

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Emergency Medicine Residency Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Why train at UT Southwestern?

The Emergency Departments: Our broad base of training is founded in the Parkland and Children's Hospital Emergency Departments, which together triage over 240,000 adults and children annually. The 2 EDs are physically connected.

- **Acuity:** Over 1 of every 4 patients treated in the Parkland ED is admitted. Similarly, the acuity of patient care in the Children's ED is very high. EM residents perform resuscitations every shift.
- **Pediatric EM:** 10 Pediatric EM board certified faculty as well as many of the adult EM faculty supervise all EM resident patient care in one of the busiest Children's EDs in the country which is also the only Level 1 pediatric trauma center in Texas. Residents have an unusually strong opportunity to perform resuscitations, procedures, procedural sedations, etc.
- **Toxicology:** 13 board-certified or board-prepared Toxicology faculty supervise the busy Toxicology service, including the very popular Toxicology rotation for EM residents.
- **EMS/Disaster Medicine:** 9 EM faculty have special interest in this exciting area of Emergency Medicine, and provide lectures, training, etc. Opportunities in ground and air transport are available. Residents can teach in the nationally accredited EMS education programs. Residents also participate in disaster response efforts locally. During Hurricane Katrina, residents helped treat the more than 8000 patients seen in the Emergency Medicine supervised medical unit at the Dallas Convention Center. The Division has over a million dollars in grants to provide training in disaster education through the National Disaster Life Support Program.
- **Grants / Research:** Emergency Medicine faculty are principal investigators on nearly \$17 million in grants, including 2 NIH centers. One focuses on resuscitation research and the other on burn research.
- **Fellowships:** There are fellowship opportunities in Toxicology, Government Emergency Medical Services and Security, Practice Management and Health Care Policy and Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and both Ultrasound and Critical Care fellowship tracks are under development
- **Event Medicine:** There are multiple opportunities for residents to participate in event medicine, including providing emergency medicine support for the Dallas Cowboys, Mavericks, and Stars, concert venues, and the Texas Motor Speedway.
- **Electives:** There are a number of scheduled elective blocks, including an expense-paid two month away rotation in international medicine in New Zealand in the EM3 year.

What is unique about the Emergency Medicine Division at UT Southwestern?

UTSW/Parkland has become home to many national leaders of Emergency Medicine, specifically in the areas of resuscitation, disaster medicine, toxicology, governmental/tactical medicine, pediatric Emergency medicine and organized medicine. When combined with our

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patient volume and high acuity, we feel this provides a unique training environment for the EM resident. We also offer a number of fellowships, including Toxicology, EMS, Government Emergency Medicine Security Services (GEMSS), Practice Management and Pediatric Emergency Medicine, and these fellows further enrich the training experience. Like many programs, we have great access to supporting high-profile EMS events (professional sporting venues, etc.), as well as both ground and aeromedical opportunities.

However, as PGY-3 residents, we also assume independent medical command of all EMS call-ins and function as the interface for all hospital-to-hospital transfers. We have a two month international medicine elective in Hawkes Bay, New Zealand, a small community hospital on the Pacific Side of the North Island. Funding for airfare, housing, and transportation are provided for this rotation in the “Wine Country” of New Zealand. Finally, moonlighting opportunities abound for fully-licensed senior residents in the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex, the #1 US City for the Emergency Physician job market.

What are the emergency departments like at Parkland Hospital and Children’s Medical Center of Dallas?

Both Emergency Departments are two of the highest-volume emergency treatment facilities in the country. Each triages over 110,000 patients annually. By triaging minor and low risk complaints to clinics in the facility, the EDs oversee a large volume of high-acuity patients resulting in an excellent educational experience for our residents. Parkland's emergency department encompasses more than 37,000 square feet containing 79 bed spaces, including 24 fully monitored critical care beds. Parkland is a Level I Trauma center and Burn Center. Children’s Medical Center in Dallas is a pediatric tertiary care referral center and the only designated Level I pediatric trauma center in the Southwest. These state-of-the-art facilities are dynamic emergency centers that provide our residents with a patient-driven learning experience and a clinical practice that is unparalleled.

What type of resident does well at UT Southwestern?

UT Southwestern prides itself on the diverse nature of our residents and staff. Our residents enjoy the challenge of a busy shift and take personal satisfaction in serving a diverse patient population. Those who are self-motivated can progress in their learning quickly, while those needing supervision will find the faculty readily available and always willing to guide.

The residents take an active role in the recruiting and applicant interview process. We enjoy outgoing, hard-working people who are easy to get along with! We look forward to meeting you and hope you feel Parkland is a good fit for you.

How much time in the residency is devoted to Emergency Medicine?

Each year the residents rotate through thirteen four-week blocks. In the first year, four are in the ED at Parkland, while 1.5 blocks are in the Children's ED in the first year, nine in the second year, and eight in the third year. During the second and third year, 2-4 shifts per ED block are in

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the Children's ED. The other blocks are comprised of “off-service” rotations that have been specifically selected for their contribution to a resident’s overall emergency medicine practice. Furthermore, with the weekly didactics and monthly residency conferences, you will always be learning Emergency Medicine.

