



train. learn. succeed.
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS

Surgery

Los Angeles Medical Center

Welcome to the Surgical Residency Program at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Los Angeles. We offer a superior educational environment that combines direct patient responsibility with a large and varied patient base. You will also benefit from close contact with our board-certified physician faculty.

The Los Angeles Medical Center (LAMC) serves as a referral center for more than 3 million Kaiser Permanente members throughout Southern California. It is the regional tertiary care facility for specialized services including surgical oncology, pediatric surgery, colorectal surgery, radiation oncology, neurosurgery, urologic oncology, gynecologic oncology, head and neck oncology, spine surgery, cardiac catheterization, cardiac surgery, hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, bone marrow transplantation, and apheresis. The Center for Medical Education at LAMC maintains fully accredited residency programs in Surgery, Urology, Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Radiology, Pediatrics, Neurology, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Radiation Oncology, as well as fellowship programs in a variety of medical specialties including Gastroenterology, Interventional and non-invasive Cardiology, Nephrology, Geriatrics, and Allergy/Immunology. There are a total of approximately 180 trainees in the 19 LAMC residency and fellowship programs, numbers that compare favorably with the typical university-based teaching program.

Kaiser Permanente is among the nation's largest and most highly regarded not-for-profit managed care organizations (more than six million Californians are Kaiser Foundation Health Plan members). As a member of our residency program, you will learn to practice cost-effective, yet caring medicine, an approach indispensable to providing quality health care in all future medical settings.

J. Craig Collins, MD, FACS
Director, Surgical Residency Program

The Program

Our goal is to train well-rounded, clinically competent general surgeons. Our graduates are equally well prepared for the clinical practice of General Surgery and for the pursuit of subspecialty fellowships of their choosing. Active involvement of the residents and early clinical responsibility are integral components of the program. Because our commitment is to train general surgeons who can confidently enter practice without the necessity for further specialty training, we have no

surgical fellows whose presence might dilute the senior residents' experience.

LAMC is responsible for all of the Surgical Oncology, Pediatric Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and Cardiac Surgery for Kaiser Permanente of Southern California. In addition to serving as the major tertiary care facility for Kaiser Permanente's 12 medical centers in Southern California, we are the primary hospital for approximately 250,000 patients.

This large clinical load, combining common and esoteric problems, gives residents an experience that is equally broad and deep and prepares them for an active clinical practice in the community.

Graduates have also successfully pursued a variety of subspecialty fellowships; a few have entered academic surgery. Ours is an academically strong but clinically-oriented program and has the necessary patient population to support these goals.

LAMC has more than 22,500 hospital admissions per year to all services combined. Approximately 3,500 operations are done by the Department of Surgery yearly, and more than 15,000 operations are performed by all surgical services combined. Our department's annual outpatient clinic volume exceeds 20,000 visits.

During the first two years, approximately two-thirds of the resident's time is spent in the principal components of General Surgery; the remainder is devoted to various specialties. Off-service rotations include Urology, Plastic Surgery, Trauma, and Critical Care. Each resident is assigned to one or two staff surgeons and spends about four half-days in the operating room each week performing elective surgery. In addition, the resident has at least one emergency operating day per week and spends the remainder of the time in the surgical outpatient clinic. Complete and well-supervised continuity of care is provided. The resident examines and works up the patient preoperatively, performs or assists in the operation, and follows the patient postoperatively in the hospital and after discharge in the outpatient clinic.

The third and fourth years of residency are divided among General and Laparoscopic Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, peripheral Vascular Surgery, Surgical Oncology and Non-cardiac Thoracic Surgery, with additional rotations in Trauma Surgery, flexible Endoscopy, Head and Neck Surgery, and transplantation. During much of the third year and all of the fourth year, the resident is operating and acting as the senior resident, working in conjunction with an attending physician and a junior resident. Early operative experience and independent

responsibility are emphasized. During the fourth year, the resident spends four months at our affiliated Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center as the senior resident on a level one trauma service. This concentrated experience in trauma surgery and high-level critical care gives senior residents competence and confidence in managing critically injured patients.

The fifth-year resident works more independently, yet still with direct staff supervision, in General Surgery, peripheral Vascular Surgery, and Surgical Oncology. A considerable portion of the resident's time is spent teaching the junior residents and interns.

