Research

Research has become a major focus at the University of Alberta. Every second year we now accept a resident into the program who will take part in the Clinical Investigator Program, with the aim of obtaining a Masters degree. For the remainder of the residents there will also be a much higher emphasis put on the research output. To help the residents, teaching staff have become much more involved to foster this very crucial skill in the resident's career. The resident in Plastic Surgery at the University of Alberta will be expected to present a poster or oral presentation at three meetings during their tenure as a resident, not including the Department of Surgery Research Day at the University of Alberta. Additionally, all residents will be responsible for the submission of one paper to a Journal throughout the course of their training.

Academic Sites

- University of Alberta Hospitals
- Royal Alexandra Hospital
- Misericordia Hospital (Including the Institute for Reconstructive Sciences in Medicine)
- Meadowlark Cosmetic Suite
- Grey Nuns Hospital

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria in this program are as follows:

- Academic performance
- Demonstration of interest in the field of plastic and reconstructive surgery
- Research experience
- Elective time spent within the program (not an absolute prerequisite, but very helpful)
- Strongly slanted to applicant with strong research interest

Quick Facts

- At the discretion of the Program Director, international and interprovincial electives are possible.
- The ratio of residents to faculty is 1:1.
- Clinical exposure is abundant.
- There are no mandatory rural rotations.
- All major areas of plastic surgery are well covered by Fellowship trained surgeons. Extremely high success rate on the Fellowship exam.
The Residency Program in Plastic Surgery at the University of Alberta is five years in length. The program consists of two years of Surgical Foundations training, followed by three years of plastic surgery. The hospitals associated with the program treat a broad spectrum of plastic surgery patients including large volumes of general trauma, acute and reconstructive hand surgery, burn surgery and virtually all aspects of facial trauma. Acute and reconstructive microsurgical experience is offered at the University and Royal Alexandra Hospitals. High intensity plastic surgical cases are centered primarily at the University of Alberta Hospital, and to some extent, also at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. The vast majority of low intensity inpatient and outpatient elective plastic surgery in the City is done at the Misericordia Hospital, on a daily basis.

Established outpatient clinics in brachial plexus and congenital hand clinic, hand surgery, cleft lip and palate surgery, general plastic surgery, and burn surgery are available for resident participation and teaching purposes. The iRSM Unit at the Misericordia Hospital also offers experience in the use of osseointegrated implants and maxillofacial prosthetics in a carefully selected group of patients.

**Program at a Glance**

**PGY–1**
The PGY-1 year is the first of the two-year Surgical Foundations program at the University of Alberta. In Plastic Surgery the PGY-1 rotations are:
- 8 weeks of General Surgery
- 4 weeks of Pediatric Surgery
- 4 weeks of Internal medicine
- 24 weeks of Plastic Surgery
- 4 weeks of Emergency Medicine
- 4 weeks Orthopedic Surgery
- 4 weeks of vacation

**PGY–2**
The PGY-2 year becomes more specific for each subspecialty program. The rotations approved for the PGY-2 year for the Plastic Surgery Program are:
- 8 weeks of Intensive Care Unit
- 8 weeks of ENT
- 24 weeks of Plastic Surgery
- 4 weeks of Orthopedic Surgery
- 4 weeks of Dermatology
- 4 weeks of Selective

**PGY–3 & 4**
All Plastic Surgery rotations are preceptor based.
Residents will gain exposure to the following areas:
- Burn Unit
- Pediatric Plastic Surgery
- Breast Reconstruction
- General Plastic Surgery
- Craniofacial
- Hand & Wrist
- Microsurgery
- Cosmetic

Elective time may be spent in areas of interest to the resident as long as they have an application to plastic surgery.

**PGY–5**
The fifth year of Plastic Surgery is considered the Chief year and is a crucial step in transforming the resident into a competent staff physician ready to qualify for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada exams in Plastic Surgery. The Chief Resident will have rotations at both the Royal Alexandra Hospital as well as the University of Alberta Hospital. They are not preceptor based but rather run a service at one of the two respective hospital sites. They are given increasing amounts of responsibility both with clinical management of patients, teaching and administration of resident staff.

On call responsibilities are on a “second on-call” basis. The last three months of the PGY-5 year are designated as a period to gain exposure to Cosmetic Surgery at the privately owned Plastic and Cosmetic Laser Surgical Centre, as well as at the hospital and as a period of study for the Royal College exams that occur at the end of this block of time.