2017-2018

Plastic Surgery
Residency Program

To serve, to heal, to educate

serve heal educate

To serve, to heal, to educate

Cooper University Health Care

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Thank you for your interest in our Plastic Surgery Residency Program. Our goal is to train Plastic Surgeons who are competent to enter practice, yet qualified to pursue more advanced fellowship training if they desire. The program utilizes the precepts of Adult Learning by emphasizing direct experience and individual learning plans. Our smaller size allows us to be nimble in accommodating the learning needs and interests of our residents, while providing broad based, comprehensive education. Our graduates can be found in the spectrum of practice situations, including academia, private practice, and subspecialty practice.

Our residents are a valued part of our Division of Plastic Surgery and our institution. Residents will interact in a collegial atmosphere with faculty, support staff, and representatives of other services. We strive for the best balance of independence and supervision, and respect the extensive prior training of our residents. Residents are exposed to a wide variety of problems and a very diverse patient population. Our strengths include our Level 1 Trauma Center, our Cleft Program, and our MD Anderson at Cooper Cancer Center. In addition, residents receive excellent education in the socioeconomic aspects of practice, including coding and billing, working with support staff, and practice management. Basic science and clinical research opportunities are available as well.

If you are looking for a program that offers broad clinical exposure in an atmosphere that allows close mentorship and support, we invite you to look at Cooper.

Martha Matthews, MD, FACS
Program Director, Plastic Surgery Residency
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, with our first class scheduled to graduate in 2016. This has deepened the academic resources and enriched the training environment. The campus has seen a number of expansions during this time, with the addition of 12 operating rooms, including a room equipped with a CT scanner, a room with an O-arm and a hybrid angiographic suite as well as state of the art laparoscopy rooms. We are in the midst of another OR expansion, adding another 5 rooms, including two dedicated robotic rooms for our busy robotic surgery programs.

The affiliation of Cooper with the world renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center, to create the Cooper-MD Anderson Cancer Center has dramatically increased the volume of oncologic and reconstructive surgeries and provided 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 doubled in size since 2008. While they are clinically excellent and busy, they are also extremely academically productive and seek to collaborate with trainees to mentor them in research.

Cooper Surgery published over 80 articles and book chapters in 2015. Our faculty serves on the editorial boards of many journals and are recognized leaders nationally and internationally in their specialties. We have an active basic science research program, with a focus on regenerative medicine. 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
Chief, Department of Surgery
The Plastic Surgery Residency Program at Cooper University accepts one applicant annually into its independent track for three years of residency training. Over the three years of training, the resident is exposed to all aspects of plastic and reconstructive surgery. A full-time faculty of six plastic surgeons assures the resident of close supervision, when required, and the opportunity for graded responsibility and independence, both in the operating room and in the outpatient ambulatory facility. Volunteer faculty in private practice provides additional clinical exposure outside of an academic medical center. Our goal is to provide comprehensive training through high clinical volume and weekly educational sessions in order to prepare the resident for a successful career in academic or private practice plastic surgery.

Cooper University Hospital is a major trauma center in the state of New Jersey whose catchment includes the seven southern counties of the state. The division of Plastic Surgery is responsible for the care of oral maxillofacial trauma, shared with OMFS, as well as care of hand and upper extremity trauma, shared with Orthopaedic Surgery. Elective surgery at our university hospital ranges from small outpatient procedures to complex microvascular reconstruction with our three full time microsurgeons. The hospital also includes a Level III intensive care nursery and one of the largest state—supported Craniofacial/Cleft Palate Program in New Jersey, with more than 700 active patients and a robust cleft clinical experience. The division also has an outpatient office and surgicenter in neighboring Voorhees for further elective volume. The resident will rotate mainly at Cooper University Hospital. The first year will provide broad exposure to clinical and operative plastic surgery. By second year the resident will be performing and logging complex cases as the primary surgeon. Third year is highlighted by a chief resident clinic where the resident independently evaluates his or her patients for cosmetic surgery and schedules them for surgery, with oversight from our faculty. There are rotations in areas such as oculoplastics, anesthesiology, dermatology and orthopaedics. Residents have opportunities for teaching of rotating junior residents from General Surgery, Orthopedics and Podiatry, as well as medical student from Cooper Medical School. The patient care team includes physician assistants and a nurse.

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

Jeffrey Carpenter, MD
Chairman and Chief, Department of Surgery; Vice President, Perioperative Services; Professor of Surgery, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University
Department of Plastic 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.

