

General Surgery Residency
Naval Medical Center
Portsmouth, Virginia

Program History

The General Surgery Residency Program at NMCP was established in 1950. The program finished between three and four residents per year from about 1956 until 1989, when the program became permanently approved for two categorical positions each year. In 2005 the program once again grew to accommodate 3 residents per year. The department has enjoyed a rich heritage through the years. Four of our former residents went on to become flag officers. Two of them, Vice Admiral Hagan and Vice Admiral Robinson, eventually became Surgeon General of the Navy. A total of nine graduates over the years have gone on to assume department head or program director positions at university and military hospitals throughout the United States.

About the Program

The residency consists of a 12 month comprehensive basic surgery internship, followed by a 48 month residency. Our program boasts a full five-year accreditation by the Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. We train 12 interns and 3 residents per year.

The didactic portion of our program is based upon a comprehensive curriculum and benefits from a structured, protected academic day each week. With this, residents are excused from all clinical duties to participate in academic sessions consisting of basic science and clinical surgery small group review sessions, morbidity and mortality conferences, in-depth pre-operative conferences, as well as grand rounds, subspecialty presentations, and journal clubs. Our curriculum is augmented by an on-site simulation center with basic and advanced laparoscopic trainers and an endoscopic simulator, with an organized program of instruction and self-study. We also perform a periodic on-site cadaver dissection lab, oriented to surgical approaches and operative procedures.

The clinical experience includes comprehensive preoperative and postoperative care of the surgical patient and emphasis is placed on operative experience starting at the intern level. Interns in our institution average between 40 and 70 cases as primary surgeon or first assistant. Chief residents average between nine and twelve hundred cases in their five year experience, with broad experience in all defined categories. The program recently integrated with Chesapeake Regional Medical Center as an integral part of training where the trainees rotate on the Colorectal and General Surgery services. Additional away rotations include

Reading Hospital in PA, Sentara Norfolk General (Trauma, Transplant, and Acute Care Surgery), Sentara Leigh, and University of Virginia Surgical Critical Care.

There are ample opportunities for research within the department, and each intern is challenged to submit at least a case report or poster presentation during the year. Residents are encouraged and supported to perform more in-depth research, and most have published or presented their work by the completion of residency. One resident from each year group performs a full research year between the second and third year or the third and fourth year of training.

Many of our residents pursue subspecialty training with fellowships after their initial fleet utilization tours. Our residents have trained in pediatric surgery, plastic surgery, hand surgery, critical care and trauma surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, vascular surgery, colorectal surgery, surgical oncology, endocrine surgery, and advanced laparoscopic surgery. These are the surgeons who continue to be leaders in Navy graduate medical education.

About the Faculty

The General Surgery Program at NMCP boasts a faculty of experienced surgeons who are able to provide comprehensive care to our patients and high quality training for our residents. In addition to our general surgery faculty, our staff includes surgeons who are specialty trained in colon and rectal surgery, minimally invasive surgery, surgical oncology, vascular surgery, pediatric surgery, trauma/critical care, endocrine surgery, and cardiothoracic surgery.



THE HOSPITAL



Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth occupies a 112-acre site along the Elizabeth River in downtown Portsmouth, Virginia. It is located on the original site of Fort Nelson which was built in 1776 to provide harbor defense for Norfolk and Portsmouth. In 1827 construction began on the Naval Hospital, and by July 1830 a portion of Building One was occupied. Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth has provided continuous care since that time and remains the oldest hospital in the U.S. Navy. In 1960 Building 215 was constructed to accommodate the ever-increasing demands of the Naval Medical Center. As the military establishment grew, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth became the major military medical facility serving active duty Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard, their families, retired personnel, their dependents and other beneficiaries authorized treatment in uniformed services clinics and hospitals. In June 1990, the Naval Medical Center broke ground on a major construction project designed to build a modern replacement hospital with extensive support structures and services. The project was completed in 1998 and began operations in 1999. The Charette Health Care center is a 1.02 million square foot facility and the most modern available in the Navy inventory. The center contains over 300 clinical exam rooms, 140 specialty exam rooms and 17 operating rooms. In addition, the base features a research facility equipped for animal research projects, a mini mall with a Navy Exchange, banking services, galley and fast food operations, Olympic size pool, state-of-the-art gyms, MWR services and library.

