To serve, to heal and to educate

Emergency Medical Services Fellowship Program
Thank you for looking into the Emergency Medical Services Fellowship Program at Cooper! Since establishing the Division in September 2007, I have witnessed growth and expansion of Cooper’s role in EMS, Disaster Medicine, and Transport Medicine within the community, Southern New Jersey, the state, and beyond. When the Division of EMS/Disaster/Transport Medicine was first instituted, it was staffed by a paramedic and me. Now, with a team of EMS Medical Directors, nurses, and paramedic coordinators, each with experience and passion for EMS, we provide medical direction for over 20 agencies in Southern New Jersey, including Basic Life Support, transport companies, training centers, and an air medical unit. Cooper has deployed disaster response teams, such as during the Haiti earthquake, Hurricane Irene, and Hurricane Sandy. Our team also works closely with the Department of Health to support progressive EMS initiatives and regional disaster preparedness and response.

Cooper has been given the ability to oversee the EMS system in the City of Camden starting in January 2016. This will be the first EMS system that Cooper has ever operated, which will give fellows and residents a unique opportunity to be involved in a busy urban EMS system that provides both basic and advanced life support. The unique healthcare economics in the City of Camden may lead to additional projects involving EMS that go beyond the delivery of emergency care, including mobile integrated health services and other community health initiatives.

My academic responsibility as Division Head is to provide the residents the necessary knowledge and skills to work collaboratively with EMS and to function effectively during a disaster. We have restructured the EMS curriculum to give residents experience in out-of-hospital care, EMS systems, and EMS medical direction, as well as incorporated fundamental disaster principles such as incident command and mass triage. Residents are also trained to become medical command physicians. A well-received component of their education is going to the County Regional Emergency Training Center and participating in EMS skills stations so that they can experience the difficult challenges routinely encountered in the field. Our team has also been invited to deliver education to our medical students at the new Cooper Medical School of Rowan University.

As the Division continues to grow operationally and academically, I believe that Cooper has a responsibility and desire to train future generations of physicians with an interest in EMS and Disaster Medicine. A fellowship training program in EMS and Disaster Medicine was formed, with the first fellow graduating in 2013. With the recent recognition of EMS as a subspecialty by the American Board of Emergency Medicine, we are proud to receive initial accreditation starting July 1, 2015, from ACGME for our EMS fellowship program. Graduates from this program will be eligible to take the subspecialty board certification exam in EMS. As a board-certified physician in both Emergency Medicine and Emergency Medical Services, I am driven to support the continued growth of Emergency Medical Services.
Cooper Emergency Medical Services

Our Team

A core group of physicians from emergency medicine, pediatrics, trauma, emergency medical services and disaster medicine, EMS Outreach Coordinators, and Chief Flight Nurse as the medical direction team, demonstrates outstanding leadership and dedication in the field of EMS, and the program is recognized by the EMS community for its commitment to improving the overall quality of pre-hospital care in the state of New Jersey.

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Cooper University Hospital (CUH) offers a one-year ACGME-accredited fellowship training program to prepare physicians for the practice of emergency medical services, a clinical specialty that includes the care of patients in all environments outside of traditional medical care facilities such as clinics, offices, and hospitals. CUH’s ED has an annual census of approximately 80,000 patients, of which 25% of those patients arrive by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). As the Regional Level I Trauma Center, Children's Regional Hospital, and a tertiary care facility, CUH receives patients from the city of Camden and from the surrounding communities within Southern New Jersey.

New Jersey EMS has a unique two-tiered system, providing both Basic and Advanced Life Support services. Basic Life Support (BLS) services are generally responsible for patient hospital transports and include both career and volunteer providers. Mobile Intensive Care Units (MICUs) are operated by licensed, acute-care hospitals and are bound by a state-issued certificate of need, which allocates sole-provider service areas to specific hospitals. The JEMSTAR Air Medical Program was designed to provide rapid emergency transport and care for trauma patients in New Jersey. Several privately-operated air medical providers are also licensed to provide scene and interfacility transports.

