

The Research Year: Roles, Rules, and Responsibility

The Department of Surgery at OHSU is committed to providing all residents with a high-quality educational experience that will enable each resident to achieve their career goals within a supportive environment that emphasizes teamwork, maintenance of professional behaviors, and development of each resident's cognitive and technical skills.

The Department's leaders are determined to maintain a "research year" as an integral part of each resident's experience, should they so desire it. One year of research is recommended for each categorical resident; a second year is possible if the Program Director and Chair agree and if the division with which the resident is working can fund the resident's salary for the second year.

Residents must identify a research mentor and submit a proposal for the intended project by the conclusion of their second clinical year. The proposals are reviewed by the Research Committee and recommendations forwarded to the Program Director for approval. The decision to pursue a second research year must be made by February 1st of each year for the upcoming July; even earlier notice is desirable, and residents are urged to communicate their desire for additional year(s) of research to the Program Director and/or Chair as soon as they determine that they would like to pursue that course.

The research year should be considered a privilege. With privileges come responsibilities.

Residents in the research year(s) will be expected to continue to comply with all departmental and hospital regulations.

Residents must attend the departmental Grand Rounds, Resident Surgical Science Conference, and M&M Conference weekly and pursue the acquisition of surgical knowledge and skills with continued diligence. The ABSITE examination (on the last Saturday in January) is mandatory. No vacations are allowed during this time.

Although scheduled on-call duties are far less frequent than during the "clinical years", each resident will be expected to take some regular call nights to cover vacations or other shortages on specific services. If emergencies such as illness of a resident or family member leave a service critically understaffed such that resident or patient welfare is endangered, it is an expectation that research residents will exhibit the compassion and selflessness expected of a professional and "step up to the plate." Such calls will not ordinarily exceed an average of three call days/nights for each resident per month.

In addition the research residents are expected to participate actively in the recruitment of the next year's PGY-1 residents through interviewing and helping host and orient the candidates during each interview day, with 2-3 residents participating on each day.

Moonlighting is permitted only with explicit permission of the Program Director. Requests must be made in writing before beginning to moonlight. Institutional rules must be followed regarding moonlighting (see attached).

For additional details regarding the research program, please see “Guidelines for the Department of Surgery Research Program” on the Department’s website (<http://www.ohsu.edu/surgery/UGS/RESIDENCY/index.shtml>).