2015 / 2016

Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program

To serve, to heal and to educate

serve heal educate
Thank you for your interest in the Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program at Cooper University Hospital. This program offers one- and two-year fellowships in critical care medicine and is fully accredited by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

The Division of Critical Care Medicine is a component of the Department of Medicine. Cooper University Hospital, the major clinical site of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), is a 594-licensed bed, not-for-profit academic medical center. It is the only level 1 trauma center in southern New Jersey dedicated to the treatment of the critically ill and critically injured patient.

Our critical care trainees are exposed to the spectrum of critical illness and critical injury and are fortunate to have among the faculty some of the world’s leading academic intensivists, including three recent past presidents of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, a 14,000-member medical organization for critical care practitioners worldwide.

The critical care faculty, CMSRU and Cooper University Hospital are jointly committed to delivering the finest care to patients with critical illness and injury; educating the best academic and community hospital-based intensivists to become the leaders in their field; and furthering medical knowledge through the pursuit of innovative research in critical care medicine.
Cooper University Hospital is the leading tertiary-level provider serving the southern New Jersey region. Consumers and physicians recognize the system as being South Jersey’s leading medical center. In annual surveys assessing the region’s medical care, Cooper’s physicians are frequently recognized as “Top Doctors” in their fields. These world-class physicians are the teachers with whom you will interact during your educational experience.

Cooper University Hospital is the major clinical site of Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, which opened its doors to the first class of medical students in August 2012.

Cooper University Hospital is the largest academic medical center and the only level 1 trauma center in southern New Jersey. The medical center serves the needs of a broad patient population consisting of primary, secondary and tertiary medical care. There are 81 critical care beds divided among the Medical/Surgical ICU (30), Intermediate ICU (10), Pediatric ICU (5), Trauma ICU (10), Trauma Step-down Unit (10), CCU (12), and Stroke Unit (4).

The Division of Critical Care Medicine is dedicated to providing patient-centered, multidisciplinary care for the critically ill patient. The Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit at Cooper University Hospital is an acknowledged center of excellence in the Delaware Valley, featuring a 25,000-square-foot, 30-bed state-of-the-art unit with the latest in advanced imaging and invasive monitoring equipment.

Our multidisciplinary patient care teams include an infectious disease specialist and pharmacologist and provide rapid response, consultation and management of patients outside the intensive care unit. The Cooper Transfer Center facilitates the safe, timely transfer and management of adult critically ill patients from various outlying hospitals in the Delaware Valley.

Critical Care faculty currently have academic appointments at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and are committed to the delivery of the finest care to critically ill patients, educating the best intensivists, and furthering medical knowledge through the pursuit of innovative research in critical care medicine.

Fellows are immersed in this rich environment, and have ample opportunity to interact with faculty and peers through formal and informal teaching sessions.
The goal of the fellowship in critical care medicine is to train board-eligible or board-certified internists in the subspecialty of critical care medicine. Fellows will be exposed not only to the clinical aspects of critical care medicine, but also to teaching, administration and research, in order to prepare them to function in either an academic center or a community hospital environment.

The duration of the fellowship is one or two years, depending on board-eligibility requirements. A fellow may be offered an additional year to pursue research interests by special arrangement.

The medical/surgical intensive care unit is staffed by a multispecialty group of full-time faculty members from the departments of medicine, surgery and anesthesia. The ratio of faculty to trainees exceeds 1:1.

Individuals taking the two-year fellowship spend approximately 16 months in the medical/surgical ICU. The first year is predominantly clinical, with the majority of time spent in the medical/surgical ICU and additional time in related clinical areas, such as intubation training, the cardiovascular surgery service and the coronary care unit. The second year provides time in the following areas: additional clinical experience in the critical care units, elective and research. Fellows who intend to pursue academic careers are encouraged to spend at least six months on a research rotation.

Rotations are available in the pediatric ICU (under the direction of the pediatric intensivists) and shock-trauma unit (under the direction of the trauma surgeons). Electives available include pulmonary medicine, nephrology, clinical anesthesia, infectious diseases, neonatal ICU, echocardiology and cardiac cath lab. The program for each fellow is tailored to that fellow’s background and goals.
Procedures
The attending physician has ultimate responsibility for care rendered by the critical care fellow. Therefore, depending on the procedure and the degree of experience of the trainee, supervision of procedures may or may not be required. Supervision, when required, will be direct observation of the fellow performing the procedure by the attending physician or other qualified supervisor.

Research
All fellows will be expected to complete a research project during their fellowship and protected time is provided for this purpose. The time commitment and extent of research involvement depends upon the fellow's interest in pursuing an academic career. Each fellow's research interest will be matched with appropriate investigative projects in clinical or basic science research, and will be guided and monitored by an academic critical care physician whose expertise coincides with the area under study. While participation in ongoing projects is invited, two-year trainees are required to implement at least one laboratory or clinical research project of their own design and present their data in an open scientific forum.
Educational Conferences

Didactic conferences are held regularly. Every Monday afternoon, a board review or self-directed learning conference takes place. A variety of conferences are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays that include the following:

**Critical Care Case**
An assigned fellow has the responsibility for presenting at least one case each year with faculty support. The fellow is expected to assemble and moderate the conference, provide audiovisual support and hand-outs for the case and invite individuals with special expertise to the conference.

**Critical Care Research**
This is an opportunity for fellows and faculty to discuss research plans, present preliminary research results and fine-tune their presentations for national meetings. Didactic lectures on research methods are also presented.

**Morbidity and Mortality**
Faculty conducts this conference and all deaths in the medical/surgical intensive care unit are reviewed. Fellows are assigned to present case synopses for the deaths and morbidities for which they were involved in patient care.

