

SECTION OF GENERAL SURGERY

Saint Francis Hospital

Student Rotation

OVERVIEW

The University of Illinois M-3 medical students rotate here for a period of 8 weeks. The experience at Saint Francis in surgery is provided by a single surgical service. Saint Francis Hospital is a 375 bed teaching institution with over 13,000 admissions per year. The surgical experience is broad and comprehensive and includes general, advanced laparoscopic, peripheral vascular surgery, and therapeutic endoscopy. The surgical rotations at Saint Francis have been combined into a single service which offers more balance, flexibility, and improvement in communication among various team members. Furthermore, one team can meet the need for comprehensive patient care more easily.

There is a unique exposure to geriatric patient care that offers the opportunity to manage multiple and complex medical as well as surgical disease processes in this elderly population. There is also experience in the outpatient breast center with the performance of ultrasound guided breast biopsy as well as stereotactic breast biopsy. Furthermore the ability to gain exposure to mammogram and ultrasound interpretation is available as well as the assessment, review, and understanding of routine and complex radiologic imaging modalities. The vascular experience includes aortic stent graft placement as well as endovascular laser vein therapy.

The overall expectations of the students for this rotation will include the usual workday that starts from roughly 6:00 am until approximately 5:00 pm each day when the work has concluded. There may be days when the students are able to leave earlier and there may be days when the student will elect either to come earlier or stay later, depending upon an interesting case or activity on the service. There will also be a call schedule developed for each of you so that exposure to the full spectrum of surgical disease is experienced as well as gaining an opportunity to place various IV lines, foley catheters, NG tubes, blood drawing techniques, and arterial blood gas analysis. You will also become familiar with abdominal examination and evaluation of the acute abdomen.

Also during your rotation here at Saint Francis, you will be responding to the Trauma Code 67 activations in the Emergency Room. You will learn to evaluate, resuscitate, and take care of acute trauma victims. This will offer you an excellent chance to perform those

procedures previously mentioned. You will gain experience following these patients along with the attending staff. Daily physical examination, laboratory assessment, and follow-up on pertinent studies along with chart notation will complete daily patient care duties. When on call in the evenings, you will be available to scrub on operative trauma cases.

In addition to the operating room, a good amount of time will be spent on rounds and in conferences as well as various ambulatory experiences. Much of the preoperative decision-making, diagnosis, and workup is done on an outpatient basis. Additionally much of the postoperative care is also accomplished after the patient has been discharged so these are important interactions for the students to gain a sense of. Preoperative workup of ambulatory surgery cases also gives some experience to the student in this regard.

The conferences at Saint Francis include a daily Morning Report that you all will be expected to attend as well as weekly Morbidity and Mortality Conference and Tumor Conference. Every other week is a Pathology Conference that highlights the cases that have been operated on by the service team members in the prior two weeks time. This is a very well received conference and attendance is required. In addition to this, there is a monthly mock oral and case presentation session with all of the surgical residents in the program and this often will include a visiting professor. All students are invited to attend these presentations. They are held at Illinois Masonic, Lutheran General, Mercy, as well as Saint Francis Hospital.

In addition to rotating and learning from the surgical residents and attendings, there will be residents on the service from the Transitional Residency Program as well as a PA student from Malcolm X College. There will also be interaction with residents from other services such as Internal Medicine, Radiology, and Obstetrics & Gynecology.

There are a variety of support services available to the students at the hospital. This includes a full service library with the most up-to-date journals and texts, both hard copy and online available 24 hours per day. Parking in an enclosed garage is provided without charge as well as a meal stipend when on call. The call rooms are quite satisfactory.

During your time here you will be encouraged to learn the basics of surgery as well as the principles including workup, evaluation, and treatment of surgical disease. Please keep in mind that patient care and safety come first and that each patient encounter offers a learning opportunity. You are encouraged to work with your junior and senior residents closely and seek their guidance as needed during the rotation. It is important that you are aggressive in your own learning while respecting the hierarchy of the decision making process. From time to time, the medical students will present a brief 10 minute overview of a specific topic of interest that may arise

during case presentation, clinical discussion, or patient management evaluation. Please consult with Farheen, Dr. Prendergast, or Dr. Hyser if any problems arise so that a solution may be found while you are still here on your rotation.

SECTION OF GENERAL SURGERY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:00-7:30 AM Morning Report Ridge 1 Conference Room	7:00-7:30 AM Morning Report Ridge 1 Conference Room	7:00-7:30 AM Morning Report Ridge 1 Conference Room	7:00-7:30 AM Morning Report Ridge 1 Conference Room	7:00-7:30 AM Morning Report Ridge 1 Conference Room
	7:00-8:00 AM Pathology Conference (every other week) Department of Pathology	8:00-9:00 AM Surgical M&M, Auditorium	7:00-8:00 Tumor Conference Auditorium	
	Last Tuesday of each month: Mock Oral Exam and Clinical X-Ray Conference & Case Presentations-Designated Hospital			