The Tidewater region of Virginia is a very desirable location to live and stretches from historic Williamsburg and Yorktown east to Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Portsmouth. The area abounds with recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities for all ages and features world-class entertainment venues along with a number of minor league sports teams and numerous colleges and universities.

GENERAL SURGERY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The General Surgery internship at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is designed to provide a challenging and diverse clinical experience. Our internship prepares medical officers for operational tours as well as provides them a solid foundation for continuation in surgical residency. The clinical experience includes comprehensive preoperative and postoperative care of the surgical patient and great emphasis is placed on operative experience. Interns in our institution perform between 40 and 70 cases as primary surgeon or first assistant.

The intern year is comprised of thirteen four week rotations, including five rotations on the General Surgery services, two rotations on Surgical Subspecialty services of their choice (Plastics/Neurosurgery/Anesthesia/Urology/ENT) and one rotation each of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Trauma, Orthopedics, Pediatric Surgery, Emergency Medicine, and Urology/GYN Acute Care. The trauma surgery rotation is performed at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, a level I trauma center which cares for over two thousand trauma and burn patients per year. The remainder of the year is performed on-site at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. Our internship does meet the requirements for, and is approved by the American Osteopathic Association.

During each of their five months on the General Surgery services, interns spend 2 weeks per rotation as the day intern and 2 weeks as the night intern, during which time they provide continuing care for all of the patients on their team, take admissions, and operate on acute cases. Throughout the remainder of the year interns take call only on Fridays or Saturdays, approximately twice per month. This unique arrangement not only provides optimal continuity for our patients, it maximizes the learning experience for the intern. Nights have essentially become a specific rotation, well-integrated with the day rotation, and are no longer simply "cross-coverage." The interns never miss high-value daytime clinic or operative experience on any rotation due to being post-call.

There are opportunities for clinical research within the department, and each intern is challenged to submit at least a case report or poster presentation during the year.

The General Surgery intern experience at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth is rigorous, exciting, and challenging. The rewards are an extensive exposure to acute surgical maladies and a solid foundation in surgery which more than prepares the intern for a career in the surgical specialties. This foundation is also an outstanding preparation for those who will perform a GMO, Flight Surgery, or Undersea Medical Officer tour. We invite you to visit our program for an interview or clinical rotation.

OUR STAFF

COLON & RECTAL SURGERY

CAPT Ralph Butler, MD
LCDR Benjamin Quartey, MD

PEDIATRIC SURGERY

LCDR Frank Margaron, MD
CDR Robert Ricca, MD

TRAUMA / CRITICAL CARE

LCDR Shane Jensen, MD
LCDR Jamie Fitch, MD

GENERAL SURGERY

CAPT Craig Shepps, MD
CAPT Kevan Mann, MD
LCDR Mark Johnson, MD
LCDR Arthur Johnson, MD
CDR Katharina Pellegrin, MD
LCDR Katherine Wrenn, MD

SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

CDR William Ward, MD
CDR Timothy Platz, DO
CDR Christopher Oxner, MD

ENDOCRINE SURGERY /GENERAL SURGERY

CDR Michael Johnston, MD

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY DIVISION

CDR Susan Clark, MD

VASCULAR SURGERY

CDR William Brown, MD
LCDR Brian Knipp, MD
LCDR Francis Cuozzo, MD
CDR Obie Powell, MD

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY

CAPT Robert Strange, MD
LCDR Jeffery Johnson, MD

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants must apply for U.S. Navy Graduate Medical Education training on active duty and meet all eligibility requirements for service in the U.S. Armed Forces. Interested USUHS, HPSP and HSCP students are encouraged to spend time on our service and should coordinate a rotation by contacting our Student Coordinators in GME.

USUHS Student Coordinator: Rachel Darling, 757-953-3677,
Rachel.k.darling.civ@mail.mil, Rachel.darling@USUHS.edu

Student Affairs Coordinator: Melissa Burnett, 757-953-0672,
Melissa.t.burnett.civ@mail.mil

Program Director: CDR Timothy Platz
Associate Program Director: LCDR Mark Johnson
Associate Program Director for Simulation: LCDR Frank Margaron
Residency Coordinator: Ms. Dovie Loud, 757-953-2518,
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