Descriptions for General Surgery Rotations

Surgical Oncology

During this rotation, students are exposed to complex procedures for abdominal and esophageal malignancies as well as the surgical treatment of soft tissue tumors and melanoma. As a tertiary care center, the surgical oncology service is at the forefront of treatment for all stages of carcinoma using minimally invasive and robotic techniques. The students will also be exposed to the initial work up of these patients in the cancer center during surgery clinics as well as in multidisciplinary conferences. The students will divide their time between the operating room and the clinics throughout the week. In addition, students will aid in the care of patients on the wards and address new consults.

MIS/Bariatric

This rotation focuses on the minimally invasive treatment strategies for obesity as well as for common general surgery problems including gallbladder disease, hernias and esophageal reflux disease. The students will have exposure to upper and lower endoscopy in the operating room as well. The students will divide their time between the operating room and clinics throughout the week. The students will also be expected to help care for the patients on the wards and see any new consults. Finally, there are weekly educational conferences which the students are expected to attend.

Colorectal Surgery

This rotation focuses on the treatment of the hindgut including the colon, rectum and anus. The students will participate in advanced laparoscopy as well as open procedures to address colorectal malignancies and benign conditions. In addition, the service performs outpatient anorectal procedures as well as colonoscopies. The students are expected to attend clinics in the outpatient center and cancer center when they are not in the operating room. The students will also be exposed to the multidisciplinary conferences addressing gastrointestinal malignancies. The students will help care for the patients on the wards and see new consults. Finally, there are dedicated educational conferences for the residents and students on the service.

Emergency General Surgery/Trauma

This rotation focuses on acute care surgery including traumatic. The students will spend their rotation making daily rounds on the wards, seeing general surgery consults, participating in outpatient clinics with elective general surgery patients and assisting in any necessary operations. The students will also have the opportunity to assist in the trauma bay during the care of blunt and penetrating injuries. The students will spend two weeks on the trauma service and two weeks on the emergency general surgery service. Finally, the students will be involved in several teaching conferences addressing topics in trauma and critical care.

Hines

This rotation encompasses all aspects of general surgery in the veteran population. The students will assist in the operating room on cases ranging from complex foregut surgery for malignancy to routine hernia and gallbladder procedures. There is a mix of laparoscopic and open procedures as well as minor procedures for skin lesions and anorectal problems. There is one day dedicated to clinic and several educational conferences for the students and residents. Those students not assigned to the operating room for the day will assist with the care of the patients on the wards and see new general surgery consults.

MacNeal General Surgery Rotation

This rotation encompasses all aspects of general surgery in a community setting approximately 15 minutes from the main campus. The students will assist the faculty in the operating room on a wide range of general surgery cases as well as attending clinic, seeing general surgery consults and rounding with the team on the wards. There are dedicated didactic sessions once per week at this site including morbidity and mortality conference and journal club. The service is fast paced and provides a unique exposure to private practice general surgery.

Burns

The students in the Burn Unit will become part of the large multidisciplinary team that cares for these very unique patients. The Burn unit is an intensive care unit that cares for severe burn and inhalational injuries as well as severe soft tissue infections. The students will participate in daily rounds with the team and also help in the care of the burn patients on the ward. There are operative cases usually three days per week and an outpatient clinic as well. Finally, there are dedicated conferences to discuss burn topics weekly.

Endocrine Surgery

During this rotation, students will focus on disorders of the thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal gland. The students will spend the majority of their time in the operating room with at least one day per week reserved for patient care in the outpatient clinic setting. The endocrine surgery patients are usually discharged the same day or the day after their procedures with a few exceptions. The students will also participate in several hours of service oriented educational conferences each week.

Pediatric Surgery

The student will participate in the care of a wide variety of pediatric patients including premature infants in the neonatal intensive care unit. The student will divide their time between caring for patients on the wards, in the operating room and in the outpatient clinics. The surgery cases are highly variable but usually include a mix of laparoscopic and open procedures including venous access catheters and ports. There is also time during the rotation for didactic sessions to discuss the unique pediatric surgery population.

Vascular Surgery

This rotation provides a broad exposure to all aspects of the medical and surgical management of venous and arterial disease. The students will divide their time between the operating room, patient wards and clinics as they assess and treat these often complicated patients. The operative cases vary from the outpatient treatment of venous disease to the inpatient open and endovascular repair of aneurysms to lower extremity amputations. The students will also have the opportunity to participate in interventional angiography suite as the surgeons perform minimally invasive procedures to diagnose and treat arterial occlusive disease. Finally, one morning each week is dedicated to educational conferences addressing various topics in vascular surgery.

The students will be assigned to one of three locations for this service: LUMC, Hines VA, or Community (MacNeal and Gottlieb Hospitals). If you have a preference for a site please indicate.

Plastic Surgery

This rotation provides students exposure to a wide range of plastic surgery procedures. They will care for these patients on the wards and participate in their operations. The operative experience ranges from small cosmetic procedures to large, complicated tissue reconstruction. The students will also have the opportunity to see patients in the outpatient clinics and field plastic surgery consults in the hospital.

Transplant

During this rotation, students will participate in the care of mainly renal and hepatic transplant patients. The students will attend pre-transplant and post-transplant clinics as well as weekly conferences to discuss eligible transplant candidates. There is a multidisciplinary team that cares for these complicated patients and the students will have the opportunity to learn from all of the team members. The surgical volume mostly involves organ transplantation however also includes hepatobiliary procedures and dialysis access procedures. The students may participate in organ procurement procedures at Loyola however are not permitted to travel off-site to procure. Finally, there are conferences for the students and residents each week addressing service related topics.

Thoracic Surgery

This rotation focuses on the diseases of the thoracic cavity including carcinoma, traumatic injuries, and lung disease. The students will participate in the operating room with exposure to laparoscopic and robotic techniques as well as open surgery and advanced bronchoscopy. There will also be the opportunity to see patients in the clinic setting and participate in a multidisciplinary tumor board. There is also the opportunity for exposure to cardiac disease if time permits.

Gottlieb Hospital General Surgery Rotation

This rotation encompasses all aspects of general surgery in a community setting. The students will assist the faculty in the operating room on a wide range of general surgery cases. This site has no residents currently so the students will have the opportunity to work closely with the general surgery faculty in the operating room, office setting and wards. The students will get a true sense of private practice general surgery.