

Neurosurgery Residency Program

Department of Neurosurgery

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

PGY1 – PGY7

The Neurosurgery Residency Program at MUSC is a seven-year residency program and has two positions available per academic year. The residency training focuses on developing clinical expertise as well as research skills in neurological surgery. The first year intern year focuses on critical care medicine, clinical neurosurgery, and clinical neurology. The following four years focus on clinical neurosurgery. In the fifth and six years, a high degree of flexibility is maintained in the program so that individual residents can design a basic or clinical research experience leading to an academic medical career. The seventh and final year focuses on administrative chief tasks and finishing studies in neurological surgery. At the end of the residency, upon passing the written and oral exams, the individuals are eligible for American Board of Neurological Surgery certification in Neurological Surgery.

The goal of the Neurosurgical Residency Program at the Medical University of South Carolina is to ensure that each trainee completing the program has acquired the expertise and requisite number of procedures and operations associated with neurological surgery. The trainees are expected to meet all case minimums set forth by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

All trainees are taught and counseled in personal interaction with other physicians, paramedical personal, upper level residents, patients, and their families. The attending physicians in the department serve as role models for the trainee. This experience is fostered in the intensive care units, in the hospital inpatient setting, and in the ambulatory care setting. If areas of deficiency are noted in the trainees' interpersonal skills, the attending physician and the Program Director provide counseling in these areas.

PGY1

The first year of the training program involves clinical training in Neuro-Intensive Care medicine in the Neuro-ICU at the Medical University of South Carolina; as well as rotations in skull-base neurosurgery, cerebrovascular neurosurgery, neuro-oncology, epilepsy, spinal neurosurgery, functional/stereotactic neurosurgery, pediatric neurosurgery, and one month of trauma surgery. The first year also includes ward services at the Medical University of South Carolina.

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PGY2-4

During the second through fourth years, trainees obtain a comprehensive introduction to clinical neurosurgery and related disciplines at the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital, the Medical University of South Carolina Children’s Hospital, and the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. The trainees will have broad exposure to all facets of neurosurgical care in the inpatient and outpatient settings. Trainees will gain progressively increasing clinical responsibility in the operating room, the hospital, and outpatient settings. Additionally, all trainees will have full exposure to inpatient and outpatient management of a broad range of neurosurgical problems. There is also a progressive increase in the teaching responsibilities for medical students and other residents.

PGY5

During the fifth year, trainees serve as the junior chief resident at the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital, Medical University of South Carolina Children’s Hospital, and Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. The large clinical service at these hospitals is divided between two or three chief residents. During the year, trainees will rotate between the services at regular intervals. Trainees will be involved in all levels of inpatient and outpatient clinic care, with increasing responsibility based on the individual’s experience and ability.

PGY6

In the sixth year, trainees will have the opportunity to spend the year dedicated to a research project of their choosing, with a broad range of basic and clinical science projects available through the department and medical center. Faculty mentorship and guidance is provided to optimize the trainee’s experience.

PGY7

In the seventh and final year, trainees serve as the senior chief resident at the Medical University of South Carolina Hospital, the Medical University of South Carolina Children’s Hospital, and the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center. The large clinical service at these hospitals is divided between two or three chief residents. During the year, trainees will rotate between the services at regular intervals. Trainees will be involved in all levels of inpatient and outpatient clinic care, with

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increasing responsibility based on the individual's experience and ability. In addition, the senior resident will have additional administrative duties including: the organization of neurosurgical conferences, resident block schedules, and call schedules.