FAQ continued

What advice would you give to medical school graduates who are considering their choice of residency training, in NUHS and in NUHS General Surgery?

A career in General Surgery is without a doubt one of the most rewarding and interesting careers available. The diverse nature of the specialty is what makes General Surgery an attractive career choice. As surgeons, we are able to test our hypotheses and see rapid, graphic results from our work. It is immensely satisfying to remove a cancer, convert a cold, bluish ischemic limb to one that is warm and pink, relieve the pain of an intra-abdominal catastrophe, resuscitate, operate, and bring back to life a multiply injured patient or help a scarred patient gain better appearance and function.

Surgeons are trained, not born. Intelligence, conscientiousness, creativity, courage, and perseverence are the critical attributes, and they outweigh the small differences in dexterity among most medical students. Becoming a good surgeon is a lifelong process.

Thoughtful reflection on the outcomes of your decisions and those of others will gradually give you the most important quality, "good surgical judgment."

The residency program training for General Surgery is busy and sometimes intense but the rewards far outweigh the sacrifices. As for other areas of medicine, General Surgeons have demanding jobs and often need to strive for a balance between their professional and personal lives.

You should choose a career in surgery if:
1. You love being in the operating room and tend to be comfortable with three-dimensional imaging.
2. Enjoyed learning anatomy.
3. Find doing concrete physical work for their patients truly satisfying.
4. Thrive on being part of the surgical family and always endeavor to do the best for the patient.
5. Have no problem with flexibility as a surgeon's day is seldom predictable, and view this unpredictability as an enjoyable challenge.
6. Committed to lifelong learning and thoughtful reflection on the outcomes of your decisions.

Contact Information
Program Director: Dr Shridhar Ganapathi Iyer
suring@nu.edu.sg

Program Coordinator: Ms Candy Ng
poh_chen_ng@nuhs.edu.sg
6772 6395

Introduction by Program Director
NUHS General Surgery which is now ACSME accredited, has a long and distinguished national reputation as a premier academic training program. Superior didactic training coupled with top-notch research defines our academic tradition. The clinical experience is remarkable both in the diversity of training opportunities and the variety of cases. The principles of graduated responsibility and early opportunities for independent decision-making are emphasized throughout the duration of training. The University Surgical Cluster at NUHS has an outstanding faculty, each division in general surgery has leaders in their respective fields who are approachable and outstanding teachers. The program in General Surgery is designed to provide a combination of clinical experience, didactic teaching and opportunities for research. Residents will receive broad based training that ensures competency in Gastrointestinal, Endocrine, Breast, Trauma, minimally invasive and oncologic surgery. Our goal is to train future academic surgeons of the highest professional, ethical and academic standard.

Core strengths of General Surgery Program

Outstanding Faculty
We are fortunate to have an outstanding faculty and departmental leadership. Chief of Surgery, Professor Lee Chuan Ng is very committed to resident education and helps to oversee issues related to resident education and working conditions. He has assembled a dedicated faculty and each division in general surgery has nationally and internationally recognized leaders in their respective fields who are accessible, approachable and outstanding teachers.

Competency based Surgical training
The Department of Surgery, including the residents, understands that one of our major missions is education and residency training. The competency-based curriculum development and implementation are joint endeavors of faculty, residents, and the Medical Education Unit.

Clinical Experience.
Based on our geographic location and existing programs, we have tremendous variety in clinical experiences. In addition, our residents are exposed to leading and cutting edge technologies (laparoscopy, robotic surgery).

