

2022-2023

General Surgery Residency Program



Our mission:

To serve,
to heal,
to educate.

 **Cooper**
University Health Care

 **Cooper Medical School**
of Rowan University

Welcome From Our Program Director



Michael E. Kwiatt, MD

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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, and able to care effectively for diverse patient populations. 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. The General Surgery Residency is committed to the recruitment and retention of a diverse group of residents and faculty, and to provide opportunities for members of groups underrepresented in medicine to excel in our field.

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.

Michael E Kwiatt, MD

Program Director, General Surgery Residency

A Note From the Department Chief



Jeffrey P. Carpenter, MD

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

Greetings and thank you for your interest in training at Cooper.

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 2020, 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

to serve

General Surgery Residency Program



“Teaching residents for more than 25 years has proved to be a tremendously enjoyable and rewarding part of my career.”

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

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 science 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.

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.

to heal

General Surgery Residency Program continued



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Residency Graduates Fellowship Placement (2006-2021)

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Breast Surgery

Jefferson University Hospital
Stanford University Med Center
University of Southern California

Surgical Oncology

Brown University
University of Louisville
Fox Chase Cancer Center

Colon & Rectal Surgery

Brown University
Cleveland Clinic
Ochsner Clinic
Cleveland Clinic, Florida

Thoracic Surgery

Wake Forest

Trauma / Surgical Critical Care

Cooper University Hospital
University of Connecticut
Johns Hopkins
UC San Diego

Endocrine Surgery

Cleveland Clinic

International Surgery

Nepal

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

Vascular Surgery

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

Plastic Surgery

Cleveland Clinic
Duke University
University of Miami
Cooper University Hospital

to educate

Department of Surgery Clinical Schedule



Residents are immersed in this rich environment, and have ample opportunity to interact with faculty and peers through formal and informal teaching sessions.

PGY-1	
Rotation	Months
Acute Care Surgery	3
General & Bariatric Surgery	1
Surgical Oncology	2
Thoracic Surgery	1
Surgical Subspecialty	1
Surgical Critical Care	2
Night Float	2

PGY-2	
Rotation	Months
Acute Care Surgery	1
Colorectal Surgery	1
Endoscopy	1
Pediatric Surgery	2
Surgical Oncology	1
Thoracic Surgery	1
Vascular Surgery	2
Surgical Critical Care	2
Night Float	1

Research Year	
Rotation	Months
Research Fellowship	12

PGY-3	
Rotation	Months
General & Bariatric Surgery	1
Colorectal Surgery	1
Surgical Oncology	1
Surgical Critical Care	1
Thoracic Surgery	2
Transplant Surgery - at Jefferson Hospital	1
Trauma	2
Vascular Surgery	1
Night Float	2

PGY-4	
Rotation	Months
Acute Care Surgery	2
Colorectal Surgery	2
General & Bariatric Surgery	3
Surgical Oncology	2
Vascular Surgery	1
Trauma	1
Thoracic Surgery	1
Night Float	1

PGY-5	
Rotation	Months
Acute Care Surgery	4
Colorectal Surgery	4
General & Bariatric Surgery	4
Surgical Oncology	4

Subspecialty rotations include thoracic surgery, plastic surgery, and pediatric surgery.

How to Apply



Contact Information

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The General Surgery Residency Program at Cooper University Hospital participates in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), and all information is processed through this system without exception. Information regarding the ERAS application process and timeline is available on the websites listed below. All positions will be offered through the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP); participation with NRMP is required.

Association of American Medical Colleges

www.aamc.org/eras

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

- Common application form
- Curriculum vitae
- Medical school transcript
- Two original letters of recommendation
- Dean's letter
- Personal statement describing your training goals and future career plans
- USMLE reports (1, 2ck + 2cs)
- ECFMG certification (IMG only)

The program director and additional faculty members will review applicant files. Invitation for interview will be based upon their recommendations. No supplemental application required for 2021/2022 cycle.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility for the General Surgery 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 application deadline for the 2022-2023 academic year is December 1, 2021.

The Cooper GME Experience



Learn more about training
at Cooper and hear from
current residents at
CooperHealth.edu/GME
and
CooperHealth.edu/Diversity



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.

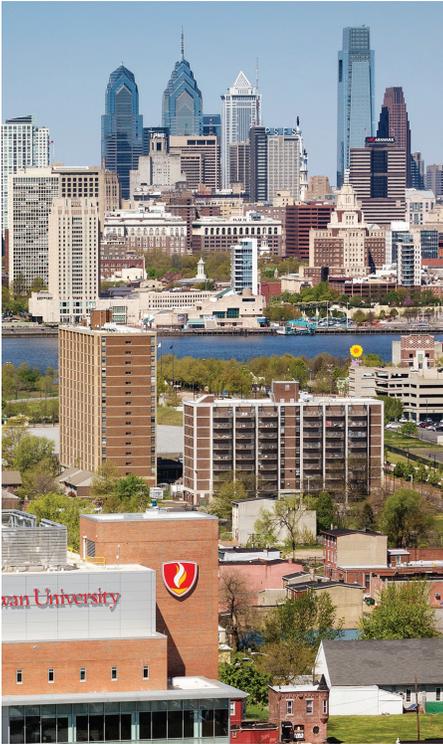
Your training at Cooper will be academically challenging, enhanced by our top-ranked faculty and state-of-the-art equipment and facilities. We welcome the opportunity to have you as part of our team, as we provide university-quality health care in southern New Jersey.

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.

Off Campus Highlights



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.

Cooper Camden Campus Map



The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at:
CooperHealth.org/Locations



One Cooper Plaza · Camden, NJ 08103-1489 · CooperHealth.edu

Hospital Main Number: **856.342.2000**

Graduate Medical Education: **856.342.2922**