Mary Culver
Department of Surgery

Formal instruction in surgery begins during the third year, with the required 12-week Integrated Surgical Disciplines Clerkship. During this surgical clerkship, students are assigned to clinical rotations, mostly within the Department of Surgery, with some exposure to other surgical-related disciplines outside of the department. The clerkship gives students opportunities to participate in the care of surgical patients (both inpatient and outpatient); to spend time in the operating rooms; and to attend seminars, teaching conferences and didactic sessions on a regular basis. During the fourth year, students may select sub-internship electives within the Division of General Surgery, which include a variety of general surgical specialties. In addition to the general surgery sub-internships, electives are available in several other surgical subspecialties (e.g., pediatric surgery, transplant surgery, vascular surgery, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, urologic surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery).

Website: http://www.surgery.wustl.edu

Faculty

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Bethany Sacks, MD

Assistant Clerkship Director
Sara Holden, MD (https://surgery.wustl.edu/people/sara-holden-md/)

Visit our website for more information about our faculty (http://www.surgery.wustl.edu/Faculty/) and their appointments.

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MD Mount Sinai School of Medicine 1999
BS Connecticut College 1995
MED University of Houston 2010

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BS Cornell University 1993
MBA Johns Hopkins University 2015
MD Mount Sinai School of Medicine 1998

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BS Harvard Radcliff 1989
MD Columbia University 1993

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M PH Johns Hopkins University 2018
PHD Univ of IL -Urbana-Champaign 2017
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BS Yale University 1983

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BBA Randolph Macon College 2009
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DOST Lincoln Memorial University 2014

Dominic Sanford, MD
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MD University of MO Columbia 2009
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MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1960
BA Washington Univ in St. Louis 1956

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BS1 University of North Dakota 1977
BS University of North Dakota 1973
MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 1979

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MD University of Miami 1986

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BS Kasturba Medical College 1980
MD Kasturba Medical College 1984
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BS Pennsylvania State University 2001
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MD Madras Medical College 2005

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MD University of MO Kansas City 2010

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BS Kettering University 2004
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PHD Technische U Braunschweig 1999

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MD Wayne State University 1976

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MD University of Toronto 1963

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T

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MD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2008

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MD University of Pennsylvania 2007  
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M PH Johns Hopkns University Medic 2007  
MS PSYC Rutgers University 2003  
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PHD Washington Univ in St. Louis 2009
Y
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PHD Johns Hopkins University 1998
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MD Ohio State University 1978
BA University of Michigan 1973
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Z
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PHD University of North Carolina 2007

BS University North Carolina 2002
MD University of North Carolina 2009
Christian W Zemlin, PHD
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PHD Humboldt University 2012

Research Electives

Surgery Research Electives

During the fourth year, opportunities exist for many varieties of advanced clinical or research experiences.

Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery
660 S. Euclid, Box 8109
Phone: 314-454-8877

Under the direction of L. Michael Brunt, MD, students may investigate minimally invasive gastrointestinal and hernia surgery. The minimum rotation length is four weeks. Under the auspices of the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery and the Washington University Institute for Minimally Invasive Surgery, a number of surgeons are investigating outcomes of various minimally invasive surgical approaches to abdominal wall hernias, benign foregut disorders, bariatric surgery and cholecystectomy. Dr. Brunt is currently investigating the clinical outcomes and standardization of various laparoscopic surgical procedures, opioid prescribing patterns and opioid use in surgical patients, and education-related research and skills training for medical students planning to enter a surgical internship.

Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
660 S. Euclid, Box 8238
Phone: 314-747-0541

The Division of Plastic Surgery offers many opportunities for research projects on various topics related to plastic surgery. A project will be designed with students prior to their rotation on plastic surgery so that all of the materials and methods will be available at the beginning of the rotation. The basic science laboratories primarily investigate nerve injury and regeneration, including nerve transplantation. Students will be encouraged to design and complete their own research study during the elective. The minimum rotation length is six weeks.

