

GENERAL SURGERY



WE ARE THRILLED THAT YOU HAVE INQUIRED

ABOUT OUR PROGRAM! This residency is a traditional five-year general surgery program designed to allow the motivated trainee the opportunity to enter practice as a board-eligible general surgeon or to compete successfully for fellowship training upon graduation. We are currently accredited by the ACGME to graduate three chief residents per year. Our small size offers the unique advantage of fostering closer relationships between residents and faculty in addition to accommodating the flexibility necessary to facilitate trainees' attainment of career goals.

Two 400-bed hospitals in Kalamazoo, each with a Level 1 or 2 Trauma Center, plus the resources of Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed) outpatient clinics, form the clinical context for our residents in this community-based program. The combination of our four full-time faculty plus the diversity of an active, committed community faculty provide the basis for in-depth academics and clinical experience. Our goal is to produce well-rounded general surgeons with the practical experience to manage the gamut of surgical disease and the tools necessary to evaluate and assimilate new information. Experiencing a balance of autonomy and supervision, in addition to participating in continuity of care in the WMed and community faculty clinics, provides our graduates with the confidence and humility to deliver safe and quality surgical care.

Beyond the hospital setting, Kalamazoo is a well-kept secret with regard to livability, access to indoor and outdoor entertainment, and dining. Our proximity to Chicago and Detroit allows big city opportunities and travel access within two to three hours' drive. No matter the size or shape of your family, there are excellent educational, living, and entertainment opportunities here. We appreciate your interest and urge you to contact us and plan a visit. Please send us your application materials, visit our website at med.wmich.edu, or call us at (269) 337-6260. We wish you the very best on your educational journey and look forward to meeting you soon.

Sincerely,

Earl M. Norman, MD, FACS

Chair, Department of Surgery

Program Director of General Surgery

Western Michigan University

Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

EXCELLENCE IN GENERAL SURGERY

THE CURRICULUM

In addition to patient care, formal rounds, conferences, basic science lectures, and journal clubs, bioskills sessions will augment your education. Teaching other residents and medical students is also an integral part of your academic experience. Upon completion of the five-year curriculum, you will be a confident general surgeon ready for practice or further education in a subspecialty fellowship.

During your intern year, more than half of the rotations are spent on the academic general surgery services at either Borgess Medical Center or Bronson Methodist Hospital. The remaining rotations provide you with a comprehensive foundation of knowledge important for further surgical study.

As the categorical track continues, you will take rotations that provide exposure to all of the essential elements of general surgery and its subspecialties. During the mid-level years, a wide range of electives is available in order to supplement experience in your areas of interest. The fifth year is dedicated to general surgery, with significant clinical and administrative responsibilities.

During your course of study, you will be encouraged to participate in ongoing research studies conducted by the faculty. Additionally, we have a dedicated research coordinator on-site to help facilitate research projects.

CONFERENCES

Several lecture series and formal rounds provide you with advanced education in the basic and clinical sciences fundamental to the practice of general surgery.

	Wednesday	Thursday*
A.M.	Trauma Grand Rounds	Morbidity and Mortality Grand Rounds Journal Club (quarterly) SCORE Lectures Oral Board Review Tumor Board

*Simulation, Ultrasound, and Bioskills Lab occurs one Thursday each month in lieu of conferences.

ROTATION SCHEDULE

YEAR 1

General Surgery	8 blocks
ENT	1 block
Trauma/Surgical Critical Care	2 blocks
Pediatric Surgery	1 block
Plastic Surgery	1 block

YEAR 2

General Surgery	8 blocks
Endoscopy	2 blocks
Trauma/ICU	2 blocks
Vascular Surgery	1 block

YEAR 3

General Surgery	7 blocks
Bariatric Surgery	1 block
Breast Surgery	1 block
Thoracic Surgery	2 blocks
Vascular Surgery	1 block
Surgical Research	1 block

YEAR 4

General Surgery	10 blocks
Pediatric Surgery	1 block
Transplant Surgery	1 block
Elective	1 block

YEAR 5

General Surgery	13 blocks
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THE APPLICATION PROCESS

We accept applications through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Completed applications are reviewed by our recruitment committee for interview selection and must include the following items:

- ERAS application
- Medical school transcript
- USMLE score reports
- Dean's letter
- Letters of recommendation (3)

The application deadline for the academic year is December 1. Because we offer a limited number of interview slots, we encourage students to apply early. Applicants selected to interview will be contacted by the residency program coordinator for general surgery. Our website—med.wmich.edu—offers more information regarding minimum requirements for applicants.

THE RESIDENTS

We are proud of our residents and could only characterize them as excellent. As individuals, they are unique. As a team, they are strong. What they all have in common is the desire and ability to become highly qualified general surgeons. Because our residents come from diverse backgrounds with many talents and interests, they have much to offer one another and add richness to our program. We value having a complement of residents who work well together both as professionals and as peers.

THE INTERVIEW

Interviews are held on selected Fridays in November and December.

