2021 - 2022

Emergency Medicine Residency Program

Our mission:
To Serve.
To Heal.
To Educate.
Emergency Medicine Residency Program

The Emergency Medicine Residency at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and Cooper University Hospital is a three-year program full of dynamic, high-energy, and friendly individuals with a wide range of academic interests and a strong sense of family. With over 40 board-certified emergency medicine (EM) faculty providing education through an established curriculum and clinical supervision, EM residents learn the basic skills and gain the essential knowledge necessary to build a strong foundation in emergency medicine.

Learning and Skill Development in a Dynamic Environment

In all clinical areas, Cooper’s faculty provide its residents with clear, graduated, and progressive responsibilities per PGY year. This approach helps each resident develop the essential educational, leadership, and administrative skills to become a successful physician. Cooper residents learn to recognize and respond to the acutely ill and injured patient while developing the mature clinical judgment and the technical skills necessary to provide excellent emergency medical care. The clinical and didactic experience, coupled with close faculty mentoring, provides each Cooper resident with the training and knowledge required to become an outstanding EM physician and academician.

After completing the program, Cooper EM residency graduates obtain highly competitive positions and have been successful in both community and academic settings. Many graduates go on to complete EM fellowships in areas such as informatics, EMS, pediatric EM, ultrasound, toxicology, sports medicine, disaster medicine, palliative care, global health, and critical care.

Training in Diverse Environments and Treating a Diverse Population

Cooper residents benefit from training in a variety of different settings and by treating a diverse patient population. Each setting brings unique challenges and unique training opportunities. For example, Cooper’s Emergency Department (ED) in Camden has an annual census of approximately 80,000 patients, of which over 20 percent are pediatric patients. Over 20 percent of our patients are triaged with a high acuity level and approximately 25 percent are admitted to the hospital, making Cooper ED acuity high relative to other sites. To meet the demands of increasing patient volume, Cooper has expanded the size of its ED and now has a 42 bed, state-of-the-art facility.

Cooper is a Level 1 Trauma Center, serving a population of two million across southern New Jersey. With over 2,200 trauma visits annually, Cooper has the busiest Level 1 Trauma Center in the state. MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper provides innovative, comprehensive cancer care each year to thousands of patients with cancer and is a full partner with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas – one of the nation’s leading cancer hospitals.
With a large Hispanic population in the City of Camden, Cooper offers residents exposure to a culturally diverse patient population during residency. In addition to serving a large inner-city patient population, Cooper residents also care for many of the patients from the surrounding suburbs seeking care in the Cooper ED. This patient mix provides residents tremendous learning opportunities from the diverse pathology they encounter on a daily basis.

The Cooper Pediatric ED provides high-quality emergency care and resident education. Twenty percent of Cooper's EM curriculum is focused on pediatric emergency medicine and is taught by our own pediatric EM faculty. Rotations in the Pediatric ED and Pediatric ICU provide a superb foundation in the evaluation and treatment of children in the ED. Cooper residents graduate as physicians competent and comfortable treating sick children of all ages.

In addition to clinical experience gained in Cooper’s ED, residents also train and work alongside EM faculty at Cooper’s three urgent care centers located in suburban areas of South Jersey. During their second and third years of residency, residents also spend two months in the Emergency Department at Virtua Memorial Hospital of Burlington County, New Jersey. Training at this busy, high-acuity community hospital ED (about 60,000 visits annually), serves as an outstanding complement to each resident’s training at Cooper. During their time in the Virtua ED, residents see both adults and pediatric patients who present with a wide variety of suburban injuries and illnesses.

**Unique Training Opportunities**

EM Residents at Cooper enjoy a bounty of unique additional educational and training opportunities. For example:

- Cooper’s EM program offers residents a unique experience in EMS and Disaster Medicine. The Division of EMS/Disaster Medicine brings expertise in Emergency Medicine Services, Disaster Medicine, Air and Transport Medicine, Public Health and Weapons of Mass Destruction to provide a resource to the EM program, hospital, community, region, and state. In 2016, Cooper became responsible for the entire EMS system in the City of Camden. Our residents now have the opportunity to provide daily medical command to our ground and flight crews. Residents learn the role of physicians in EMS medical direction and medical command, how to collaborate with different organizations during a disaster response, and how to provide appropriate care during mass casualty incidents. Residents work alongside our two EMS/Disaster fellows.