The research rotation can be conducted in the plastic surgery laboratories under the direction of Drs. Moore, Snyder-Warwick, Wood or Mackinnon. Ongoing projects include the following:
• The influence of the immune system on nerve regeneration;
• Neural tissue engineering and regenerative medicine
  therapeutics, such as electrical stimulation to promote tissue
  regeneration
• The investigation of glial cells at the neuromuscular junction
during development, maintenance, aging, and after nerve
injury

Additional clinical and educational research opportunities in
various fields of plastic surgery are available with Drs. Fox,
Myckatyn, Patel, Tung, and Woo. These various projects
include the following:
• In vivo tissue generation and tissue differentiation
• The mechanical, structural and biochemical effects of stress
  on scar tissue maturation
• In vivo anatomy of craniofacial deformities
• Outcome analysis of methods of cleft lip and palate
  management
• Breast reconstruction (3D imaging of breasts after cosmetic
  or reconstructive surgery, interpretation of angiograms of the
  breast to measure nipple perfusion)
• The use of nerve transfer to improve hand function in
  patients with cervical spinal cord injury/quadruplegia
• Surgical education (specifically web-based multimedia
  strategies for peripheral nerve surgery education)

The Department of Surgery can host Washington University
medical students in any of its labs either to receive credit for
a class they are currently enrolled in or to add them into the
system as Washington University student employees to be paid
for their time worked. Student work may be obtained through
the Federal Work-Study program, the Office of Medical Student
Research, or direct communication initiated by the student
with faculty they wish to work alongside on specific subjects of
interest with the goal of furthering their education. This can occur
during any year of a medical student’s education.

Courses
Visit online course listings to view offerings for M95 Surgery

M95 Surgery 790 Integrated Surgical Disciplines Clerkship
During the 12-week surgery clerkship, students are assigned
to three separate rotations. Each student is assigned to three
separate rotations. Each student is assigned to a required
general surgery rotation at Barnes-Jewish Hospital or the John
Cochran Veterans Administration Medical Center. In addition,
each student selects elective rotations in other general surgical
fields, surgical subspecialties and related disciplines of critical
care. The student is an active participant in the daily care of
patients on each service and attends the service teaching
conferences and rounds. For the duration of the 12-week
rotation, there are weekly small-group tutorial sessions with
faculty members and a biweekly lecture series.

Credit 462 units.

M95 Surgery 814 Trauma Service Subinternship
The student on this elective will function as a subintern
on the Trauma and Acute Care Surgical Service within
the Section of Acute and Critical Care Surgery. Through
completion of this subinternship, the student will gain an ability
to evaluate, resuscitate and manage trauma and emergency
general surgery patients. Subinterns will actively interact with
patients in the outpatient office, hospital ward and operating
room. Practical experience will involve preoperative patient
evaluation, resuscitation of acutely ill patients, operative patient
management, in-hospital patient care and postoperative
outpatient follow-up. The student will also participate in affiliated
conferences and in-house call.

M95 Surgery 818 Surgical Night Float & ED Subinternship
This subinternship is specifically designed to give senior medical
students an intern-level experience in managing acute on-
call problems in surgical patients and in evaluating urgent
and emergent problems in the ED. The rotation will be divided
into two, two-week segments: one segment in the ED and
the second on night float call on the surgical floors. Students
will gain experience evaluating and managing the types of
acute problems they will encounter as surgical interns as first
responders to patients with acute abdominal pain, chest pain,
hypotension, mental status changes, and other ER/on-call
type problems. They will be assigned to the on-call surgical
resident and will have a structured experience in order to
maximize development of their diagnostic, management, and
case presentation skills in the acute care setting so that they
may more smoothly make the transition to a surgical internship.

M95 Surgery 820 Cardiothoracic Surgery Subinternship
The senior elective in cardiothoracic surgery is a four-week
clinical rotation with two week blocks divided between adult
cardiac, pediatric cardiothoracic, and general thoracic surgery
according to the student’s preference. Students will participate
in morning work rounds, attend the operative procedures of their
choice, and attend weekly conferences and teaching rounds.
Students will be introduced not only to the surgical procedures
but also to the postoperative care of the surgical patients. On the
pediatric and adult cardiac services, students will be introduced
to the principles of cardiopulmonary bypass, ventricular assist
devices, cardiac transplantation, coronary artery bypass surgery
(on and off pump), valve repair and replacement, complex
aortic surgery, the MAZE procedures and others. On the adult
cardiac surgery service, students will function as subinterns
under the direct supervision of a faculty member. The thoracic
surgical rotation students will have the opportunity of performing
bronchoscopy, esophagoscopy, gastroscopy, and participate
in surgical resections of lung cancer and esophageal cancer,
as well as surgery for emphysema and for benign esophageal
conditions. Students will also participate in lung transplantation
surgery.

