Penn Plastic Surgery Clerkship

Welcome to the Penn Plastic Surgery Clerkship! We are excited to have you on our service. It is our full intention that you enjoy a valuable and educational experience. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

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Learning Objectives:
1. Acquire knowledge in the following areas:

   Normal wound healing
   Risk factors for delayed wound healing
   Principles and Knowledge of the components of the “Reconstructive Ladder”
   Principles and methods of wound closure, including suture techniques and suture material
   Basic principles of upper extremity fracture types and methods of repair
   Principles of wound care management and associated dressings
   Indications for plastic surgery consultation
   Preoperative assessment of a patient for surgery
   Perioperative and postoperative management of surgical patients

   More specific topics include: assessment of tissue defects, principles of tissue transfer, pressure sores, basic burn diagnosis and management, hand trauma and congenital defects, cleft lip and palate, treatment of skin cancer, breast reconstruction, body contouring, and cosmetic surgery.
2. At the completion of the clerkship students should be able to demonstrate understanding of the following competencies:

- Basic suturing and knot-tying
- Basic wound care and dressing application
- Basic hand exam
- Identification of wound infections and/or tissue necrosis
- Present a patient with a plastic surgery issue
- Note-writing skills specific to surgery (Brief-op, Post-op, H&P, and Progress notes)
- Use of PubMed for a basic literature search
- Give a 5 minute oral presentation on a plastic surgery topic (to be assigned)

**Organization of the HUP Plastic Surgery Service**
The clinical service consists of 12 attending surgeons, 2 nurse practitioners, 1 plastic surgery chief resident, 2 additional plastic surgery senior residents, 3 microsurgical fellows, 2-3 junior residents or interns, 1-3 200 level medical students, and a varying number of 300 level medical students (sub-I) depending on the time of year. The chief resident will guide your daily schedule and help you decide which cases, clinics, and conferences to attend. Generally speaking, in patient rounds take place starting at 0630 on Silverstein 12th floor.

**Organization of the Plastic Surgery Hand Service (Separate Clerkship)**
The hand service consists of 2 attending surgeons (Dr. Benjamin Chang and Dr. Ines Lin), 1 hand fellow, 1 plastic surgery senior resident, 1 podiatry resident, and 1-2 medical students. Dr. Chang and the senior resident will guide your daily schedule and help you decide which cases, clinics, and conferences to attend. Please refer to the separate link on the Penn Surgical Clerkship Website that provides the details of the Hand Surgery Clerkship directed by Dr. Chang.

**Operating Room**
You will scrub into many amazing cases. The chief resident will assign you cases, but you are also free to make requests which are frequently accommodated as long as it does not impede another student’s experience.

You and the other student(s) should select cases the day prior and it is your responsibility to read for those cases in preparation for the procedure. At a minimum you should know the following:

1. Name and basic demographics (gender, age, etc) of the patient
2. History of present illness (presenting diagnosis) and pertinent medical history
3. Procedure to be performed
4. Indications for the procedure
5. Basic relevant anatomy

Most of this information can all be obtained from Epic. Remember, “You are the master of your own education”. How much you learn from a case depends directly on how well you prepare for it. If you are not sure what to read, ask us!

**Progress Notes and Work Rounds**
You will be expected to participate in morning work rounds (obtaining vitals, performing dressing changes, etc), to write daily progress notes, and to assist the interns and NP's
in every way possible. These notes are brief and geared toward practical daily work. Remember that the medical record is a legal document, so please be thoughtful as you write your notes and always maintain confidentiality in compliance with HIPAA regulations.

**Office Hours / Clinic**
Each students’ assignment to clinic will vary in large part secondary to how many operations are scheduled on a given day. The default has been to get the students to the operating room as much as possible. Clinic exposure however, is critical and will take place during your two week experience.

In clinic you will generally observe the attending physicians and residents but may also have an opportunity to see patients alone and present them. Your primary objective is to see how new patients present and to gain insight into the decision making process about surgery. You will also see some postop patients. Please attend clinic in professional attire unless otherwise instructed.

**Topic Presentation**
You will likely be asked to give a very brief presentation on a topic relevant to something in plastic surgery. For example, if you take interest in a breast reconstruction patient, you would give a 5 minute power point presentation on something like free TRAM flap breast reconstruction. The intent is to keep it short (10 slides max) but provide a venue for the student to think, learn, and subsequently teach the team about the knowledge you have obtained on this topic.

This should be low-pressure and fun! Please feel free to ask the chief resident and attendings for advice on topics.

**Conferences and Didactic**
The conference schedule is posted on the website. Thursday morning is our dedicated educational morning with no elective operations or clinics taking place during that time. Resident conference is 0600-0700 and Grand Rounds is 0700-0800. These conferences take place in the main conference room of the 10th floor of Penn Tower and student attendance is mandatory. You will generally have few responsibilities at conference, but many opportunities to learn. Professional attire is expected for Thursday morning conferences.

Didactic sessions with faculty and residents will take place more casually throughout your two week clerkship with the schedule adapting to time availability of the instructors.

**Research**
There is a tremendous amount of clinical research being carried out in the Division of Plastic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Our faculty, residents, fellows, and students are continually developing new research endeavors in a broad range of topics in both plastic and general surgery. If interested in reading about them or possibly participating on a project, please visit the below webpage for more information:
Link: [http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/Research/plastic_research/active_research.html](http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/Research/plastic_research/active_research.html)
Reading
You are expected to read on your own. Knowing your anatomy is pivotal in surgery, so get acquainted or reacquainted with your Gray’s or Netter’s Anatomy texts. We also recommend:

- Plastic Surgery Essentials for students:
- Plastic Surgery Educational Network (PSEN) student portal:
  http://www.psenetwork.org/Library/ForStudents
- Medical Students Interested in Plastic Surgery (MedSIPS) website:
  http://www.surgery.org/professionals/medical-students
- Grabb and Smith’s Plastic Surgery
- The Hand: Examination and Diagnosis-American Society for Surgery of the Hand:
  http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/surgery/Education/medical_students/rotations/The%20Hand%20-%20Examination%20and%20Diagnosis.pdf

We also have access to many additional plastic surgery textbooks, videos, and journals so please ask for additional reference recommendations if so desired.

This should be a terrific experience for you and we once again welcome your joining us. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Gallagher, Dr. Fosnot, or one of the Chief residents. Welcome to Penn Plastic Surgery!