- Cooper residents engage in comprehensive training in bedside ultrasound. Working alongside several ultrasound fellowship-trained faculty, residents gain extensive hands-on experience using state-of-the-art machines. Ultrasound training begins immediately for all incoming residents. This practical experience coupled with a formal didactic curriculum provides each resident with an outstanding foundation in EM ultrasound. Ultrasound is used in a wide variety of clinical and procedural applications, and the graduating residents are proficient in the performance of emergency bedside ultrasound and ultrasound-guided procedures.
Cooper residents also gain outstanding critical care exposure while rotating on the trauma and medical intensive care services. Cooper’s critical care and EM faculty include several nationally–recognized leaders in critical care medicine. Cooper’s institutional focus on critical care led to the creation of a multidisciplinary team of emergency medicine, medical, and surgical critical care staff who oversee the care of critically ill and injured patients. The faculty include several EM/critical care faculty who oversee the implementation of collaborative patient care and research protocols in the ED. Residents gain extensive clinical exposure to the treatment of patients in shock and post cardiac arrest syndromes, including the initial evaluation and stabilization of post cardiac arrest patients transferred to Cooper for targeted temperature management.

An exciting addition to both Camden’s community and our residency program is Cooper’s focus on Addiction Medicine, a cutting-edge and growing area of EM. Our Department currently has two board certified addiction medicine specialists who not only provide medication-assisted treatment, but who have developed an award-winning comprehensive substance use disorder curriculum for our residency program. Also, we have a new Addiction Medicine fellowship that began in 2020. Residents can elect to work with these physicians in the Addiction Medicine clinic.

Cooper has faculty specializing in simulation, administration, process improvement, palliative care, patient safety, undergraduate education, critical care, toxicology, EMS, disaster medicine, pediatrics, addiction medicine, and ultrasound to provide residents with the most comprehensive EM training experience possible.

**Academic Education and Curriculum**

Cooper residents attend 5.5 hours per week of conference. The core curriculum is taught over an 18-month period in monthly modules. Each module is devoted to a core content area, e.g. trauma, critical care, or infectious disease. Residents receive protection from clinical duties during conferences and the majority of the curriculum is taught by Cooper EM faculty. In addition, a resident development lecture series provides residents an opportunity to grow on a personal, professional, and business perspective.

The core curriculum is taught in both a traditional lecture-based setting and using the new, non-traditional “flipped classroom” method. In the past several years, Cooper has embraced innovative instruction through the use and development of podcasts, directed reading assignments, and the expansion of our asynchronous content. We have adopted the EM Foundations program to support our asynchronous teaching.
To ensure that each EM resident acquires the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful during residency and after graduation, our lectures are complemented with monthly faculty-led, small group case-based discussions and monthly module questions. Additionally we have a robust simulation and procedural curriculum, including advanced procedure labs for our senior residents.

Our monthly core curriculum is supplemented with our ECG conferences, ultrasound conferences, management conferences, interdisciplinary conferences (ICU, Trauma, Peds), toxicology conferences, business and ethics conferences, and EMS conferences. On one conference day per month, our seniors are split from our juniors and given targeted instruction on CV development, job application, oral board review, and other pertinent topics for soon-to-be graduates.

**Research and Electives**

Residents are also encouraged to participate in clinical research activities within the ED. Core research faculty oversee departmental, resident, and student projects. There are a number of Scholarly Tracks in which a resident can participate. The residents have an additional four weeks of elective time during their senior year and are given the flexibility to choose electives that may help them develop their academic niche or augment their education. Examples of electives that residents have chosen in the past include: advanced ultrasound, palliative care, toxicology, administration, medical student education, various international activities, pediatric emergency medicine, and critical care.

**Learning the Business of Emergency Medicine**

Over the past few years, Cooper has developed a robust resident experience in the systems-based practice of EM. Residents receive significant education and feedback on billing/charting, patient experience, case management, patient safety, and process improvement. This education on the “Business of Emergency Medicine” provides residents a tremendous skill set to assist with the transition to independent practice.