M95 Surgery 830 Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Subinternship
The period on Plastic Surgery may either be spent as a clinical
clerkship or conducting a research project. The purpose of
the clinical subinternship is to familiarize the student with the basic
principles of Plastic Surgery. The student will have successive
assignments to each of the attending staff and the ward resident
services during the four weeks. This will expose the student
to the breadth and depth of plastic surgery. Alternatively, if
the student has identified a focus of interest, the student may
participate on those services of special interest, such as hand
or pediatric plastic surgery. The student will assume an active
role on the plastic surgery service and will participate in the total
management of a wide variety of surgical problems including
congenital anomalies, microvascular surgery, surgery of the
upper extremity, peripheral nerve surgery, cosmetic surgery,
and general reconstructive plastic surgery. Research projects should
be student-motivated, and must be approved prior to scheduling
and confirming the research rotation. Student will perform a ten-
minute case presentation.

M95 Surgery 832 Plastic Surgery Externship
This course is for visiting medical students only. Students rotate
on different Plastic Surgery Services for two weeks each to
maximize exposure to all faculty. The student will assume an
active role on the plastic surgery service and will participate in
the total management of a wide variety of surgical problems
including congenital anomalies, microvascular surgery, surgery of
the upper extremity, peripheral nerve surgery, cosmetic surgery,
and general reconstructive plastic surgery. Participation in
conferences is expected. Students will turn in two H&Ps.

M95 Surgery 850 Urology Subinternship
The four-week clinical subinternship will offer the interested
student experience with a spectrum of problems in clinical
urology - both adult and pediatric. The student will learn the
basic diagnostic procedures and management of surgical and
non-surgical aspects of patient care under the supervision of the
attending staff and house staff. Clinical conferences are held two
days per week. Medical students are also invited to participate
in ongoing research projects under the mentorship of urology
faculty. Please contact course director prior to the start of the
elective if you are interested in this option.

M95 Surgery 862 Colon & Rectal Surgery Subinternship
This subinternship elective is designed to give students in-
depth experience in the clinical management of patients on the
Colorectal Surgery Service. Students work closely with the
attendings within the Section of Colon and Rectal Surgery, and
clinical exposure is focused on a wide range of benign and
malignant colorectal diseases. There is exposure to radiation
oncology and the specialized areas of nursing related to care of
patients with colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel
disease. The course will offer opportunities for students to gain
experience in preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative,
patient management under house staff, fellows, and faculty
guidance, as well as ample opportunity to attend and participate
in conferences. Notice: If a student desires to work more
closely with a specific attending, he/she must make special
arrangements with the Colorectal Surgery Office prior to
beginning this elective.

M95 Surgery 863 Surgical Oncology & Endocrine Surgery Subinternship
This subinternship is designed to give students in-depth
experience in the clinical management of patients on the
Endocrine and Surgical Oncology Service (Unit 1 Service).
Students will serve as clerks and will be responsible for patient
management with house staff under the guidance of the chief
resident and attending surgeons. Clinical exposure is focused
on thyroid and parathyroid surgery, as well as breast oncology,
melanoma, and soft-tissue sarcomas. The course will offer
opportunities for students to gain experience in preoperative,
 intraoperative, and postoperative patient management. There
will be opportunity for students to evaluate patients, decide on
a diagnostic and management strategy and provide care under
house staff and faculty guidance, as well as ample opportunity to
attend and participate in conferences.

M95 Surgery 864 Ethical Challenges in Surgery and Medicine
This elective will involve exploration of the ethical challenges
discussed during didactic conferences and in clinical settings
within the Department of Surgery at Washington University
in St. Louis School of Medicine. The student will be guided
through readings, discussions, and projects by department
faculty members with expertise in clinical ethics. The elective will
result in a manuscript ready to be revised/finalized for publication
submission with the student as lead author. This elective
provides the opportunity to work closely with faculty mentors
and should appeal to any student interested in the ethical and
humanitarian challenges facing physicians in particular and
society in general.