**Critical Care Journal Club**
Critical care fellows and faculty members are assigned to each journal club and select two articles to be presented.

**Didactic Lectures**
State-of-the-art lectures are presented not only by the critical care faculty, but in keeping with the multidisciplinary nature of the training program, didactic lectures may also given by faculty and visiting professors specializing in trauma, infectious disease, cardiovascular or emergency medicine.

**Internal Medicine Grand Rounds**
Critical care fellows are encouraged to attend the weekly Internal Medicine Grand Rounds presented by faculty from the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University or invited faculty from other nationally known institutions.

The educational program is led by a dynamic and multidisciplinary critical care medicine faculty, which includes three past presidents of the Society of Critical Care Medicine.
How to Apply

The Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program at Cooper University Hospital participates in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Information regarding the ERAS application process and timeline is available on the websites listed below.

Association of American Medical Colleges
www.aamc.org/eras

ERAS Fellowship Document Office
www.erasfellowshipdocuments.org

ERAS applications must contain the following information in order for your application to be considered:

- Common application form
- Curriculum vitae
- Medical school transcript
- Three original letters of recommendation, one of which must be from your current or most recent training director
- Personal statement describing your training goals and future career plans
- ECFMG certification (IMG only)
- USLME reports (1, 2 and 3).

The program director and two additional faculty members will review applicant files. Invitation for interview will be based upon their recommendations.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility for the Critical Care Medicine Fellowship requires a minimum of three years of ACGME medical training in internal medicine or emergency medicine. Individuals accepted for a position in the fellowship program must be U.S. citizen, classified as a resident alien, or hold a J-1 visa.

The application deadline for the 2015-16 academic year is August 31, 2014.
The Cooper Campus and Surrounding Area

It is extraordinary to have such a high concentration of leadership at one institution but, then, Cooper is an extraordinary hospital.

Cooper University Hospital is the center of a growing health science campus that includes the main hospital, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the internationally acclaimed Coriell Institute for Research, Three Cooper Plaza medical offices and the Ronald McDonald House.

Adjacent to the Cooper Plaza/Lanning Square neighborhood, Cooper has a long history of outreach and service efforts to its local community. Some of these initiatives include health and wellness programs for the neighborhood, development of three neighborhood parks and playground, and outreach to programs into local schools.

The Hospital’s 312,000-square-foot, 10-story Roberts Pavilion houses state-of-the-art patient care facilities, including 120 private patient rooms, a 30-bed medical/surgical intensive care unit, 12 technologically advanced operating room suites with hybrid imaging capabilities, an advanced laboratory automation facility and a 14,000-square-foot Emergency Department. The Emergency Department features 25 beds, dedicated isolation suites and autonomous CT scanning technology. Two new floors in the Roberts Pavilion, each with 30 private patient rooms, opened in August 2014. The two floors are designed to serve specific patient populations with Pavilion 8 serving a growing advanced-care surgery patient population and Pavilion 9 serving the Cooper Heart Institute for hospitalized heart patients. The Pavilion features an expansive lobby and concourse, a restaurant and coffee shop, health resource center, business center, gift shop and chapel.

The Pavilion also houses the 25,000-square-foot Dr. Edward D. Viner Intensive Care Unit. A design showcase for patient and family-centered care, the unit features 30 private patient rooms equipped with the latest in advanced technology, and allowing 360-degree patient access. Five patient rooms are capable of negative pressure isolation, and five rooms have chambered isolation alcoves. In addition, an enlarged room with operating room caliber lighting is outfitted to perform bedside exploratory laparotomy in patients too unstable for transport to the operating room.

In 2013 Cooper celebrated the opening of MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper, the $100 million, four-story, 103,050-square-foot center located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus in Camden, dedicated to cancer prevention, detection, treatment and research. MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper offers South Jersey’s only dedicated inpatient, 30-bed cancer unit adjacent to the new cancer center at Cooper University Hospital. The center includes bright, spacious chemotherapy treatment areas, patient exam rooms, conference centers and advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies. The designers incorporated an aesthetic approach to healing with abundant natural light, a rooftop Tranquility Garden, an illuminated floor-to-ceiling “Tree of Life” centerpiece and more than 100 pieces of original art created by 71 New Jersey artists.

The expansion project at Cooper is a direct reflection of the growth in services that Cooper has experienced over the past several years.
The Cooper Campus and Surrounding Area

Cooper Medical School of Rowan University Medical Education Building is located on the Cooper Health Sciences Campus on South Broadway, between Benson and Washington Streets in Camden. The new $139 million building, which opened in July 2012, was designed for CMSRU’s curriculum with spaces and technologies to support faculty and students in their educational process. In 2012, CMSRU welcomed the class of 2016 with 50 students.

The Cooper campus is located in the heart of the Camden’s business district. The academic medical center campus is easily accessible by car or public transportation—the commuter high-speed line and bus terminal are located a half-block from the campus. Cooper is a short walk or drive from the exciting Camden waterfront where the New Jersey State Aquarium, the River Sharks stadium, the USS New Jersey and Susquehanna Bank Center are located.

Cooper is conveniently close to Philadelphia. Just a mile-long drive over the Benjamin Franklin Bridge or a ferry boat ride will put you at the doorstep of Philadelphia’s cultural, culinary and historic venues.

South Jersey also offers a range of living and entertainment options. Quaint towns such as Haddonfield and Collingswood are just 10 minutes away. The lights and action of Atlantic City and those other popular beach towns such as Cape May and Ocean City are a one-hour drive from Cooper.
Cooper Campus Map

The most up-to-date directions to Cooper University Hospital are available at:
cooperhealth.org/directions