

## Resident Research Policy

**Research Support:** In the Department of Surgery, we regard research as essential to critical thinking and practice-based improvement. It also provides a foundation for opportunities in academic surgery, as well as in other areas of career advancement. Therefore we strongly encourage all residents to complete a research project each year during their residency. All residents will be expected to submit an abstract for our Resident Research Competition in the spring of each year. The Department has a strong commitment to resident research training and productivity and has developed a research program that supports resident and faculty research.

This includes a large number of staff and infrastructure to support research:

1. Mentoring and guidance on initiating research, including IRB submissions: Sandra Burks
2. Statistician support: George Stukenborg, PhD.
3. Guidance and assistance in grant submissions: Alex Kish
4. Salary support for residents in lab years, via two training grants (Dr. Kron and Dr. Sawyer) and from other faculty research funds and from the department
5. Research mentoring and resources available from the faculty.
6. Surgical Therapeutics Advancement Center (STAC) staff to support clinical research
7. Clinical databases and assistance in studying them – Beth Turrentine

Please note that these resources, especially statistical support, are available to everyone; so if you wait until the last minute, that support may not be available in the time you have allowed; plan ahead and contact Dr. Stukenborg at least 3 months in advance of any deadline.

As will be seen from the attached list, the interests and opportunities presented by our faculty are varied and include basic science, clinical outcomes and educational research. You are of course more than welcome to choose another topic, and we have many outstanding faculty in our department to assist and mentor you in this regard. Once you have identified a project the faculty advisor will assist with time allocation and resources. It is recommended that you seek out individual faculty early each year to discuss their research opportunities and your interests so that you can complete the project in time for the Resident Research day in the spring of each year. Winners of the abstract competition on that day receive cash gifts and public recognition.

It is important to recognize that presentation of an abstract is an achievement, it is just a step toward the goal of research that will have an impact on patient health and on your career. The way to make an enduring impact, and a lasting addition to your academic record is to publish the paper in a peer-reviewed journal. Our faculty and research staff are available to support you in achieving this goal for at least one project per year.

Last updated 10/04/09

**Research years for categorical residents:** It is mandatory that all categorical general surgery residents spend a designated, protected time period in full time research (1 month – 3 years). Residents preparing for their research experience are expected to apply for external funding to support their research. This is a most valuable part of the research training, by teaching skills in critical thinking, scientific writing and experience, and in focusing the research project so that the work can be productive. Residents working in laboratories within the Department of Surgery who apply for external funding for research will be supported by the Department even if funding does not completely cover salary. Residents who work in labs outside the Department are expected to secure funding from those laboratories if funding is not achieved from grants or other external sources. If you would prefer to do your research at another institution, the department will not provide salary support for this experience, but we will be happy to help with referral or funding recommendations. Usually residents do their research between their 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Clinical years. If a one month research experience is pursued, this is expected to occur during the 3<sup>rd</sup> clinical year.

**Compensation:** After returning to clinical duties, the resident will be given a one-year credit in compensation by GME, regardless of the number of years spent in research. The resident performing one month will not be given extra compensation. For example, a resident entering their 3<sup>rd</sup> clinical year will be paid at the PGY4 level.

**Planning ahead.** It is important to begin planning your research years during your first year. Please feel free to approach directly any of the faculty listed below to confirm the availability of lab opportunities. Dr. Slingluff (vice-chair for research) and Sandra Burks want to know about your research interests before December of your intern year so that they can help to address questions you may have and to help you to match your interests to the available research opportunities. We also ask that you discuss your research interests and preferences with Dr. Friel or Schirmer by the beginning of your second clinical year. You should plan to submit a grant application on or before December of your 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and you should contact Alex Kish, regarding planning for that application at least 3 months in advance (by Sept 1 of 2<sup>nd</sup> year).

**Research day:** April 27, 2010

**Surgery Research Support Contacts**

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Statistical Support

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