

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 two 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 School of Medicine (WMed) outpatient clinics, form the educational background for our residents in this university affiliated, 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 for 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 School of Medicine

EXCELLENCE IN GENERAL SURGERY

THE CURRICULUM

In addition to patient care, formal rounds, conferences, basic science lectures and journal clubs, bio-skills 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 months
Trauma/Surgical Critical Care	2 months
Pediatric Surgery	1 month
Plastic Surgery	1 month

YEAR 2

General Surgery	8 months
Trauma/ICU	1 month
Endoscopy & Research	2 months
Vascular Surgery	1 month

YEAR 3

General Surgery	9 months
Thoracic Surgery	2 months
Breast Surgery	1 month

YEAR 4

General Surgery	9 months
Vascular Surgery/Elective	1 month
Pediatric Surgery	1 month
Transplant Surgery	1 month

YEAR 5

General Surgery	12 months
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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 and Saturdays in November, December, and January.

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:

Breast Surgery
Head and Neck Surgery

■ Saad A. Shebrin, 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



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 and UCLA. You will come to know these faculty well and enjoy one-on-one interaction with them as one of only 16 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 voluntary 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

Phillip Borozan, MD
John Collins, MD
Mark Dittenbir, MD
Richard Jefson, MD
Konrads Lubavs, MD
James McLaren, MD
Sean O'Brien, MD
Mark Tagett, MD

Bariatric Surgery

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

Gynecology Oncology

Angela Caffrey, MD
Anna Hoekstra, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery

Karen Bovid, MD
Joseph Chess, MD
Dale Rowe, MD
Vani Sabesan, 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
Jerry Pratt, MD

Transplant

Marwan Abouljoud, MD

Trauma

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

Vascular

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

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DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

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