Legislation that passed in July 2015 allows for designated Level I Trauma Centers to provide both advanced and basic life support services in their respective municipalities. This opportunity will give our fellows and residents direct involvement in both the development and maintenance of the city’s EMS system, with potential for additional projects involving EMS given the unique urban healthcare economics.

Through the Division of EMS/Disaster/Transport Medicine, our physicians provide medical direction for many EMS agencies in Southern New Jersey, transport companies, and Cooper’s Air Two helicopter. Our robust medical direction program promotes physician involvement with agencies to empower the EMS community to provide the highest level of care through standardized protocols, online medical command from our Emergency Department, chart review, real-time feedback at scenes, competency-based training, and open lines of communication with the EMS Medical Directors. More importantly, the team has built relationships with various public and private stakeholders to offer support and expertise during routine and disastrous times and has participated in local, regional, and state initiatives involving EMS and Disaster Medicine. As the Southern Regional Medical Coordination Center, our regional health preparedness and response facility supports the integrity of the health care system during a large-scale event. Responsibilities include the collection and collation of regional health information, situation awareness, the monitoring of health care system performance and capacity, support to health care system logistic requests in coordination with state and local agencies, and other operations as determined by NJDOH.

Since the development of an EMS fellowship in 2012, our fellows have been successful in pursuing opportunities within EMS. Graduated fellows have successfully expanded roles within EMS to include medical directorships, creation of new EMS programs in Tactical and Wilderness EMS, and political support for the EMS community. Fellows have been recognized by the EMS community, peers, and governmental bodies as leaders in the field of EMS during and after their fellowship training.
Fellows gain the skills and knowledge that are the foundation of EMS through an established fellowship program that has been accredited by ACGME starting July 1, 2015. The block schedule below encompasses the Core Content of EMS Medicine as defined by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. The curriculum has flexibility based on the needs and interests of the Fellows and on the evolving field of EMS. The Fellows will have experience in multiple EMS systems and will understand how each system participates collaboratively in the overall delivery of out-of-hospital care.

**Sample Electives:**
- Disaster Medicine
- Out-of-State EMS
- Tactical Medicine
- Public Health
- Wilderness Medicine
- Additional Research/Scholarly Activity

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* Blocks summarize the individual experiences throughout the year and are not confined to calendar months.
A didactic program developed by the program faculty and based upon the core knowledge content of emergency medical services will supplement the core curriculum. An average of at least three hours per week of scheduled didactic sessions will include presentations based on the defined curriculum, administrative seminars, journal review, morbidity and mortality conferences, and research seminars. Sessions may include joint conferences co-sponsored with Emergency Medicine and other disciplines. Fellows will also have an opportunity to plan and conduct didactic experiences for the Emergency Medicine residency program.

To enhance the educational experience, Fellows will be required to attend the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP®) Medical Directors Course & Practicum and the NAEMSP® Annual Meeting in January. The Fellows will also attend the New Jersey Statewide Conference on EMS in November. These events will give the Fellows opportunities to network with experts on the national and state levels and to learn about best practices and advances in EMS.

The Fellows will also participate in the National Disaster Life Support (NDLS) courses, a series of educational programs to better prepare health care professionals and emergency response personnel for mass casualty events, at the Regional Training Center at Cooper University Hospital. In addition, the Fellows will complete the online Independent Study Program in Incident Command System, provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
How to Apply

The EMS Fellowship Program at Cooper University Hospital will review the following materials from interested candidates for consideration from September 1, 2015–March 1, 2015.

- 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)
- USMLE reports (1, 2 and 3)

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

Program Eligibility

Eligibility for the EMS Fellowship Program requires a minimum of three years of ACGME medical training in 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 2016-17 academic year is September 1, 2015.
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.
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