. Complete reading assignments related to clinical material. Integrate anatomic findings with clinical laboratory data by reviewing all laboratory data in cases assigned to the student. Attendance at departmental and other conferences. Weekend call may be expected in order that the student fulfills the minimum requirement of participation in at least one post mortem examination.

METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION
Based upon satisfactory performance during the elective as monitored by individual interaction with faculty and residents.

ARE THERE ANY PREREQUISITES FOR THIS ELECTIVE? No

IS THIS ELECTIVE AVAILABLE TO THIRD YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS AS WELL? Yes