International Trauma Research Fellowship Program

2021-2022
International Trauma Research Fellowship Program

The International Trauma Research Fellowship provides an opportunity for qualified, highly motivated individuals to work intimately with nationally recognized academic surgeons at the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY. The goals of this program, in addition to conducting high-level clinical and basic science research, include establishing international relationships and opportunities for fellows to observe the trauma and acute care surgery systems in the United States so that they can share their experience with their home countries. The mentors have a track record of running numerous international trauma research fellowships to support success and positive outcome of the fellows’ time spent.

Westchester Medical Center is located in the beautiful Hudson Valley region of New York, just 20 minutes from New York City. The medical center is an American College of Surgeons (ACS) and New York State-designated Level I Trauma Center, serving the entire Hudson Valley (north of the Bronx, up to Albany, NY) with over 50 ICU beds, a state-of-the-art Telehealth Center, and 24-hour e-ICU coverage of all ICU beds. As the only ACS Level I Trauma Center in the Hudson Valley region, we take care of patients with a high degree of complexity and acuity. With both an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited General Surgery residency program and a Surgical Critical Care fellowship program, Westchester Medical Center, in partnership with New York Medical College, is a leading academic institution of New York.

Fellows will be an integral part of the Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, participating in all weekly conferences, meetings and didactic education. Fellows are expected to develop, and be actively engaged in, basic and clinical research studies through all phases of the research process including literature review, obtaining approval from the Institutional Review Board, data collection and analysis, and abstract/manuscript preparation and submission. The Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery targets several large meetings each year, including the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST), the American Surgical Association (ASA), the Academic Surgical Congress (ASC), the Western Trauma Association (WTA), the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), and the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Trauma Research Fellows will be expected to be competent in statistical analysis and software, to work with the Department of Surgery Clinical Research Unit (DSCRU), and to publish manuscripts under the guidance of faculty.

Sponsor: Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery, New York Medical College & Westchester Medical Center

Thank you for choosing our International Trauma Research Fellowship program.

Sincerely Yours,

Peter Rhee, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM
Chief, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Westchester Medical Center
Professor of Surgery
New York Medical College

Kartik Prabhakaran, MD, MHS, FACS
Trauma Medical Director
Westchester Medical Center
Associate Professor of Surgery
New York Medical College
2021-2022

We are now accepting applications for the 2021-22 academic year.

Application

The application consists of a letter of interest and a current Curriculum Vitae in English. The letter should state your intent — for example, to broaden academic experience. It should also state your plans after visa expiration and your current level of education/experience. You will also need:

- A copy of your medical school diploma and a letter from your medical school.
- To have successfully completed the Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) exam.
- At least two letters of recommendation.
- FULL comprehension of the English language, both written and oral (verified in the form of successful completion of the TOEFL or IELTS exam).
- To meet criteria for securing a qualifying visa to remain in the United States for the period of duration of this fellowship, you must obtain a visa from the United States Embassy in your country of origin.
- To commit to a fellowship duration of at least 24 months.
- A certificate of complete vaccination.
- A recent PPD test (TB test) — if positive, provide a copy of a normal chest x-ray report (within 6 months).
- One passport-sized picture.

To apply, please email Dr. Kartik Prabhakaran:
Kartik.Prabhakaran@wmchealth.org

Before applying, please inquire about additional International Trauma Research Fellowship program information to ensure that all requirements can be met.
After you have submitted your application and been accepted into the program, you must submit the following documentation to Rebecca Bates, the International Trauma Research Fellowship Coordinator, via email at: Rebecca.Bates@wmchealth.org, and to Krist Nikolla, the Administrator of the Department of Surgery, at Krist_Nikolla@nymc.edu, no later than 90 days before your fellowship start date. Upon submission of all documentation, you will receive an official Letter of Invitation from the Department of Surgery.

- Bank statement in USD (must be current within 6 months)
- Scanned, color image of your passport
- Scanned, color image of your dependent's passport(s), if applicable
- Curriculum Vitae
- Scanned copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (once it is approved by the US Government)

Please be advised that you must pay the visa processing fee to New York Medical College. The visa processing fee is $450.00 USD and is non-refundable.
International Trauma Research Fellowship
Requirements and Information:

Self-Funding
The Department of Surgery does not have the funds for reimbursement or stipends. You will need to arrive on your own funding. The amount of funds the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service requires is at least $1680 USD per month for yourself, with an additional $590 USD per month for each dependent accompanying you, if applicable.

Documentation
The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 requires that you produce documents that authorize you to be in the United States. Upon your arrival at Westchester Medical Center, you must present the department administrator original documents to establish (1) your identity and (2) eligibility to be in the United States. The day after your arrival, you must personally check in with the program coordinator. Please bring your passport, I-94, and health insurance verification with you.

