

SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE FELLOWSHIP

The rotations through the surgical intensive care unit are characterized by progressive knowledge and responsibility during the course of the year. The first three months of the rotation will be spent acquiring essential critical care procedural skills under direct supervision of the attending and assimilating core medical knowledge relevant to the practice of surgical critical care. Skills to be mastered during this timeframe include placement of central lines, bronchoscopy, placement of arterial lines and chest tubes, airway and ventilator management, radiograph interpretation and resuscitation management. Core medical knowledge during the first three months can be obtained by attending conferences, Grand Rounds, daily rounds, didactic sessions, and completing online training modules. During this time the fellow is expected to actively participate in daily rounds, but not necessarily lead them.

The next 6 months will be spent in a number of different rotations including the SICU. The fellow should have attained the self-confidence by this time to be able to teach procedures and skills he/she has mastered to residents and medical students. The fellow should take an active role in didactic and evidence-based teaching of junior residents and students and be able to critically analyze pertinent literature. He/she should be able to start to develop a practice pattern that is fundamentally sound, evidence-based, and effective.

The final 3 months of the year should witness the transformation of the fellow into a team leader and master of surgical critical care. The fellow will be expected to lead rounds, under the supervision of the attending intensivist, formulate patient care plans, and obtain advanced knowledge in critical care. By the end of the year, the fellow is expected to demonstrate sufficient competence to enter practice as a surgical intensivist without direct supervision.

During the SICU rotations, the fellow will have the opportunity to attend administrative meetings at which the planning, staffing, and administrative aspects of ICU management, including ICU finance, are considered. This will fulfill the requirements of the fellow to gain experience in the administration of an ICU.

The fellow is expected to conduct scholarly research or implement a quality improvement project in the SICU. Scholarly activity may include retrospective database type research, prospective clinical studies, or writing review articles or book chapters. There is time when the fellow is on the SICU rotations to participate in these scholarly activities.