Fourth Year Elective Title

Subinternship in Surgery
General, Colorectal, Acute Care/Trauma and Vascular Surgery Services

Course Number: SURG 8990
Location: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital & Princeton

Elective Director: Susannah Wise, MD
Elective Faculty:
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Blocks Available: All
Duration/Weeks: Min 4; Max 4
Hours Per Week: Variable
Students: Max 4

Lectures/Seminars: Yes
Outpatient: Yes
Inpatient: Yes
Housestaff: Yes

Night Call: Yes
Weekends: Yes
Lab: No
Exam Required: No

Overall Educational Goal of Elective
The overall goals of the surgery sub-internship are for students to:
- Be the “first evaluator” of patient who presents to the surgical service for an elective or acute surgical problem or for traumatic injury
- Perform complete history and physical examinations on new admissions
- Independently establish a differential diagnosis
- Write admitting and daily patient diagnostic and therapeutic orders, under the supervision of a resident and/or attending physician
- Evaluate patients on a daily basis on morning rounds, and serve as the principle care giver, under the direct supervision of a resident and attending physician
- Develop clinical and procedural skills necessary to the management of the surgical patient including: placement of a nasogastric tube, management of surgical drains and complex wounds, foley catheter placement and basic chest tube management
- Develop skills required for interdisciplinary patient care
- Participate in the education of junior medical students on the team

Objectives

Patient Care
- Be the “first evaluator” of patient who presents to the surgical service for an elective or acute surgical problem or for traumatic injury
- Perform complete history and physical examinations on new admissions
- Independently establish a differential diagnosis
- Write admitting and daily patient diagnostic and therapeutic orders, under the supervision of a resident and/or attending physician
- Evaluate patients on a daily basis on morning rounds, and serve as the principle care giver, under the direct supervision of a resident and attending physician

Medical Knowledge
- Demonstrate knowledge of pathology and pathophysiology of major organ systems that are seen in various surgical diseases or that can result from traumatic injury
- Identify, assess and manage life-threatening surgical emergencies, including traumatic injury
- Assess pain and recommend appropriate management strategies for ameliorate suffering

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

• Demonstrate and ability to improve their knowledge, skills and attitudes as needed, based on directed feedback
• Demonstrate evidence-cases decision making with regard to patient care

PROFESSIONALISM
• Demonstrate appropriate behaviors, including respect, honest and acknowledgement of any deficiencies in knowledge or skills
• Demonstrate sensitivity to patient’s culture, age, gender and disabilities
• Demonstrate commitment to patient care and daily plan

INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
• Relate well to patients, staff, team and faculty
• Develop communication strategies to address sensitive, technically complex or distressing situations with patients and their families
• Recognize the principles of, and participate in, the obtaining of informed consent

SYSTEM-BASED PRACTICE
• Demonstrate and improve their understanding of the social, economic, and other influences on their patients’ health care and behaviors
• Learn and follow relevant practice guidelines
• Advocate for quality patient care
• Participate in morbidity and mortality conference
• Practice appropriate resource allocation

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
This is a four-week experience in which the student will have the opportunity, with supervision, to function as an intern on the surgical service and to participate in the pre-operative and post-operative care of a variety of surgical patients as well as the assessment and management of the acutely injured patient. Student will assigned to one of five services, for a two- to four-week experience depending on availability. The typical experience will be two, two-week experiences. The participating general surgical services are:
• General Surgical “A”
• Colorectal
• Acute Care Surgery “Red”
• Acute Care Surgery “Blue”
• Vascular Surgery
Students will function as a member of a team and will be expected to participate in daily morning and evening rounds (including weekends), office hours, scheduled operations for their service, and call as assigned. Typical service schedules will be available on the first day of the rotation.

METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION
Faculty, Fellows and Residents will assess student performance in the competency areas described above. No written tests are required.