To serve, to heal and to educate
As program director, I take great pride in the neurology residency program at Cooper University Hospital. Since our program started with only three residents in 2009, our reputation as an excellent training ground has spread throughout the country through our graduates, who have secured esteemed fellowships, are highly desired in the job market and have achieved a 100% board pass rate.

The diversity of our patients is the backbone of the educational experience. Exposure to patients with a broad spectrum of common and uncommon neurological disorders as well as varied socioeconomic backgrounds reinforces a robust didactic curriculum. Residents assume greater responsibility as they progress through training, always with the support and supervision of enthusiastic faculty with broad clinical interests.

There is a very strong support for our academic mission, including comprehensive electronic resources, support from library staff, and a dedicated research institute. The learning environment is further enriched by our new medical school, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University, which offers teaching opportunities to trainees. There is abundant interaction between numerous academic programs to foster a multi-disciplinary approach to patient care and scholarly activity. Departmental and institutional support (including an annual poster competition), further create an environment conducive for research. Past and current residents have produced top-notch research—authoring over a dozen manuscript publications (6 as first author!), 27 presentations at National and International meetings, and numerous abstracts—in less than 4 years of our program’s existence!

This is truly a great environment for future neurologists to train. The unique atmosphere provides a strong emphasis on clinical neurology, yet also provides abundant exposure to clinical research and basic science enabling the graduating resident to explore careers in academics, research, clinical practice or to continue into subspecialty fellowship training.

I also take pride in the open dialogue between our residents and faculty. I meet with our residents regularly to improve our program any way possible. We encourage you to apply to our program so that you may visit us and see firsthand the exciting opportunities we offer.

Joseph V. Campellone, MD
Program Director

cooperhealth.edu
The Neurology residency program at Cooper University Hospital is a 3-year advanced program offering three resident positions for each year of training. The program reinforces clinical patient care and scholarly pursuits through our most valuable resource—our patients with diverse neurological disorders and backgrounds.

Our state-of-the-art hospital provides training facilities for numerous other residency programs medical fellowships. House officers have primary patient care responsibility, while faculty serve to supervise and teach. This philosophy motivates trainees to become self-sufficient and confident graduates when they move on.

This is a very exciting time for our department, as we integrate into a multi-disciplinary, patient-centered Cooper Neurological Institute. The CNI will facilitate a team approach to improving the patients’ experience and outcomes. The department also continues to expand our faculty and services offered.

What makes Cooper a great place to train?

- All of our Neurology inpatients are cared for by attending faculty Neurologists. This ensures close supervision and interaction of attending physicians and house staff and excellent bedside teaching.
- An accessible full-time faculty dedicated to teaching and patient care.
- Emphasis on ambulatory care and the office practice of Neurology.
- Our residents spend significant time in ambulatory settings, which prepares them for life after residency.
- An excellent, balanced mix of patients. Cooper is the only university hospital in southern New Jersey and hence receives a large number of tertiary referral patients.
- On-site biostatistician support for research projects.
- Online access to thousands of journals and medical texts, available 24 hours a day
- A well-equipped conference room.
- Digital radiology on every floor.
- EPIC EMR system.
- Web-based procedure logging, duty hours documentation and evaluation.

Neurology residents and faculty work closely with experienced staff to facilitate patient care.

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Department of Neurology
Three Cooper Plaza, Suite 320
Camden, NJ 08103
Curriculum

Our program was awarded 5-year accreditation by the ACGME, attesting to the high quality educational content of our clinical and didactic curriculum.

House officers on the inpatient service cover the stroke unit, Video-EEG / epilepsy unit and the general Neurology service. The consult service evaluates patients in the emergency department, intensive care units and patients admitted to other medical/surgical services. Senior neurology residents have great flexibility rotating through a wide variety of subspecialty experiences. Senior residents also assume more responsibility directing and teaching junior residents and medical students.

Residents get significant exposure to outpatient neurology through designated monthly rotations in general neurology and subspecialty electives. This is supplemented by a continuity clinic in which residents enjoy evaluating patients and following them throughout the 3 years of their training.