Weekly educational conference includes all members of the division, with excellent attendance by faculty. The curriculum covers the principles of plastic surgery over the course of one year and includes lectures from our own faculty, members from associated departments at Cooper, and visiting professors. Residents will give two formal presentations annually. Morbidity and Mortality conference occurs monthly, and there are also scheduled journal clubs. Clinical research is encouraged during residency and opportunities exist to pursue this. There is also a basic science research laboratory with opportunities for resident involvement.

Clinical Schedule

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CooperHealth.edu
How to Apply

We participate in the San Francisco Matching Service (www.sfmatch.org) using the Common Application Service (CAS). Applicants must have prerequisite training acceptable to the American Board of Plastic surgery and must be eligible for licensure in the state of New Jersey. All candidates must have taken and passed Step 3 to be considered for Match ranking.

The program director and faculty members will review applicant files. Invitation for interview will be based upon their recommendations.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility for the Plastic Surgery Residency Program requires graduation from an accredited medical school and completion of pre-requisite training acceptable to the American Board of Plastic Surgery. Individuals accepted for a position in the program must be U.S. citizens, classified as a resident alien, or hold a J-1 visa.

The application deadline for the 2016-17 academic year is December 20, 2016.
The Cooper Campus and Surrounding Area

It is extraordinary to have such a high concentration of leadership at one institution but, then, Cooper is an extraordinary hospital.

Cooper University Hospital is the center of a growing health science campus that includes the main hospital, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the internationally acclaimed Coriell Institute for Research, Three Cooper Plaza medical offices and the Ronald McDonald House.

Adjacent to the Cooper Plaza/Lanning Square neighborhood, Cooper has a long history of outreach and service efforts to its local community. Some of these initiatives include health and wellness programs for the neighborhood, development of three neighborhood parks and playground, and outreach to programs into local schools.

The Hospital’s 312,000-square-foot, 10-story Roberts Pavilion houses state-of-the-art patient care facilities, including 120 private patient rooms, a 30-bed medical/surgical intensive care unit, 12 technologically advanced operating room suites with hybrid imaging capabilities, an advanced laboratory automation facility and a 14,000-square-foot Emergency Department. The Emergency Department features 25 beds, dedicated isolation suites and autonomous CT scanning technology. Two new floors in the Roberts Pavilion, each with 30 private patient rooms, opened in August 2014. The two floors are designed to serve specific patient populations with Pavilion 8 serving a growing advanced-care surgery patient population and Pavilion 9 serving the Cooper Heart Institute for hospitalized heart patients. The Pavilion features an expansive lobby and concourse, a restaurant and coffee shop, health resource center, business center, gift shop and chapel.

The Pavilion also houses the 25,000-square-foot Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit. A design showcase for patient and family-centered care, the unit features 30 private patient rooms equipped with the latest in advanced technology, and allowing 360-degree patient access. Five patient rooms are capable of negative pressure isolation, and five rooms have chambered isolation alcoves. In addition, an enlarged room with operating room caliber lighting is outfitted to perform bedside exploratory laparotomy in patients too unstable for transport to the operating room.

In 2013 Cooper celebrated the opening of MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the $100 million, four-story, 103,050-square-foot center located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in Camden, dedicated to cancer prevention, detection, treatment and research. MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper offers South Jersey’s only dedicated inpatient, 30-bed cancer unit adjacent to the new cancer center at Cooper University Hospital. The center includes bright, spacious chemotherapy treatment areas, patient exam rooms, conference centers and advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies. The designers incorporated an aesthetic approach to healing with abundant natural light, a rooftop Tranquility Garden, an illuminated floor-to-ceiling “Tree of Life” centerpiece and more than 100 pieces of original art created by 71 New Jersey artists.
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The new $139 million building, which opened in July 2012, was designed for CMSRU’s curriculum with spaces and technologies to support faculty and students in their educational process. In 2012, CMSRU welcomed the class of 2016 with 50 students.

The Cooper campus is located in the heart of the Camden’s business district. The academic medical center campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation—the commuter high-speed line and bus terminal are located a half-block from the campus. Cooper is a short walk or drive from the exciting Camden waterfront where the New Jersey State Aquarium, the River Sharks stadium, the USS New Jersey and Susquehanna Bank Center are located.

Cooper is conveniently close to Philadelphia. Just a mile-long drive over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge or a ferry boat ride 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 those other popular beach towns such as Cape May and Ocean City are a one-hour drive from Cooper.
Cooper Campus Map

The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at:

CooperHealth.org/Directions