2019-2020

General Surgery Residency Program

Our mission:
To serve. To heal.
To educate.
Thank you for your interest in the General Surgery Residency at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University/Cooper University Hospital Program. Our goal is to develop surgeons with clinical and technical expertise, and a commitment to the science of surgery.

Cooper has been training surgeons for more than 60 years. and we have built upon that tradition to provide a strong clinical program with experience in advanced surgical practice and cutting-edge research. Cooper University Health Care is a tertiary, academic health care system and the primary teaching hospital for the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. Cooper boasts a busy urban Level I Adult Trauma Center, Level II Pediatric Trauma Center, and an extremely active Acute Care Surgery program. Our advanced Surgical Oncology Service has grown exponentially as part of MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. Our faculty members have expertise in minimally invasive and robotic surgery, and the residents are intimately involved in these procedures. We have a dedicated Surgical Intensive Care Unit, staffed by critical care surgeons, as well as a busy medical ICU team. Patients with complex surgical problems are transferred to Cooper from the entire southern New Jersey region. This operative experience is available for surgical resident training providing excellent opportunities for broad general surgery training.

Between the second and third clinical years of this six-year program, the residents engage in a dedicated research year. The Division of Research provides opportunities in basic science and translational research. There are many opportunities for clinical research working with attending surgeons in a variety of specialties throughout the training program. The residents have been very productive in both peer-reviewed publication and presentation at national meetings.

We prepare our trainees to be capable, ethical, and inquisitive general surgeons. 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 want to become excellent clinical surgeons, with the desire 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
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 2017, 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
The General Surgery Residency Program is a categorical track for medical school graduates wishing to achieve eligibility for the American Board of Surgery examination in the specialty of general surgery. Four medical school graduates are accepted into the first year of our six-year program in general surgery. The first, second, fourth, fifth, and sixth are clinical years. The third year is spent in research with limited clinical responsibility. Our residency program centers upon the principal components of general surgery, with an established curriculum that challenges the individual resident academically and technically. The goal of the program is to produce an effective, knowledgeable, and capable practitioner of the art and science of surgery.

The faculty practices provide a rich exposure to the principal components of general surgery including diseases of the head and neck, breast, skin and soft tissues, alimentary tract, abdomen, vascular system, endocrine system, comprehensive management of trauma and emergency surgery, and surgical critical care. There is also broad exposure to other subspecialties of surgery, including cardiothoracic, pediatric, and plastic surgery. All clinical rotations are served at the main campus except for one month of solid organ transplantation in the third year. A Surgical Skills Lab that encompasses both open and laparoscopic skills complements the clinical experience.

The goals of the research year are to acquaint the future surgeon with the process of surgical research so as to allow a critical appraisal of the literature as well as to emphasize academic productivity with both presentations and publications. The director of surgical research supervises this experience, developing a plan that focuses on areas of interest to the trainee. A vigorous basic science research program is ongoing at the main campus.

Many recent graduates have opted for further training in a discipline of general surgery. Fellowships have been obtained throughout North America in premier programs in breast, cardiothoracic, colorectal, endocrine, advanced laparoscopic, plastic, vascular, and trauma surgery.

The large number of full-time faculty at our campus in all surgical disciplines allows a close relationship between attending and resident. Our program emphasizes the importance of graduated responsibility for the trainee to foster development of surgical judgment. Emphasis is placed on ambulatory surgery and continuity of care between resident and patient.
Residents are immersed in this rich environment, and have ample opportunity to interact with faculty and peers through formal and informal teaching sessions.

### Department of Surgery Clinical Schedule

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<tr>
<th>PGY-1</th>
<th>Rotation</th>
<th>Months</th>
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<tr>
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Subspecialty rotations include thoracic surgery, plastic surgery, and pediatric surgery.
How to Apply

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.

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 2019-2020 academic year is November 15, 2018.
Essential Job Functions and Requirements

**OBSERVATION:**
- Accurately observe a patient, including obtaining a complete history and performing a thorough physical examination
- Assimilate information from medical records, both written and electronic
- Visualize images from all media (paper, film, slides, video, etc.)
- Visualize surgical fields accurately, including using loupes, microscopes, video monitors, and fluoroscopy

**COMMUNICATION:**
- Communicate effectively, efficiently, and with sensitivity with patients, their families, as well as with all members of the health care team using spoken, written, and non-verbal means
- Perform documentation tasks, including written, typed, and dictated H&Ps, consults, progress notes, operative notes, and discharge summaries in a timely fashion
- Perform follow-up on patient care issues, such as laboratory results and patient phone calls in a timely, consistent, and reliable fashion
- Present well-organized case presentations orally both in person and on the phone
- Interpret radiologic and other graphic images and digital or analog representations of physiologic phenomenon (such as EKGs)