**Required Rotations**

- Inpatient Neurology service
- Consult service
- General outpatient neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Child Neurology
- Psychiatry

**Electives**

- Neuromuscular/Electromyography
- Neurocognitive disorders
- Neuro-Rehabilitation
- Epilepsy/EEG
- Neuro-Critical Care
- Pain management/Headache
- Movement Disorders
- Neuro-Radiology
- Research

cooperhealth.edu
Pediatric Neurology at Cooper

The division of Child Neurology at Cooper University Hospital is one of many excellent specialties available at Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper. Pediatric Neurologists at Cooper care for inpatient and outpatients with a broad array of conditions including Tourette syndrome, autism, ADHD, pediatric epilepsy, congenital neurological disorders, neurocutaneous syndromes and many others. Residents rotating on the service will be exposed to many ‘bread and butter’ pediatric neurology disorders as well as the rare and serious. Pediatric neurology faculty are on-site at Cooper University Hospital and are supported by the finest general pediatricians and many other pediatric subspecialties.

Neurology Didactics

There are a variety of daily conferences providing essential basic science and clinical instruction. The didactic curriculum is very flexible and topics are adjusted frequently in response to the needs and interest of the residents. As a group, our residents consistently perform above average on in service exams and feel confident and well-prepared to take their board exam. Bioethics, finances of medicine and other contemporary subjects are integrated into the curriculum to provide residents additional interesting, relevant & useful information.

- Morning report
- Basic science discussion
- Journal club
- Case presentation
- Neurology grand rounds
- Clinical Pearls
- Epilepsy surgery conference
- Neurological disorder topic of the week

Child Neurology Faculty

Michael Goodman, MD  
(Chairman and Chief of Pediatrics)

Thomas Drake, MD

Caroline Eggerding, MD

Amir Pshytcky, MD

Thomas P. Drake, MD

Evelyn M. Gonzalez, MD

Debbie Sharp, APN

Nora Vizzachero, APN
Resident Resources

- Full-text online access for more than 1600 journals available 24 hours a day
- A well-equipped conference room
- Digital radiology available in all patient care areas and conference rooms
- EPIC electronic medical system
- A web-based ethics and professionalism curriculum
- Web-based procedure logging, duty hours documentation and evaluation
- On-site biostatistician support for research projects

Clinical Experiences

Much of the first year is spent taking care of patients on the neurology service and performing consultations in the inpatient setting. The remaining time as PGY-2 consists of rotations in neurosurgery, general outpatient neurology and psychiatry.

Senior neurology residents at Cooper will rotate through subspecialty elective experiences in neuro-rehabilitation, movement disorders, neuro-oncology and others. Cooper’s position as the only tertiary referral center in South New Jersey provides residents exposure to patients with diverse and unusual problems that offer exceptional educational experiences in the various subspecialties. Our epilepsy, neuromuscular and movement disorder programs enable residents to participate in the care of patients with complex disorders, as well as large volumes of more ‘typical’ neurological conditions. Cooper’s deep brain stimulator and botulinum toxin programs, stroke program and epilepsy monitoring unit attract referrals from many local providers and hospitals.

Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation is a nationally acclaimed spinal cord and brain injury center and is the site of an elective rotation in neuro-rehabilitation. Neurology residents will work with some of the most experienced neurologists and physiatrists in developing a fundamental knowledge of neuro-rehabilitation.

Our 1st four classes of neurology residents have secured prestigious fellowship positions including:

- University of Florida
  Movement disorders
- Cleveland clinic
  Neuro-Critical care
- Drexel/Hahnemann
  Neurophysiology
- Duke
  Neuro-Critical care
  Vascular Neurology
- Hershey Medical center
  Neurophysiology
- Medical College of Wisconsin
  Neurophysiology
- Cedars-Sinai
  Neuro-critical care (two residents)
- University of Miami
  Neuro-critical care
- University of Pennsylvania
  Epilepsy

Electromyography
Neurology Resident Research

Our vast diversity of patients and passionate faculty foster an environment that has led to numerous scholarly works by our residents. Academic pursuits are encouraged through special stipends for publication and presentation as well as availability of a research elective. Our residents have an admirable track record of scientific publications (below, doesn’t include many more projects currently in progress).

