

# **Medical Student Orientation**

## ***Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Service***

Welcome to the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Service. You will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of cases and participate in the care of patients with a wide range of pathology.

In general, students will be expected to take responsibility for 2 to 3 patients. You should round on these patients independently prior to morning rounds with the fellows and be prepared to present your patients to the fellows. Please let the intern know which patients you are taking care of so we do not interrupt you before your presentation. This is how we evaluate your clinical performance. So be aggressive about interrupting a resident who tries to present your patient and letting everyone know that this is your patient and you are prepared to present them. For your patients, you should follow them to the operating room and scrub on their case. On rounds you should present your assessment of the patient and have formulated a care plan for the day. Take responsibility for following up on any laboratory, radiologic procedures, or other testing performed on your patients. Communicate those results to the fellows when they review the patients at the end of the day. If a significant abnormality is identified that needs to be addressed urgently or that may alter the plan of care for the day, make a point of communicating that to the fellows as soon as possible. We do not delegate cases to you for the following day; you should divide the cases amongst your fellow students. There are typically 2 3<sup>rd</sup> medical students and 1 or 2 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students. Communication is key.

Rounds generally begin at 6 AM, however times fluctuate and the intern will notify you of any changes. Also, there is no set place we meet for rounds. It typically depends on where the most of the fellows are operating that day. For example, if most of the cases are at the ART, we will start at the main and finish at the ART so we can be on time for the first case. We operate in Rutledge tower, Main, ART and VA on campus. These are the places we expect you to go with us. We also operate at surrounding hospitals including Roper, East Cooper, Roper East Cooper, Trident and Summerville. You do not need to worry about these facilities, however you may go with one of the fellows, but it is on a case-by-case basis.

Students should plan to be in the operating room for at least one case on most days. We encourage students to see a variety of cases on this service as well as other Department of Surgery services. If you are not scrubbing on a case on this service on any given day, find a case on another service that interests you or that you need to see to meet your case requirements. Please make sure, though, that, in the morning, you make the fellows aware that you are scrubbing on a case on another service and contact them or another fellow/intern on the service after that case is finished so you can get back in touch with what is happening on the service. We do expect that students will have reviewed patient data prior to any case upon which they intend to scrub and, if possible, we expect students to see the patient prior to the case to get their own relevant history and physical examination. Attendings have been known, at times, to ask students questions about the patient

and about the disease entity being treated. This is where you will get most of your interactions with the attendings and your grade may reflect poor preparation for a case. So, always be prepared.

We ask that a student attend VA clinic on Monday. It is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in the specialty clinic. It starts at 9am. A medical student is expected to round each day of the weekends. Please talk with your fellow classmates to divide the weekends. If you are on call for trauma, it would be wise to round that weekend. Timing of rounds is determined by the fellow on call that weekend and will be relayed to you once it is decided.

Students are also expected to attend the plastic surgery Grand Rounds and Surgical M and M conferences (General Surgery). In an effort to have more objective criteria on which to judge our students, the Division of Plastic Surgery will have each student who rotates through our division give a 5-10 minute PowerPoint presentation on an agreed upon Plastic Surgery topic.

**During the first week of their rotation, please email Lance Tavana, MD (tavana@musc.edu) in order get a topic for your presentation.** If Dr. Tavana is out of town, or otherwise unavailable, they can contact Milton Armstrong, MD for a topic assignment.

While on the service, you will be expected to have a faculty member observe your performance of a focused history and physical examination. You will likely need to make a point of identifying these opportunities and ask a faculty member to observe your performance and provide feedback.

Students are expected to get feedback on their performance midway through the rotation. Please meet with the chief fellow or, if that fellow is unavailable, the mid level fellow, and have them go over the first page of the "mid course feedback form" available to you on moodle. After that, please set up an appointment with Dr Tavana or, if he is unavailable, Dr Armstrong, Dr Delaney or Dr. Herrera, to complete the second side of that form. Use that session as an opportunity to seek assistance in identifying opportunities to complete any, as yet, uncompleted case or procedure requirements.

We have a website that describes our service with links to a variety of material you may find useful. The link to that site is here:

<http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/surgery/divisions/general/index.htm>

We enjoy having students on our service and pride ourselves on the positive feedback we receive about this service from students. If you have any concerns, please contact Dr. Norcross so they may be addressed as soon as possible.