With our medical school, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, our partnership with MD Anderson Cancer Center, our Comprehensive Stroke Program, our Regional Trauma Center, and our Critical Care program, Cooper is an outstanding place to train and one of the best programs for emergency medicine.
First-year Emergency Medicine residents receive a broad exposure to a variety of clinical disciplines, with a concentration in emergency medicine, critical care, anesthesia and pediatrics. The second- and third-year focus is on refining clinical skills by giving residents increasing and administrative responsibility during blocks of emergency medicine, trauma, and pediatrics, in addition to EMS, toxicology, and elective time. Educational objectives are outlined for each block rotation. The chairman and residency director ensure that these objectives are met, and that appropriate responsibility is afforded our residents on all rotations. All blocks are four weeks long.

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**KEY**

- **V( )**: Vacation (number of weeks)
- **VMHBC**: Virtua Memorial Hospital of Burlington County
- **US**: Ultrasound

A full range of academic conferences take place at Cooper University Hospital.
Emergency medicine faculty and residents participate in research studies spanning a wide range of both clinical and non-clinical topics. Departmental faculty enjoy mentoring residents who are interested in gaining experience with emergency medicine research, and residents are strongly encouraged to collaborate with faculty in ongoing departmental research projects. There are numerous opportunities for residents to become involved in research studies as co-investigators and study authors. Full-time research coordinators and specially trained research assistants are available to help with study design, subject screening, and patient enrollment. Residents frequently present the results from their projects at national conferences including SAEM and ACEP.

**Research areas**

- Septic shock (NIH funded)
- Post-cardiac arrest syndrome (NIH funded)
- Traumatic injury (NIH funded)
- Geriatric medicine (NIH funded)
- Cooper is one of the three founding sites of the Emergency Medicine Shock Research Network (EMSHOCKNET)
- Pediatric investigations in collaboration with the Division of Pediatric EM
- Medical student and Resident education
- Simulation in EM education
- Prehospital/EMS
- Clinical trial registries (Federally funded)
- Numerous ongoing multi-center pharmaceutical and industry sponsored trials
- Neurologic emergencies
- Participant in the NIH-funded SIREN network for multi-center emergency care clinical trials

**Performance improvement**

- Ultrasound applications including:
  - Early pregnancies
  - Trauma (FAST exam)
- Patient satisfaction
- ED throughput

**Research Curriculum**

- Certification in the Protection of Human Research Participants
- Monthly journal club sessions, led by the senior residents
- Attendance at CAT lecture series
  - Completion of two Critically Appraised Topics (CATs)
- Demonstration of comprehension of basic research methodology, study design and ethical issues
- Successful completion of a research/scholarly project under the direct supervision of EM faculty
- Senior Presentation each May where PGY3s present their scholarly projects
How to Apply

The Emergency Medicine Residency at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and Cooper University Hospital participates in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), and all information is processed through this system without exception.

ERAS applications must contain the following information in order for your application to be considered:

**For Cooper EM’s 2020-2021 Interviews**
- Common application form
- We are requiring at least one SLOE (versus 2) with exception for extenuating circumstances
- We are requesting applicants to include a program specific paragraph/addendum on their personal statement as to why they would succeed at Cooper
- Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)
- Transcript
- USMLE/COMLEX Scores – All applicants must submit USMLE Step 1 results
- Completed applications must be submitted by November 1st

**Interview Specifics**
- All applications are screened by the Selection Committee
- Interviews are by invitation only
  - You will be notified via email if you have been offered the opportunity to interview
- All interviews will be virtual and will run from November through mid-January.
- Invitations are given to a highly competitive and select group of applicants. You will be notified via email if you have been offered the opportunity to interview. In order to be guaranteed an interview spot, please be sure to respond as soon as possible after receiving your invitation email.
- Unfortunately this year, there will be no “in person” shadow opportunities nor second looks due to the Hospital’s visitor restrictions. We are happy to answer any questions you may have after interviews to help you make the best choice possible with regards to your residency training
- CORD and leading EM organizations have issued this statement to assist with the Residency Application Process for US medical students planning careers in Emergency Medicine.