What are the specific roles of the different classes of residents in the emergency department?

Interns generally join an upper-level resident on one of four teams staffing the department. However, each resident (intern or upper-level resident) typically will work directly with attending faculty when providing patient care, thus capitalizing on the ability to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to practice emergency medicine at the resident level. The second-year focus is on emergency medicine and critical care, generally taking the majority of trauma and medically unstable patients. The resident leads a patient care team in the department, and as the year progresses, so will the resident's responsibilities for patient care. During the third year, residents assume more responsibility for managing patient flow in the ED, and take on a larger teaching role for interns and medical students. Management techniques and patient care skills are maximized during this year. The PGY-3 has independent medical command with the EMS Biotel system and accepts transfer calls for patients from other hospitals. In addition, they have multiple community ED rotations where they gain exposure to the different practice models and patient populations.

What is the emergency department shift structure for residents at Parkland?

The ED months include approximately 200 hours (shift number varies depending on 11- or 12-hour mix) during the PGY-1 year, 190 hours during PGY-2 year, and 180 hours during PGY-3 year. Parkland ED shifts consist of overlapping 10-hour shifts. The 10-hour circadian rhythm schedule has a built in 2-hour overlap to improve sign out. The shift times are 6a-4p, 2p-12a, and 10p-8a.

How is the pediatric training experience structured?

There are six weeks of training in the Children's Medical Center (CMC) ED are done in the PGY-1 year, when each shift is 12 hours. Approximately 3-4 shifts of each EM month are spent at CMC during the PGY-2 (10 hour shifts) and PGY-3 years (8 hour shifts). Also, PGY-2 residents act as integral team members of the Pediatric ICU for one block.

Are pre-hospital training opportunities available at Parkland/UT Southwestern?

Clearly one of the strengths of the program at UT Southwestern. Training opportunities include: Biotel – Parkland ED based command center where EM residents provide online medical control for the Dallas EMS and multiple suburban EMS systems; and an optional field aeromedical experience. Also, through our relationship with the Dallas Fire Department, we have the opportunity to be on the sidelines with the paramedics for the Dallas Mavericks and Stars games. We have participation in the unique and active disaster response and governmental emergency medical security programs, including tactical medicine, based within Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern and the Parkland ED.

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What formal didactics are offered?

The didactics offered at UT Southwestern consist of a teaching lecture series, practical lab sessions, simulation labs, Continuous Quality Improvement conferences, journal clubs, advanced life support classes, radiology reviews, ECG reviews, resident case conferences, EMS base station course, and much, much more! Conference takes place on Thursdays from 0800 - 1200, and residents are excused from ED clinical duty during this time. The residents are responsible for 42 hours of asynchronous learning per year outside of conference, and can choose from a menu of options as well as arrange their own (as long as it meets requirements).

What teaching opportunities are available for residents?

Teaching is an integral part of our residents' training curriculum. Residents will assume teaching roles in the internship year (via the weekly conference) and this responsibility grows throughout the residency. As a PGY-2, the second year resident is the senior resident in each "pod", and responsible for assisting and guiding lower level residents. By the third year, residents will play a major role in the teaching conferences. The residency also offers a very unique rotation: each PGY3 resident serves as teaching resident for one block and is responsible for the medical students rotating in the emergency department.

What research opportunities are available?

UT Southwestern is active in research and publishes multiple original articles, posters, abstracts, and book chapters per year. It is amazing to be taught in the Emergency Department by the same people who are leading researchers in their specific areas of Emergency Medicine. For the past few years, residents have gotten into small groups and designed research projects together, many of which have been accepted for presentation at state-wide and national conferences. Residents have an opportunity to design a research month for an elective and spend focused time on a research project lead by any one of many faculty here at Parkland / UTSW. Emergency Medicine faculty are principal investigators currently on nearly \$17 million in grants.

Do the residents get to evaluate the faculty and rotations?

Residents partake in a "360 degree" evaluation program, both providing and receiving evaluations from faculty, peers, nursing, and support staff. The addition of this constructive feedback program across all levels of the department has been a great success.

What about Compensation and Benefits?

Residents receive competitive house staff salary with standard yearly increases for inflation. In addition, Medical/Dental/Vision plans exist and as well as a great retirement plan that will match your contributions 1:1 up to a set limit. For specifics on the salary and benefits see the Parkland GME Homepage.

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Is ultrasound used in the ED?

Parkland employs multiple ultrasound-specific faculty that implement ultrasound labs throughout the year. They also work especially with interns during their 1 month ultrasound rotation. Our residents routinely use ultrasound for invasive procedures including central lines, paracentesis, peripheral IVs, and regional nerve blocks.

What about socializing outside the ED?

We hold monthly journal club meetings to clinically appraise recent journal articles applicable to Emergency Medicine. These are usually held at a restaurant or faculty member's house. The residents also make Facebook groups where gatherings and events are posted and shared with everyone. Faculty will also often host get-togethers for everyone to partake in, including flag football, pool volleyball, bowling, just to name a few!