There are several aspects of the program that are unique and deserve emphasis. The first is the use of a single hospital for the majority of the training. The only rotations outside LAMC at the present time include a total of two months in the second year and four months in the fourth year on the trauma service at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center; one month of Plastic Surgery at the Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center in the second year; and one month of transplantation at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in the third year. Otherwise, all the rotations are within the Medical Center. This ensures continuity of training for the duration of the program.

Another key aspect is long-term patient follow-up. From the very beginning, patients are assigned to surgical residents. This offers the patient identification with a single physician, teaches residents individual patient responsibility (reflecting responsibilities in future clinical practice), and gives residents a long-term view of the disease process and the effects of surgical intervention. Residents see both the short-term effects of the operation, which may be successful, and the long-term effects, which may or may not be as successful in a given patient. This provides residents deeper insight into the total surgical process.

Another unique feature is the small size of each individual service. Each service consists of one or two attending surgeons, a senior resident, and one or two junior residents. This kind of small, manageable

service has proven to be beneficial for training. It is the ideal size for easy communication and the sharing of responsibilities, as well as developing greater camaraderie. On such a service, every member is equally responsible for his or her designated work. It is also ideal for teaching. Senior residents are not in competition with junior residents for particular cases. Operative experience begins early in our program and continues throughout.

The American Board of Surgery requires that the chief residency last a minimum of one year; however, often this one year of chief residency does not provide sufficient clinical experience and is inadequate for full maturation of the resident. In our program, for much of the third, and all of the fourth and fifth years, the resident serves as the senior resident on each of the services. Therefore, the resident has the responsibility of a chief resident for more than two years. This is rewarding to the residents, who experience responsibility and learning at a maximal pace. It also allows them to mature into fully competent surgeons in a progressive, multi-year process, rather than in the more traditional one-year process. Residents learn to care for increasingly complex and specialized surgical problems as they progress along this continuum.

The Department of Surgery offers a strong didactic teaching program. One half-day a week is dedicated to a surgical conference where basic science, clinical science, pathophysiology, and quality assurance are reviewed. Residents also attend teaching conferences that cover chest and peripheral Vascular Surgery, gastrointestinal problems, and Surgical Oncology. A monthly Journal Club and clinicopathologic correlation conference are also held. Once a year, Kaiser Permanente hosts a regional surgical symposium to which the residents are invited. In addition, residents are sent expenses-paid to major meetings at which they are presenting a paper. Also, each of the fifth-year surgical residents is sent to a major national meeting of their choice.

Residents participate in a wide variety of clinical research activities. Because the faculty members represent numerous professional societies, members of the house

staff regularly present abstracts at regional and national meetings and publish peer-reviewed clinical research papers.

Approximately one-third of our graduates enter the practice of general surgery directly. Graduates also have been quite successful in obtaining excellent fellowship training in surgical Oncology, minimally invasive surgery, pediatric surgery, plastic and hand surgery, and peripheral vascular surgery.

Applications are accepted online through ERAS (Electronic Residency Application Service). Our program is highly competitive. Interviews are offered selectively.

Location and Lifestyle

LAMC is nestled at the foot of the Hollywood Hills within a mile of Griffith Park, close to the Los Angeles Zoo, Griffith Park Observatory, and the Greek Theatre. Centrally located, LAMC is near several major freeways, allowing for swift and convenient access. The new Metro Red Line subway stops immediately adjacent to the Medical Center.

We believe that you deserve free time to spend with your loved ones, and in Los Angeles recreational opportunities abound. Head north on the 101 Freeway, swing through Malibu Canyon, and you will find yourself at Southern California's renowned beaches; from there, Santa Barbara is a one-hour drive up the Pacific Coast Highway. The many local mountain and desert resorts, such as Lake Arrowhead and Palm Springs, are also easily accessible.

Los Angeles has many of the recreational and cultural activities of any large metropolitan city. UCLA and Westwood Village are nearby. Major theaters can be found in downtown Los Angeles, Century City, and Hollywood. The West Hollywood arts community and the fabulous shopping and dining of Beverly Hills are only 20 minutes away by car. Due west are Santa Monica and Venice, offering the recreation and relaxed lifestyle of beachside communities. Orange County and

San Diego can be accessed by car or rail.

To learn more about:

- **How to apply to this program & others**
- **Our faculty and residents**
- **Available clerkships & electives**
- **Benefits & salary for residents**
- **The annual Residency & Fellowship Open House**

Give us a call or visit us online today!

<http://residency.kp.org/scal>

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