**Program Eligibility**
Eligibility for the Emergency Medicine Residency Program requires graduation from an accredited medical school. Individuals accepted for a position in the program must be U.S. citizen, classified as a resident alien, or hold a J-1 visa.
The Cooper GME Experience

Cooper University Health Care takes pride in its ability to offer a comprehensive array of diagnostic and treatment services. Cooper University Hospital serves as southern New Jersey’s major tertiary care referral hospital for specialized services. Cooper Premier Institutes, Centers of Excellence, and programs include: MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, Surgical Services Institute, Adult Health Institute, Cooper Heart Institute/Cardiac Partners at Cooper and Inspira, Cooper Bone and Joint Institute, Cooper Neurological Institute, Women’s and Children’s Health Institute, Urban Health Institute, Center for Population Health, Center for Critical Care Services, Center for Urgent and Emergent Services, and the Center for Trauma Services, which includes our Level I Trauma Center, Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, and active community trauma prevention education.

Cooper has been a cornerstone in Camden for more than 130 years and has expanded its facilities and services throughout South Jersey. Cooper has been nationally recognized for its leadership in patient safety, receiving the 2019 Patient Safety Excellence Award™ from Healthgrades, placing it among the top 5% of hospitals in the nation. Cooper was also recognized as a high-performing hospital for treating heart failure and COPD by U.S. News & World Report’s 2019-2020 Best Hospital Survey.

Cooper’s commitment is to provide exceptional care to every patient, every day, in a patient-centered, family-focused environment. Every employee—including our residents and fellows—is a member of the care-giving team and has an important role in making the experience at Cooper a healing one for patients and their families.

Your training at Cooper will be academically challenging, enhanced by our top-ranked faculty and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. We welcome the opportunity to have you as part of our team, as we provide university-quality health care in southern New Jersey.

Diversity Statement

The Graduate Medical Education programs of Cooper University Health Care is committed to providing a supportive environment that allows all members of its academic community to thrive and succeed. We work to recruit a diverse group of residents and fellows, and celebrate the multiple dimensions represented in our community, including, but not limited to race, creed, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, or age. We recognize the importance of monitoring the outcomes of our diversity efforts so that we can better reflect the diversity of our patients and community. Through our GME Diversity Council, we promote on-going exploration of our own biases while also providing education on discrimination and anti-racism. We provide a safe space for residents to engage in dialogue, learn, and contribute to their fullest potential. We seek opportunities to enrich our community through volunteerism and to effect lasting change through engagement with local leaders.

We are proud. We are diverse. We are Cooper.
Just across the bridge from bustling Philadelphia, and less than an hour from the tranquility of the Pine Barrens and activity of the Jersey shore, Cooper University Hospital is easy to access. The academic campus is located across the street from two commuter rail lines (PATCO and NJ Transit’s River Line) and within walking distance of Rutgers University and Rowan University Camden campuses.

The Cooper Health Sciences Campus is located in the heart of Camden’s business district. The academic medical center campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation via the commuter high-speed line and bus terminal adjacent to the hospital.

Cooper is a short walk or drive from the exciting Camden waterfront, which includes a magnificent waterfront park and marina; the Adventure Aquarium; and the BB&T amphitheater, which hosts nationally renowned entertainment throughout the year. Nearby are the Sixers Training Complex, L3 Communications complex, Lockheed Martin, Rutgers University Camden Campus, and Camden County College.

There are expected to be $350M in transportation and infrastructure improvements within the next four to five years to handle the influx of thousands of new employees to the area and students at nearby growing academic campuses.

Cooper is conveniently close to Philadelphia. Just a mile-long drive over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge will put you at the doorstep of Philadelphia’s cultural, culinary, and historic venues. South Jersey also offers a range of living and entertainment options. Quaint towns such as Haddonfield and Collingswood are just 10 minutes away. The lights and action of Atlantic City and popular beach towns such as Cape May and Ocean City are a one-hour drive from Cooper.
The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at:
CooperHealth.org/Locations