Manuscript Publications:


Neurology Resident Research (continued)


Poster and Platform Presentations

2010

- Dham B. Prevalence and risk factors associated with acute ischemic stroke among HIV positive individuals: Preliminary analysis from a large administrative database. European Stroke Conference, Barcelona, Spain. May 2010

2011

- Dham B. Epidemiology and cognizance of migraines in teenagers. 53rd Annual American Headache Society (AHS) Conference, June 2011

- Akbar U, Rincon F. Asystole after right insular ischemic stroke: understanding the heart and brain connection AAN annual meeting 2011

- Akbar U. Does epilepsy increase the risk for pacemaker placement? AAN annual meeting 2011


- Akbar U, Carran M. Benign-histology meningioma with extracranial metastasis. ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Akbar U, Burakgazi E, Kelly JJ. Valproate-responsive subclinical rhythmic electrographic discharges (SREDA) in a migraineur. ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Shah U, Akbar U, Wang C. Periodic lateralizing epileptiform discharges (PLEDs) causing persistent magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) changes in ipsilateral thalamus. Poster presentation; ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Velazquez Y, Akbar U. Burakgazi-Dalkilic E. Fatal dysautonomia associated with acute bacterial meningitis.ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Dham B. “Benign-Histology Meningioma with Extracranial Metastasis.” Poster presentation; ANA annual meeting, September 2011

- Dham B, Assadi M. Motor Asymmetry in SCAs. Poster presentation; ANA annual meeting, September 2011

2012


- Dham B. “The Epidemiology of Status Epilepticus in the United States.” Platform presentation, AAN annual meeting; April 2012. (Research selected among “top 5 %”)

- Shah U, Carran M. Neurosarcoïdosis with granulomatous necrosis. AAN annual meeting; April, 2012.


- Kavi T, Velazquez-Rodriquez Y, Mirsen T, Campellone J. Effects of Physiologic Derangements on Outcome of Acute Ischemic Stroke patients after Intravenous Thrombolysis. 10th Annual Neurocritical Care Society Meeting, October 2012.

- Kavi T, Moussavi M, Kirmani J, et al. UCSF ICH Grading System is a better prognostic tool for spontaneous intracerebral hemorrhage when assessed at 24 hours after the event. 5th Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology annual meeting, October 2012.


2013

- Akbar U. Disparities in outcome of patients transferred from referring hospital emergency department with intracerebral hemorrhage versus another medical-surgical illness: a case-control study. AAN annual meeting, April 2013


Neurology Resident Research (continued)


Published Abstracts

2011


2012


- Carran M, Velazquez-Rodriguez Y. High Lipoprotein (a) in Postpartum Epilepsy. Epilepsy Currents 2012;(12 Supp)

2013


Our faculty represent experience across a wide array of neurological subspecialties and more importantly, enthusiastic and experienced educators.

Thomas M. Bosley, MD specializes in Neuro-Ophthalmology and is previous Director of the Neurology Residency Program. Dr. Bosley is also a prior Division head of Neurology at Cooper and former Chief of Neurology at Pennsylvania Hospital, where he also served as Program Director for the residency there.

Although Dr. Bosley is currently Chief of Neuro-Ophthalmology at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, he continues to be actively involved in the Neurology Residency Program at Cooper. He rounds with residents on the Neurology inpatient and consultation services several weeks each year and provides lectures to residents and students on a variety of topics. Dr. Bosley has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals and has lectured globally. He has active research projects involving clinical and genetic aspects of neuro-ophthalmology, neurology, and ophthalmology.

Evren Burakgazi, MD comes to Cooper from Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center–MCV Campus, Richmond, VA, where she was Co-Director of the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit and an Assistant Professor of Neurology. Dr. Burakgazi received her medical degree from Istanbul University School of Medicine, in Turkey. She completed her residency in Neurology at George Washington University School of Medicine where she was recognized as Resident of the Year, and her fellowship in Clinical Neurophysiology and Epilepsy, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

She specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy, pre-surgical evaluation and intracranial epilepsy monitoring. Her special interests include the role of hormones in epilepsy, cardiac aspects of status epilepticus and refractory epilepsy, pharmacokinetics of antiepileptic drugs and their interactions with other drugs.

