

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 100 cases as primary surgeon or first assistant.

The intern year is comprised of thirteen four week rotations, including six rotations on the General Surgery services, one rotation each of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Trauma, Orthopedics, Pediatric Surgery, Emergency Medicine, Neurosurgery or Surgical specialty elective, 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 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 six 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.