

General Surgery Residency Program

2021 – 2022



Cooper University Health Care Health Sciences Campus

Welcome from Our Program Director

Thank you for your interest in our General Surgery Residency at Cooper.

The mission of the General Surgery residency program is to educate and train knowledgeable, technically skilled, compassionate, inquisitive surgeons who are capable of the independent practice of surgery. We further aim to assure their education in academic pursuits and patient safety and quality improvement so that they are capable of practicing in the modern academic and clinical health care environment.

Our six-year program is an ACGME accredited General Surgery Residency sponsored by Cooper University Hospital and Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, with four categorical residents/year. We provide broad training in General Surgery on our main campus in Camden, New Jersey.

We serve a socioeconomically diverse community, and provide tertiary care to a seven county region with a population in excess of two million people. Five clinical years are devoted to acquiring knowledge and skills in all of the principle components of General Surgery. Clinical research is a fundamental part of the curriculum throughout residency. The full time surgical faculty represent a broad range of surgical specialties, and many hold leadership positions in local, regional, and national organizations. The residency is supported by an ACS Level I Adult Trauma Center / Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, and the Cooper/MD Anderson Cancer Center. Surgical simulation is integral to the educational program, as are minimally invasive and robotic surgery.



All trainees are involved in performance improvement and patient safety activities. Graduates achieve eligibility for certification by the American Board of Surgery, and are able to enter the independent practice of surgery or gain entry to fellowships in the subspecialty of their choice.

Between the second and third clinical years of this six-year program, the residents engage in a dedicated research fellowship under the guidance of the surgical faculty. The Division of Research provides opportunities in basic science and translational research. Residents also continue their involvement in clinical research in a broad range of surgical fields during this fellowship year. A few of the recent publications and podium presentations of recent residents are listed later in this document.

Our graduates have gone on to practice general surgery, and to fellowship training in a variety of specialties. A number have gone on to leadership roles in academic institutions and surgical societies. We encourage those who have the drive to become excellent clinical surgeons, and to understand and harness the science of surgery, to apply to our program. We welcome your interest and look forward to meeting you.

Steven E. Ross, MD

Program Director
General Surgery Residency

*"We prepare our trainees to be capable, ethical,
and inquisitive general surgeons."*

A Note from the Department Chief

We are southern New Jersey's only academic, tertiary care medical center. As such, we provide a rich and varied training experience with a large and growing surgical volume.

I became Chairman in 2008, after 23 years at the University of Pennsylvania.

Since then, Cooper has seen the addition of its new Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, which graduated its first class in 2016. This has deepened our academic resources and enriched the training environment.

The campus has seen a number of expansions during this time, with the addition of 25 operating rooms for a total of 38, including two robotic rooms, a room equipped with a CT scanner, a room with an O-arm, three hybrid OR/ angiographic suites, and state-of-the-art laparoscopy rooms.

The affiliation of Cooper with the world-renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, to create MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, has dramatically increased the volume of oncologic and reconstructive surgeries, providing many opportunities for participation in advanced treatment and research protocols.

Our Level 1 Trauma Center is the region's largest and busiest, offering surgical trainees a rich experience in management of traumatic injuries and



reconstruction. Our faculty has more than doubled in size since 2008 and now numbers more than 70 surgeons. While they are clinically excellent and busy, they are also extremely academically productive and seek to collaborate with trainees to mentor them in research.

In 2018, the Department of Surgery at Cooper published more than 100 articles and book chapters. Our faculty serve on the editorial boards of many journals and are nationally and internationally recognized as leaders in their specialties. We have an active basic science research program, with emphases on regenerative medicine and epigenetics. The department maintains both a large animal and small animal vivarium with two large animal operating rooms. We are passionate about education of surgical trainees and welcome your interest in our programs.

Jeffrey P. Carpenter, MD

Chairman and Chief
Department of Surgery

"We provide a rich and varied training experience with a large and growing surgical volume."

General Surgery Residency Program

The General Surgery Residency Program is a categorical track for medical school graduates wishing to become excellent general surgeons and/or pursue further training in surgical subspecialties. The curriculum is designed to have each resident achieve eligibility for the American Board of Surgery examination in General Surgery. We accept four individuals into the first year of our six-year program. The first, second, fourth, fifth, and sixth are clinical years. The third year is a funded fellowship in laboratory and clinical surgical research with limited clinical responsibility. Our residency program centers upon the principal components of general surgery, with an established curriculum that challenges the resident academically and technically. The faculty practices and our diverse population provide a broad exposure to general surgery including diseases of the head and neck, breast, skin and soft tissues, alimentary tract, abdomen, vascular system, endocrine system, as well as comprehensive management of trauma and emergency surgery, and surgical critical care. There is also broad exposure to thoracic, pediatric, and plastic surgery. All clinical rotations are at the main campus except for one month of solid organ transplantation in the third year. A Surgical Simulation Lab that encompasses open, minimally invasive, and endoscopic skills complements the clinical experience.

The goals of the research year are to instill the scientific approach to surgical disease into the



thought processes of each resident, by allowing them to conduct scientific investigation into specific surgical problems. This educational experience allows the resident to develop a critical approach to the literature as it pertains to surgical practice. The surgical and basic sci-

ence faculty mentor the residents in their research projects, in writing abstracts, and presentations, and ultimately, in preparing manuscripts for publication. The director of surgical research supervises the laboratory experience, helping faculty and residents develop research plans that focus on the areas of interest to the faculty and trainee. A variety of basic science research, including large and small animal surgery, is ongoing on our campus, and opportunities for collaborative work with Rowan's bioengineering department are available.

The large number and broad interests of our full-time faculty allow a close relationship between attendings and residents. Each resident is assigned

a faculty mentor during their intern year, who is able to assist them in their development as a physician and surgeon. Our program emphasizes the importance of graduated responsibility for the trainee, fostering development of surgical judgment. Ambulatory surgery and continuity of care clinics are an integral part of the resident experience.

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*Teaching residents for over 25 years
has proved to be a tremendously enjoyable and
rewarding part of my career.*

Jeffrey P. Carpenter, MD
Chairman and Chief,
Department of Surgery

General Surgery Residency Program



Residency Graduates Fellowship Placement (2006-2018)

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Although some of our graduates go directly into the practice of surgery, the majority have opted for further training in a discipline of general surgery. They have obtained fellowships throughout the U.S in premier programs in breast, cardiothoracic, colorectal, endocrine, advanced laparoscopic, plastic, vascular, and surgical critical care.

Breast Surgery

- Jefferson University Hospital
- Stanford University Medical Center
- University of Southern California

Colon & Rectal Surgery

- Brown University
- Cleveland Clinic
- Ochsner Clinic

Endocrine Surgery

- Cleveland Clinic

Minimally Invasive Surgery

- Albany Medical Center
- University of Washington
- University of Arizona
- Hackensack University Hospital
- Ann Arundel Hospital
- U.C. San Francisco
- Alta Bates Medical Center, Oakland, CA
- Houston Northwest Medical Center

Plastic Surgery

- Cleveland Clinic
- Duke University
- University of Miami
- Cooper Medical School

Trauma / Surgical Critical Care

- Cooper Medical School
- University of Connecticut
- Johns Hopkins
- UC San Diego

Vascular Surgery

- Cooper Medical School
- Methodist Hospital-Houston
- Montefiore (NYC) Medical Center
- NJ Medical School – UMDNJ Boston Medical Center
- University of Mississippi
- U T Houston

International Surgery

- Nepal

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