M95 Surgery 871 Vascular Surgery Subinternship
This subinternship elective is designed to give students in-
depth experience in the clinical management of patients on the
Vascular Surgery Service. The elective will offer opportunities for
students to gain experience in preoperative, intraoperative and
postoperative management of patients with surgically treated
vascular diseases/conditions. Students will work as clerks and
will be responsible for patient management with house staff
under the guidance of the fellow and attending surgeons. There
will be opportunity for students to evaluate patients, decide on
a diagnostic and management strategy, and provide care under
house staff and faculty guidance, as well as ample opportunity to
attend and participate in conferences. Notice: If a student desires
to work more closely with a specific attending, he/she must make
special arrangements with the faculty member prior to beginning
this elective.

M95 Surgery 879 Hepatobiliary-Pancreatic Surgery Subinternship
This subinternship is designed to give students in-depth
experience in the clinical management of patients on the
Hepatobiliary-Pancreatic (HPB) Service. The HPB Service is a
busy upper gastrointestinal service with a focus on hepatobiliary
and pancreatic diseases and their treatment. The course offers
opportunities for students to gain experience in preoperative,
intraoperative, and postoperative patient management.
Students will serve as clerks and will be responsible for patient
management with house staff under the guidance of the fellow,
chief resident and attending surgeons. There will be opportunity
for students to evaluate patients, decide on a diagnostic and
management strategy, and provide care under house staff and
faculty guidance, as well as ample opportunity to attend and
participate in conferences. Note: If a student desires to work
more closely with a specific attending, he/she must make special
arrangements with the faculty member prior to beginning this
elective.

M95 Surgery 880 Pediatric Surgery Subinternship
This subinternship will expose the student to a wide variety of
pediatric surgical cases. This includes the preoperative and
postoperative care of patients as well as the care of pediatric
trauma patients. Daily walking or sit-down rounds are made
with the resident, nurse practitioner, and attending staff, and
participation is expected in the pediatric surgery clinic and the operating room. Weekly conference attendance is mandatory and includes mortality and morbidity, radiology, pathology, solid tumor board, ED/trauma, and GI conferences. Students have the opportunity to understand the widely differing anatomy and physiology of patients ranging from newborn infants to teenagers and young adults. The student functions as a team member and assumes level-appropriate responsibilities as determined by senior team members in this highly specialized care field.

M95 Surgery 891 Organ Transplantation Subinternship
The care of transplant patients requires the integration of multiple diverse medical and surgical disciplines. This subinternship in organ transplantation encompasses the preoperative evaluation and management of adult and pediatric recipients of liver, kidney, and pancreas. Students participate in procurement of allografts from cadaveric or living donors, organ preservation, and transplantation. Emphasis is also placed on postoperative care, multimodality immunosuppression and management of allograft rejection. Basic hepatic and renal physiology, fluid and electrolyte balance, and transplantation immunology are stressed. Rotation provides an elaborate exposure to different facets of management of end stage renal and liver disease. Management of the complications of diabetes, hypertension, portal hypertension, and infectious problems are an integral part of pre- and post-transplant care. This course is designed to offer the student an overview of the field of organ transplantation, however, in addition to transplant surgery, students will also get some exposure to vascular access and hepatobiliary surgery. The student functions as a member of the transplant team and assumes appropriate responsibilities under supervision.

M95 Surgery 893 Minimally Invasive Surgery Subinternship
This subinternship elective in minimally invasive surgery is offered by the Chief of the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery in the General Surgery Division. Surgeons in the Minimally Invasive Surgery group regularly perform the following procedures laparoscopically: cholecystectomy, splenectomy, adrenalectomy, hiatal hernia repair, endoscopic myotomy for achalasia, inguinal hernia repair, ventral hernia repair, complex abdominal wall reconstruction, robotic surgery, and bariatric surgery for morbid obesity. The medical student electing this rotation will participate in the outpatient office and direct patient care, assist and observe in a wide range of laparoscopic procedures and participate in teaching rounds and conferences. During this rotation, the student will also have the opportunity to observe and participate in minimally invasive surgical procedures performed by various surgeons within the Section of Minimally Invasive Surgery and will function as an acting intern.

M95 Surgery 900 Research Opportunities-Surgery
Research opportunities may be available. If interested, please contact the department of Surgery.