Program Duration
The International Trauma Research Fellowship will be two years in duration. You are granted four weeks of vacation time per year. Vacation time must be communicated and worked out in advance with the fellowship program director.
Program Contacts:

**Peter Rhee, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM**  
Chief, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery  
Westchester Medical Center  
Professor of Surgery  
New York Medical College  
Peter.Rhee@wmchealth.org

**Kartik Prabhakaran, MD, MHS, FACS**  
Trauma Medical Director  
Westchester Medical Center  
Associate Professor of Surgery  
New York Medical College  
Kartik.Prabhakaran@wmchealth.org

**Krist Nikolla, MPH**  
Administrator of Surgery -1S-B60  
New York Medical College  
40 Sunshine Cottage Road  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
Phone: (914) 594-2052  
Krist.Nikolla@nymc.edu

**Rebecca Bates**  
Trauma Program Coordinator  
Phone: (914) 493-6826  
Rebecca.Bates@wmchealth.org

**Location**  
Westchester Medical Center  
Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery  
Department of Surgery  
E144 Taylor Pavilion  
100 Woods Road  
Valhalla, NY 10595
Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Faculty

**Rifat Latifi, MD, FACS, FICS**
The Felicien Steichen Professor and Chairman of Surgery
New York Medical College
Director, Department of Surgery
Westchester Medical Center

- Undergraduate Education: University of Prishtina, Kosovo
- Medical School: University of Prishtina, Kosovo
- General Surgery Residency: Yale University School of Medicine
- Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Lincoln Medical Center/Cornell Medical College

Board Certification:
Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Rifat.Latifi@wmchealth.org

**Peter Rhee, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM, DMCC**
Professor of Surgery
New York Medical College
Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Westchester Medical Center

- Undergraduate Education: Georgia Institute of Technology
- Graduate Degree (Public Health): University of Washington
- Medical School: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine
- General Surgery Residency: University of California Irvine Medical Center
- Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Harborview Medical Center/University of Washington

Board Certification:
Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Peter.Rhee@wmchealth.org

**Kartik Prabhakaran, MD, MHS, FACS**
Associate Professor of Surgery
New York Medical College
Trauma Medical Director
Associate Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship
Westchester Medical Center

- Undergraduate Education: The Johns Hopkins University
- Graduate Degree (Public Health): The Johns Hopkins University
- Medical School: University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- General Surgery Residency: Albert Einstein Medical College/Montefiore Medical Center
- Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Lincoln Medical Center/Cornell Medical College

Board Certification:
Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Kartik.Prabhakaran@wmchealth.org
Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Faculty

Anthony J. Policastro, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Attending Surgeon, Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency General Surgery Westchester Medical Center
Undergraduate Education: Villanova University
Medical School: Creighton University School of Medicine
General Surgery Residency: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College
Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care
Anthony.Policastro@wmchealth.org

Gary G. Lombardo, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Attending Surgeon, Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency General Surgery Westchester Medical Center
Undergraduate Education: State University of New York at Binghamton
Medical School: Ross University School of Medicine
General Surgery Residency: St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center/ New York Medical College
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care
Gary.Lombardo@wmchealth.org

Jorge Con, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Program Director, General Surgery Residency Westchester Medical Center
Undergraduate Education: Yale University
Medical School: University of Costa Rica
General Surgery Residency: University of Texas Southwestern
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: University of Arizona
Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care
Jorge.Con@wmchealth.org
Joshua Klein, DO
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Westchester Medical Center
Undergraduate Education: SUNY Buffalo
Medical School: Nova Southeastern University
General Surgery Residency: Hackensack University Medical Center
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College
Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care
Joshua.Klein@wmchealth.org

Ryan Malcom, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Westchester Medical Center
Undergraduate Education: University of Illinois
Medical School: University of Illinois College of Medicine
General Surgery Residency: Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College
Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care
Ryan.Malcom@wmchealth.org

Matthew Bronstein, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Westchester Medical Center
Undergraduate Education: University of Wisconsin, Madison
Medical School: Ross University School of Medicine
General Surgery Residency: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Weill Cornell Medical College/ New York Presbyterian Hospital
Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care
Matthew.Bronstein@wmchealth.org

Ilya Shnaydman, MD, FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College
Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery
Westchester Medical Center
Undergraduate Education: Drexel University
Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine
General Surgery Residency: Hofstra North Shore LIJ School of Medicine at Northwell Health
Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Jackson Memorial Hospital
Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care
Ilya.Shnaydman@wmchealth.org
The Department of Surgery Clinical Research Unit (DSCRU) will be a catalyst and resource to enhance the research capability and productivity of the department. It provides the forum for research support for all research fellows and staff through a number of initiatives and programs that utilize hospital databases, the institutional trauma registry, and national databases such as the Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) and the National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB).

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Recent Books:

**The Modern Hospital:**
*Patients Centered, Disease Based, Research Oriented, Technology Driven*
Editor: Rifat Latifi

**Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery:**
*Clinical Questions and Answers*
Editors: Forrest “Dell” Moore, Peter Rhee, Gerard J. Fulda

**Surgery of Complex Abdominal Wall Defects:**
*Practical Approaches*
Editor: Rifat Latifi

**Surgery Decision Making:**
*Beyond the Evidence Based Surgery*
Editor: Rifat Latifi

**50 Landmark Papers:**
*Every Acute Care Surgeon Should Know*
Editor: Peter Rhee


Manuscripts Published in Peer-Reviewed Journals 2018-2020


http://westchestermedicalcenter.org/graduate-medical-education