**MOTOR:**
- Perform maneuvers necessary for thorough physical examination
- Administer injections and obtain blood samples
- Perform tasks reasonably required to provide general and emergency medical care such as airway management, placement of intravenous catheters, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and suturing of wounds
- Perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation
- Move throughout the hospital and clinics to address routine and emergent patient care needs
- Provide services in remote locations assigned
- Maintain the strength, stamina, focus, and bimanual dexterity to perform surgical operations, including those that exceed six hours duration
- Wear protective equipment mandated by regulation or hospital policy
- Must be able to immerse hands in water and scrub for surgical preparation

**INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE, AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES:**
- Measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize
- Comprehend three-dimensional relationships and understand spatial relationships of structure
- Manage multiple patient care duties at the same time
- Make judgments and decisions regarding complicated, undifferentiated disease presentations in a timely fashion in emergency, ambulatory, and hospital settings
- Demonstrate organizational skills required to care for 10 or more outpatient cases per half day
Essential Job Functions and Requirements

- Demonstrate organizational skills required to evaluate and care for at least three ED patients per hour
- Organize and communicate appropriate sign out
- Design, perform, and present annual research projects
- Access limits of knowledge and determine areas of need for further inquiry and/or study

- Demonstrate emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and the development of mature, sensitive, and effective relationships with patients and co-workers
- Tolerate physically taxing work loads and function effectively under emotional and psychologic stress
- Adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and function effectively in the face of uncertainties, inherent in the clinical problems of patients
- Teach peers and subordinates
- Complete all required documentation including medical records, enter statistics and patient logs, and duty hours for bookkeeping
- Function as a member and, when appropriate, as a leader of the health care team
- Demonstrate effective time-management skills
- Demonstrate professional work habits including arrival at assignments on time, properly attired, and remain at the assigned location for the assigned period

- Make rounds and provide patient care in the hospital or outpatient settings for up to 24 consecutive hours, plus additional 4 hours for continuity of care, if necessary
- Take in-hospital call which requires inpatient work stretches of up to 24 hours, plus additional 4 hours for continuity of care, if necessary
- Participate in and satisfactorily complete all assigned rotations in the curriculum
- Get from home to hospital within 30 minutes when taking at-home call
- Tolerate increased heat and humidity for up to 12 hours/day in operating room
- Wear appropriate eye protection as required
- Wear surgical masks as required
- Wear gloves, gowns, boots as required
- Lead group education sessions
It is extraordinary to have such a high concentration of leadership at one institution, but then, Cooper is an extraordinary health care system.

Cooper University Hospital is the center of a growing Camden health sciences campus that includes the hospital, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, Sheridan Pavilion at Three Cooper Plaza medical offices, the internationally acclaimed Coriell Institute for Medical Research, 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 neighborhood parks and playgrounds, and outreach to programs into local schools.

The hospital's 312,000-square-foot, 10-story Roberts Pavilion features an expansive lobby and concourse, a restaurant and coffee shop, business center, gift shop, and chapel. State-of-the-art patient care facilities include private patient rooms, technologically advanced operating room suites with hybrid imaging capabilities, and an advanced laboratory automation facility. The Emergency Department features 25 beds, dedicated isolation suites, and autonomous CT scanning technology. Designated floors serve specific patient populations, including those needing advanced surgical and heart care, along with South Jersey's only dedicated 30-bed inpatient cancer unit.

Also in the Roberts Pavilion is the 25,000-square-foot Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit—featuring 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 considered too medically unstable for transport to the operating room.

Cooper University Health Care and MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, partnered in 2013 to create MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper. Our partnership is a full clinical integration between the two programs. MD Anderson at Cooper physicians adhere to the same philosophy, processes, and guidelines set by MD Anderson in Houston, and patients receive the same proven practice standards and treatment plans provided at MD Anderson. Today at MD Anderson at Cooper, patients have access to more clinical trials for more types of cancer than ever before, as well as a full range of supportive care services.

Advanced, comprehensive cancer services are provided at our Camden, Voorhees, and Willingboro campuses. Cooper Digestive Health Institute locations are fully accredited MD Anderson at Cooper locations providing
innovative gastrointestinal cancer prevention, detection, and treatment services. Additional cancer clinical services are provided at multiple locations throughout the Philadelphia-South Jersey areas.

CMSRU’s Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The medical school, which opened in July 2012, was designed to support an innovative curriculum that integrates knowledge of basic science concepts, early clinical experience and patient care, self-directed learning, teamwork, and medical and non-medical activities for the greater community’s benefit.

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 PATCO 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 Pavilion, 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