



## **Plastic Surgery Elective Structure for Undergraduate Medical Students**

Welcome to Western University Plastic Surgery! We are happy that you have chosen to spend some time with us and see what our program is like here in London, Ontario. The electives program provides an opportunity to explore career possibilities and study clinical scenarios common to plastic surgery in greater depth. The minimum elective time is 2 weeks. Once your elective at Western has been confirmed through the Surgical Education Office (Ms. Liz Radford), our Program Administrator (Ms. Mindy Minka) will e-mail you a few weeks before you start and will inform you which site your elective will be located at, who your supervisor will be, and who the senior resident is at the site. You will have to opportunity to work at one of our three hospital sites:

**University Hospital (UH):** Microsurgery, Breast, Free Flaps, General Plastic Surgery

**St. Joseph's Hospital (SJH):** Hand and Upper Limb Centre, Aesthetics, Microsurgery, Breast

**Victoria Hospital (VH):** Trauma, Craniofacial, Paediatrics, Cleft Lip and Palate, Complex Wounds

The senior resident at the site will give you an idea of what the days will look like in terms of ORs and clinics. Please see the departmental website on the clinical interests of each of our staff here at LHSC and St. Joseph's Health Care.

### **Expectations:**

While you are on service with us, the expectation of the medical student is to help with morning rounding. This will consist of having the patient charts ready, reading the vitals located in the bedside charts including ins and outs, assisting with the physical exam, as well as writing the progress note in SOAP form. Currently, all hospital sites use PowerChart to enter all orders electronically and these will be done by one of the residents on the team. After morning rounds, depending on what your preceptor has scheduled for the day, you will be going to the OR or clinic. It is important to arrive early for the OR such that the patient can be assessed in pre-op, relevant lab work and diagnostic imaging are reviewed and put on the computer screen prior to starting. In clinic you will see patients on your own and review with the staff or resident. The resident carries the pager for consults. It is a great learning experience to go and see consults with the resident in the Emergency Room. You will be asked to obtain a relevant history and physical exam, and will gain experience in formulating a differential diagnosis and preliminary plans for management. Grand Rounds are at SJH in the Roth McFarlane Teaching Room (Room D1-221) from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. every Wednesday which all are expected to attend; therefore the team will finish rounding at their respective sites prior to grand rounds with time to travel (if necessary). Afterwards the medical student will return to their preceptor and residents have their academic half-day for the rest of the morning.

### **Objectives:**

It is encouraged to think of a list of specific objectives that you are interested in learning more about at the start of your 2-week elective, such that you can keep these in mind

as you come across cases. If you are nearing the end of your elective and have yet to cover your objectives, it would be a good opportunity to obtain some teaching surrounding the subject from the team.

### **Evaluations:**

It is the medical student's responsibility to ask their preceptor to complete their evaluation. Aside from the evaluation form required by the student's medical school, students should also ask one staff and one resident to be their evaluators for a Western University evaluation form (held on file and considered for CaRMS interviews). These evaluations should be submitted at the end of the 2-week elective, please print them out in advance.

### **Call:**

One weekend call and one to two weekday calls will be assigned.

### **General Advice:**

Punctuality, enthusiasm and being a team player are qualities that do not go unnoticed. They are common attributes of a great medical student and candidate for the residency program. Common questions for medical students in the OR surround anatomy. Having an organized approach to the physical exam of the hand, wounds, and facial fractures are great things to go over prior to starting. The residents are all very approachable and are great resources in answering questions about the city, what other educational activities are incorporated into our program, and just generally what life is like as a resident here!

### **Recommended Resources:**

#### **Handbooks**

- *Essentials of Plastic Surgery, a UT Southwestern Medical Centre Handbook*; Jeffrey E. Janis, QMP 2007
- *Michigan Manual of Plastic Surgery*; David L. Brown and Gregory R. Borschel, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins 2004
- *Plastic Surgery Emergencies: Principles and Techniques*; Jamal M. Bullocks, Patrick W. Hsu, Shayan A. Izaddoost, Larry H. Hollier; Samuel Stal. Thieme. 2008

#### **Textbooks (general texts)**

*Grabb & Smith's Plastic Surgery*; Charles H. Thorne, LWW 2007