Our interview day begins with a breakfast and introduction to WMed and the Kalamazoo community. Throughout the day, applicants interview with the program director and faculty, meet and have lunch with the residents, and tour Borgess Medical Center and/or Bronson Methodist Hospital.

From experience with our own medical students, we know that budgets can be limited. To help offset some of your interviewing expenses, WMed is pleased to provide overnight hotel accommodations and some meals during your visit.

We think you will agree that Kalamazoo is a great place to live, and that WMed is a great place to learn. We look forward to hearing from you!

THE FACULTY

■ Earl M. Norman, MD, FACS

*Chair and Professor, Department of Surgery
Program Director, General Surgery*

Medical School:

Temple University School of Medicine
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Residency:

Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center
General Surgery
Chicago, Illinois

Special Interests:

Complex Hernia, Head and Neck Surgery

■ Saad A. Shebrain, MD, AFACS, FICS

Assistant Program Director

Medical School:

University of Cairo
Cairo, Egypt

Residency – General Surgery Internship:

University of Illinois
College of Medicine at Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Residency – General Surgery:

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Torrance, California

Fellowship:

Minimally Invasive and Foregut Surgery
University of Washington Medical Center
Seattle, Washington

Special Interests:

Minimally Invasive Surgery, Foregut Surgery

■ Christian W. Ertl, MD, FACS

Medical School:

Chicago Medical School (UHS)
Chicago, Illinois

Residency:

University of Illinois
St. Francis Medical Center
Peoria, Illinois

Special Interests:

Amputation, Wounds

■ Lisa A. Miller, MD, FACS

Medical School:

University of South Dakota
Sanford School of Medicine
Vermillion, South Dakota

Residency:

Michigan State University
Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Special Interests:

Breast Surgery, Acute Care Surgery

■ Gitonga Munene, MD, FACS

Medical School:

Northwestern University
Chicago, Illinois

Residency:

Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, DC

Fellowship:

Surgical Oncology
Tom Baker Cancer Centre
University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Special Interests:

Upper GI and Biliary Tract Cancer,
HIPEC Treatment of Peritoneal Cancers



THE FACULTY

Our full-time general surgery faculty members are highly experienced teaching physicians with years of combined clinical and educational experience at various institutions, including the University of Illinois, Rush-Presbyterian-St.Luke's Medical Center, Georgetown, and UCLA. You will come to know these faculty well and enjoy one-on-one interaction with them as one of only 18 residents.

You will also benefit from close working relationships with practicing surgeons in the community. These clinical faculty represent experience from more than a dozen different training centers across the US and Canada. All eagerly impart their rich backgrounds to the program.

In addition to the full-time and community general surgeons, several local specialists who are boarded in their fields provide rotations in colorectal surgery, neurosurgery, pediatric surgery, plastic surgery (burns), thoracic surgery, and urology.

With the depth and variety of surgeons and specialists in Kalamazoo, the mid-sized community is able to offer quality programs normally found only in the largest metropolitan areas: a burn unit, Level 1 and Level 2 trauma care, open heart surgery, and laparoscopic surgery.

THE COMMUNITY FACULTY

General Surgery

David Bartholomew, MD
Phillip Borozan, MD
John Collins, MD
Mark Dittenbir, MD
Richard Jefson, MD
Konrads Lubavs, MD
James McLaren, MD
Brandon Minnick, DO
Sean O'Brien, MD
Daniel Stewart, MD

Bariatric Surgery

Alain Elian, MD
Stuart Verseman, MD
Kibwe Weaver, MD

Breast Surgery

Daniel Barnas, MD
Nancy Kalinowski, MD

Colorectal Surgery

Sridhar Chalasani, MD
Michael Chen, MD
Maria House, MD
Edward Itawi, MD

Endoscopy

Brij Dewan, MD

ENT

L. Steven Szeles, MD

Gynecology Oncology

Angela Caffrey, MD
Anna Hoekstra, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery

Karen Bovid, MD
Joseph Chess, MD

Pediatric Surgery

Marc Downing, MD
Michael Leinwand, MD

Plastic/Burn

Raghu Elluru, MD
Scott Holley, MD
Steven Nitsch, MD

Thoracic Surgery

Alphonse DeLucia III, MD
Michael Halpin, MD
Samer Kanaan, MD
Jerry Pratt, MD

Transplant

Marwan Abouljoud, MD

Trauma

William Curtiss, MD
Scott Davidson, MD
James Kraatz, MD
Sheldon Maltz, MD
Thomas Rohs, MD
Oreste Romeo, MD
Fresca Swaniker, MD
Jon Walsh, MD

Vascular

Syed Alam, MD
Krishna Jain, MD
Daniel Johnston, MD
Wade Kang, MD
John Munn, MD
Mark Rummel, MD
Sarat Vaddineni, MD

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
HOMER STRYKER M.D.
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

1000 OAKLAND DRIVE
KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN
49008-8058

269.337.6260
855.ASK.WMED

MED.WMICH.EDU