General Surgery Residency Program
(NRMP #1903440P0 & #1903440C0)
The Five Year Categorical General Surgery Program

There are four categorical positions in the five year General Surgery program. Below is a breakdown of resident assignments.

First Three Years
- General Surgery
- Plastic Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery
- Transplantation
- Cardiovascular/Thoracic Surgery
- Anesthesiology
- Trauma Surgery
- Otolaryngology

Fourth Year
- Thoracic Surgery
- Vascular Surgery
- Surgical Endoscopy
- Trauma
- General Surgery

Some of these rotations might occur at other institutions like University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Children’s Hospital of Alabama and DCH Health System in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Fifth Year

During this year, the chief resident is responsible for managing the staff services and the outpatient referral clinics at Princeton Baptist Medical Center and Grandview Medical Center. Under faculty member supervision, the chief resident cares for patients with the full spectrum of surgical diseases. Residents perform endoscopic exams.
Program Details

Throughout the training program, residents have close relationships with the clinical faculty in both general surgery and the surgical specialties. On several services, a preceptor style of instruction allows direct contact between junior residents and faculty members. Most of the preceptors are experienced teachers and are a valuable resource for the residents. On larger services, senior and junior residents work together in teams. As experience increases, residents are given increasing responsibility for management of patients.

We expect this graded responsibility to produce surgeons who are technically proficient, knowledgeable and highly competent in pre- and post-operative care, and are able to relate to patients in a compassionate, effective and responsible manner.

Training is provided primarily at Princeton Baptist Medical Center and Grandview Medical Center, which have a total of 877 beds, including a surgical bed capacity of over 200. More than 16,000 major operations and 11,000 minor and ambulatory surgeries are performed each year. Each resident generally averages six-months at each facility. In addition to the chief resident’s staff service at each hospital, residents are assigned to two or more private services depending on case loads and training requirements. Pediatric surgery experience is obtained at the Children’s Hospital of Alabama. Transplantation and trauma experience is gained at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Trauma experience is also obtained at DCH Hospital. A regular schedule of conferences and bedside teaching by experienced faculty members are regular parts of the weekly program. Basic science conferences are also held regularly throughout the year. The Brookwood Baptist Health (BBH) General Surgery Program adheres to ACGME duty hours policies.

Evaluation of residents is a continuing process, which includes reports from all preceptors, periodic reviews by the teaching faculty at each hospital, and evaluations during conferences and teaching rounds. Residents are counseled regularly. The American Board of Surgery in-training examination is given annually. Residents evaluate attending physicians and the clinical experience for ongoing program improvements.

Residents receive a rich, operative experience at Brookwood Baptist Health. Evidence of this is seen as residents enter their cases in the ACGME case log system. The graduating chiefs can expect to participate in more than 1000 cases throughout their five years.

Meetings, Conferences, Reading, And Research

Each hospital conducts surgical conferences to morbidity, mortality and regular didactic teaching sessions. Additional conferences in medicine, pathology, radiology and pharmacology are held regularly at each hospital. Regular multidisciplinary conferences, such as tumor board, are also available.

Excellent library facilities available at both locations include computer access to literature searches and other online programs. A supervised journal club meets regularly. Computers are designated for resident use at both hospitals.

Residents are expected to complete a clinical or basic research project for publication. Hours for full-time research may be assigned, and limited funding is available. Numerous opportunities are available for successful completion of research projects within the time constraints of the residency program with assistance provided on an as-needed basis. Residents are encouraged to present their findings at local, regional or national meetings, and support is available for such presentations. Attendance at surgical meetings or courses may be available when approved by the program director.
On-Call

Comfortable on-call quarters and resident lounges are provided at each hospital.

Libraries

- Full-time medical librarian covering each hospital library to assist residents
- Library services include literature searches, article orders, photocopying, research consultations, and books orders
- Free photocopying of articles and interlibrary loan services are available
- Electronic resources include PubMed, EBSCOHost (electronic journal service), the Cochrane Library, eBooks, ClinicalKey, AccessMedicine and DynaMed
- Each library has book collections of over 500 texts and print journal collections to supplement electronic resources
- Medical books for personal use can be ordered through the library at a discounted price

Conferences

- Three hours per week or more are spent in conferences.
- 500 conferences are given annually at each hospital
- Many conferences are multidisciplinary
- Medical school faculty frequently serve as guest speakers

Other Educational Programs

- Medical student clerkships and electives
- Training site for Auburn University pharmacy students
- The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing, a cooperative program of Brookwood Baptist Health and Samford University
- Residency in health care administration
- A variety of allied health students from local educational institutions rotate regularly to Brookwood Baptist Health for clinical experience

Visa Information

Brookwood Baptist Health will consider only J-1 Visa applications sponsored by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Generally BHS will not sponsor H-1B Visa applications.

USMLE

You should have completed USMLE Step II prior to beginning the residency program. If you have not completed USMLE Step II, it must be successfully completed in the first six months of residency training. Residents must register to take USMLE Step III prior to completion of the first year of residency training. Step III must be successfully completed before the resident will be renewed to continue beyond the second year of training. Individual residency programs may invoke more stringent requirements.

Additional Benefits:

- Discounted and free meals
- Free snacks & soft drinks
- Lab coat
- ATLS Course

Allowance:

- Lab coat
- Technology (for categorical residents)
- Educational conferences
- PGY 2-5 (with approval)

Surgery Membership & Benefit

ACS, Score and Surgical Loupes for categorical residents