Dr. Burakgazi has been a principal investigator and sub-investigator in a number of external grants and a contributor to numerous journals and abstracts. She is also a member of several scientific honorary and professional societies: the American Academy of Neurology, American Epilepsy Society, American Clinical and Neurophysiology Society (ACNS). She also serves as a member of the AAN Anti-epileptic Drugs Efficacy and Safety Guideline Committee.

Joseph V. Campellone, MD is the Program Director for the Neurology residency program. He has been with Cooper University Hospital since 1996 and is Medical Director of the Electromyography Laboratory and is board-certified in Neurology, Neuromuscular disease and Electrodiagnostic Medicine.

An Associate Professor of Neurology at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University (CMSRU), Dr. Campellone has great interest in education. He is previous director of the Neurology clerkship for Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and current clerkship director for the CMSRU Neurology clerkship. He is a recent recipient of the UMDNJ Foundation "Excellence in Teaching" award and is also a small group facilitator for Scholar’s workshop at CMSRU.

Dr. Campellone has authored numerous manuscripts, presented at national and local meetings and is a reviewer for several medical journals. A member of the American Academy of Neurology, Dr. Campellone has served on several committees for the American Association of Electrodiagnostic and Neuromuscular Medicine and is on the Medical Advisory board of the Garden State Chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation. Dr. Campellone has a particular interest in myasthenia gravis, neuropathy and other neuromuscular disease, as well as electrodiagnosis.

Melissa Carran, MD is a graduate of University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine. She completed neurology residency and subsequent Fellowship in Epilepsy at Thomas Jefferson Hospital. She is an Assistant Professor of Neurology at CMSRU, where she serves as co-course director for the Neurology-Psychiatry course. Dr. Carran is board-certified in Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology, with over 10 years of experience as an attending Neurologist and Epileptologist. She has also been an examiner for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and is a member of the Recertification Committee.

Dr. Carran’s practice includes treating and managing epilepsy, including women’s health, developmental issues, and evaluations for epilepsy surgery. She also participates in several studies of investigational treatments for epilepsy.
Andrea Casher, PsyD is a board certified clinical neuropsychologist. She has practiced for almost twenty years, evaluating individuals with a wide variety of neurologically based cognitive disorders, including dementia, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury, stroke, brain tumors, and epilepsy. Dr. Casher maintains an active role training neuropsychologists in the New Jersey and Philadelphia area, and working with professional societies and patient advocacy groups. Her expertise is critical to the multidiscipline approach to several Cooper Neuroscience programs, including neurosurgical interventions in patients with epilepsy. Dr. Casher also participates in clinical research projects.

Amy Colcher, MD has recently joined Cooper University Hospital to become Director of the Cooper Neurological Institute Movement Disorders division. Dr. Colcher comes to Cooper after 15 years at the University of Pennsylvania where she was Clinical Associate Professor of Neurology. She completed a fellowship in Movement disorders at the University of Pennsylvania after her Neurology training at Georgetown University. She earned her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College. Dr. Colcher is a well-known authority in movement disorders. She has authored numerous articles and chapters.

Neil Masangkay, MD earned his undergraduate degree at Rutgers University and his M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He subsequently completed neurology residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, followed by a clinical fellowship in neuromuscular medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. During his training, Dr. Masangkay developed a special interest in medical education and became a regular lecturer and small group instructor for both clerkship and preclinical courses.

A member of the American Academy of Neurology and the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine, Dr. Masangkay has a special interest in performing EMGs and neuromuscular disorders. An avid runner, he is also a three-time finisher of the Philadelphia Marathon.

Andrew McGarry, MD is an alumnus of UMDNJ and Cooper Hospital for medical school clerkships and completed neurology residency at the University of Rochester. He subsequently completed a fellowship in movement disorders and experimental therapeutics at Rochester. He is board certified in neurology and belongs to the American Academy of Neurology, Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society, and the Movement Disorder Society.

