



Surgery

Los Angeles Medical Center

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, Dermatology 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 230 trainees in the 20 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. 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.

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The Program

Our goal is to train well-rounded, clinically competent general surgeons who can confidently enter practice without the necessity for further specialty training. 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.

LAMC serves as the tertiary referral center for complex Surgical Oncology, Pediatric Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, and Cardiac Surgery for Kaiser Permanente of Southern California. In addition to serving as the major tertiary care facility for Kaiser Permanente's 14 medical centers in Southern California, we are the primary hospital for approximately 250,000 patients. 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 the surgical services. Our department's annual outpatient clinic volume exceeds 20,000 visits. 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.

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 Plastic Surgery,



Trauma, and additional Surgical Oncology at City of Hope. Critical Care. Operative experience begins in the intern year and continues throughout. 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. The remainder of the time is spent 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, Vascular Surgery, and Non-cardiac Thoracic Surgery, with additional rotations in Trauma Surgery, Flexible Endoscopy, and Transplant Surgery. 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 three 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.

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The fifth-year resident works more independently, yet still with direct staff supervision, in General Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Endocrine Surgery, and Surgical Oncology. A considerable portion of the resident's time is spent teaching the junior residents and interns. Leadership roles are given to chief residents to assist in the development and evolution of the residency.

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 Trauma Surgery at the Los Angeles County—USC Medical Center, Plastic and Vascular Surgery at the Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles Medical Center, Breast/HNS/Thoracic Surgical Oncology at City of Hope, and Transplant Surgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. 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 a junior resident. The apprenticeship model of education is ideal for easy communication and the sharing of responsibilities, as well as developing greater camaraderie and promoting mentorship. On such a service, every member is equally responsible for his or her designated work. Senior residents are not in competition with junior residents for particular cases.

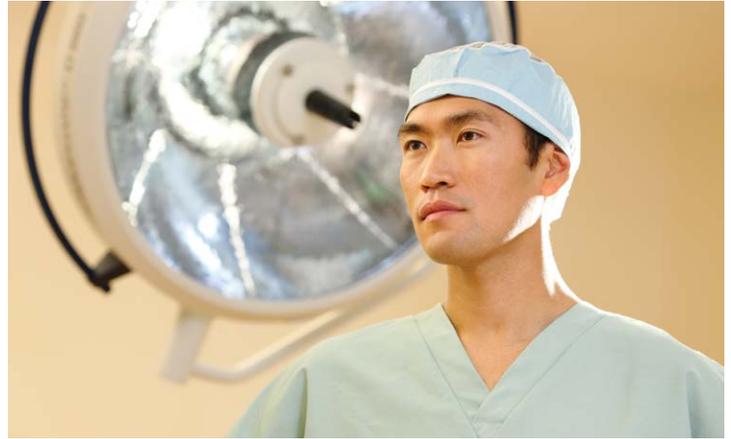
The American Board of Surgery requires that the chief residency last a minimum of one year; however, often this one year of chief residency does not provide sufficient clinical experience and is inadequate for full maturation of the resident. In our program, for much of the third, and all of the fourth and fifth years, the resident serves as the senior resident on each



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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 surgical simulation, basic science, clinical science, pathophysiology, and quality assurance are reviewed. Residents also attend intimate teaching conferences that cover Vascular Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, General Surgery, and Surgical Oncology. A monthly Journal Club and clinicopathologic correlation conferences are also held. Once a year, Kaiser Permanente hosts a regional surgical symposium to which the residents are invited to participate. Also, the fifth-year surgical residents are 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, as well as publish manuscripts in peer-reviewed clinical regional/national research journals. In addition, residents are sent expenses-paid to major regional/national meetings at which they are presenting a paper.

Approximately one-third of our graduates enter the practice of general surgery directly. Graduates have also successfully pursued a variety of subspecialty fellowships including Surgical Oncology, Breast Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, Endocrine Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Trauma Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Hand Surgery, Vascular Surgery, and Cardiothoracic Surgery. A few have gone on to academic surgery careers.

Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center General Surgery Residency is an independent, academically strong, and clinically-oriented program that promotes resident-faculty mentorship, early operative experience, and long-term continuity of care. Applications are accepted online through ERAS (Electronic Residency Application Service). Our program is highly competitive. Interviews are offered selectively.



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to learn more about how to apply, our faculty & residents, available clerkships & electives, and benefits & salary