List of APDs & Core Faculty Members:
1. Dr Frances Lim (APD) - Consultant
2. A/Prof Jimmy So (CF) - Senior Consultant
3. A/Prof Stephen Chang (CF) - Senior Consultant
4. A/Prof Lomanta Davide (CF) - Senior Consultant
5. Asst Prof Dean Koh (CF) - Senior Consultant
6. Dr Cheng Wai Kit (CF) - Senior Consultant
7. Asst Prof Chan Ching Wan (CF) - Consultant
8. Asst Prof Victor Lee (CF) - Consultant
9. Dr Shailk Ahmad (CF) - Senior Consultant
Curriculum and Rotation Roster

Duration and Content of the Training Program:

- The total duration of the categorical General Surgery (GS) residency training is 5 clinical years (60 months).
- The initial 3 years are to be focused towards the development of a broad-based surgical foundation with acquisition of general medical and critical care competency along with basic surgical and laparoscopic skills.
- The R1 period will be a minimum of 12 months in duration and will begin the time of graduation/acceptance into the residency program and continue until the 30th June of the academic year that they complete R1.
- R1 comprises 4 months of General Medicine and at least 8 months of surgical postings, of which at least 6 months is in the clinical practice of a core General Surgery discipline.
- From R2 onwards, rotations through services will be on a 3-monthly institutional schedule with the flexibility for smaller blocks of the rotation to maximize exposure to valuable non-core rotations.
- The last two years of residency (Senior year) will allow chief resident level responsibility on core general surgical rotations and the opportunity to have elective rotations to develop a subspecialty interest.
- Of the 60 months from R1 to 5, a minimum of 42 months must be within general surgery core content rotations. No more than a total of 12 months of the junior years (R1-R3) can be spent in any one surgical specialty other than general surgery and at least 6 months of each year should be spent in a core GS rotation (for a minimum of 18 months from R1 to R3).
- Core general surgery rotations from R1 to R3 are: general surgery (Abdominal, Trauma, Upper GI, colorectal and hepatobiliary), skin, soft tissue and breast, endocrine surgery, head and neck surgery, vascular surgery, trauma surgery, thoracic surgery, and surgical oncology.
- Non-core surgical postings are orthopaedics, paediatric surgery, cardiovascular surgery, surgical critical care, ENT, urology, transplant, hand, plastics and burns.
- Throughout the residency there will be increasing clinical and operative responsibilities appropriate to the level of training.

List of Residents:

General Surgery Year Residents 2010
Dr Ch Chin Boon
Dr Ng Jun Jie
Dr Lim Hon Giat Raymond
Dr Ong Chin Siang (transferred to Surgical In General in July 2011)
Dr Tan Jun Liang

General Surgery Year Residents 2011
Dr Ng Wei Chai Celine
Dr Tan Joe Wee Tan
Dr Tay Chee Wei
Dr Kim Gun Wei
Dr Chan Kok Hiong Davedrick

Surgical In General Year Residents 2011
Dr Ong Chin Siang
Dr Leong May Lian
Dr Renta Srinava

Resident’s Testimonial:

“Choosing NUHS as my institution of choice for general surgery training was a simple and straightforward choice to make. Together with clinical excellence, NUHS offers and exciting research opportunities to all surgical trainees and hence provides the perfect training environment to be a well-rounded surgeon. Much effort and planning has been put in to provide trainees with a comprehensive and diverse syllabus for general surgical education. As a current-year 2 resident, I must say that the past year has been an absolute blast and I look forward to the rest of my residency years with NUHS.”

- Dr Ng Jun Jie

FAQ

What makes our NUHS programs unique and different from other training programs?

The General Surgery Program at the NUHS has a strong tradition of training excellent surgeons. There is a strong emphasis on research, and there are many opportunities throughout the training program to carry out research. We have a strong minimally invasive surgery program within all surgical subspecialties.

How would you describe your General Surgery Program?

The General Surgery Training Program is a five-year program designed to produce some of the finest surgeons. There is a large clinical volume, and residents receive an education in all aspects of General Surgery. The program emphasizes the importance of research, and there are opportunities to enter into the Masters and the Surgeon-Scientist Program.

What criteria are you using to select the Residents?

In the words of the Chief of Surgery Professor C N Lee: “we do our best, for every patient, in everything we do”. We are looking for residents who epitomize this philosophy. Every patient includes future patients and everything we do includes doing our best to find ways to do things much better and effectively. Through interviews, CVs, and recommendations, we look for residents with initiative and thirst for doing the best.