Dr. McGarry’s interests include Parkinson Disease, Huntington’s Disease, spinocerebellar ataxias, and Friedreich’s Ataxia. His clinical involvement includes delivery of botulinum toxin, deep brain stimulation management, resident education, and medical treatment of tremor, chorea, dystonia, tics, and myoclonus of varying etiologies. Dr. McGarry has interest in the development and implementation of clinical trials in movement disorders.

Thomas R. Mirsen, MD is Associate Professor of Neurology at CMSRU School and has been with Cooper University Hospital since 1990.

Dr. Mirsen is fellowship trained in dementia and cerebrovascular disease, and is board-certified in Vascular Neurology. He is the Director of the stroke program and of the inpatient stroke unit. Dr. Mirsen is a consistent participant in stroke trials, is active in stroke research, and serves on the Stroke Advisory Panel of the Department of Health of New Jersey. He has served as Associate Division Head of Neurology at Cooper. He has repeatedly been named a “Top Doctor” in Neurology both in New Jersey and in the Philadelphia area. His practice embraces a wide range of Neurology in addition to his specialty of Stroke.
Mark Rader, PhD is a licensed clinical neuropsychologist who has been in active practice for thirty years. He has been with Cooper University Hospital since 2005, where he conducts neuropsychological evaluations, sees patients for individual psychotherapy, and is on the inpatient consultation service. Currently an Assistant Professor of Neurology at the CMSRU, he is actively involved in the training and supervision of pre- and post-doctoral students in neuropsychology and medical students. His experience includes inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation with a special focus on the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injuries and emotional disorders arising from them. He has published and presented on many topics related to TBI and has also volunteered his time leading a mild TBI support group since 2001.

Larisa Syrow, MD completed her undergraduate studies at SUNY Binghamton and subsequently received her medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She completed residency in Neurology at Albert Einstein/Montefiore Medical center, followed by fellowship training in Clinical Neurophysiology at Hahnemann/Drexel Medical Center. She sees general neurology patients and has a special interest in performing EMGs, interpreting EEGs and delivering botulinum toxin injections. Dr Syrow has maintained an active role in teaching neurology to medical students and residents for which she has won many awards. She also has experience and interest in teaching medical Spanish and facilitating healthcare to the Spanish-speaking population.

Ryna Then, MD joins Cooper University Hospital after specialized in Vascular Neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center. Earned her Medical Degree from Instituto Tecnologico De Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Loves to teach and had been awarded for her outstanding achievement in teaching medical students. Finds particularly challenging treating critically ill patients with various neurological disorders particularly those with complicated strokes. Dr. Then is a Board Certified Neurologist, fluent in Spanish and someone that is dedicated advocate for her patients and works tirelessly to provide an outstanding and compassionate care to the people in great need.
How to Apply

Applicants are expected to have completed an ACGME-approved 12 month internship (PGY-1, Internal Medicine or Transitional Year) before they can begin their neurology residency training. We urge all applicants to secure an internship position that will be completed before the expected start date of Neurology training. Cooper does not guarantee a preliminary year position in conjunction with Neurology program match. Applicants interested in Preliminary Medicine PGY-1 training at Cooper are encouraged to apply through ERAS separately to the Internal Medicine preliminary program. In such cases, we will try to accommodate interviews on the same date, although in many cases, this isn’t possible.

More information about our program can be viewed at: cooperhealth.edu/residencies/neurology

The Neurology Program has no specific minimum requirements for Board scores, grades, etc. although we only rank candidates who have passed USMLE CK parts I and II (and CS). We accept USMLE and COMLEX scores. We evaluate the merits of each application based on a number of factors, trying to consider which applicant is best suited for a career in Neurology. Due to the competitive nature of our program, candidates with superior grades and scores are more likely to be invited to interview.

Unfortunately, visas other than J1 cannot be accommodated. We do not have couples matching capability at this time.

Our interview slots fill up quickly. We encourage interested candidates to apply as early as possible.

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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 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