General Surgery Residency Program

of New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center









Chairman's Corner:

Welcome to the Department of Surgery of New York Medical College

Similar to many successful organizations, the Department of Surgery at New York Medical College (NYMC) is significantly more than the sum of its parts. It is comprised of the relationships and interactions amongst the faculty, residents, students, staff, patients, and colleagues which define the culture of the Department. I am proud and confident to inform you that ours is a culture of excellence, compassion, diversity, inquiry, collegiality and vision. Our culture is perpetuated by our continual focus on integrating and balancing our educational, research, and patient care missions. This focus is promoted by a vast network of functional ties that have been cultivated over many years between our department, the NYMC School of Medicine, and our affiliated teaching hospitals, each of which provide the very best in services and facilities.



John A. Savino, MD, FACS The Felicien Steichen Professor and Chairman of Surgery

The philosophy of the Department of Surgery at New York Medical College is to provide an environment attractive to the best academic surgeons, where teaching and patient care are co-mingled with the phenomenal technological resources that have revolutionized modern surgery and reduced morbidity and mortality. The use of minimally invasive techniques and interventional access of the vascular system has radically changed our approach to the performance of many procedures, specifically, robotic surgery, endovascular surgery, transcatheter aortic and mitral valve replacement, advanced laparoscopy, and videoscopic thoracic surgery to name a few.

Westchester Medical Center, which consistently has had the highest patient severity of illness index in the USA, provides the 3.5 million residents in the Hudson Valley with the only American College of Surgeons Level 1 Verified Trauma Center. The Department of Surgery is composed of the following divisions: (1) General Surgery, (2) Trauma/Surgical Critical Care/Burn (3) Cardiothoracic and Cardiac Transplantation (4) Vascular/Endovascular (5) Intra-abdominal Transplantation (adult and pediatric liver and kidney) (6) Plastic and Reconstructive (7) Pediatric Surgery (8) Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery. The General Surgery residents are exposed to a wide variety of procedures: esophagus, gastrointestinal, hepatobiliary pancreatic, colorectal, endocrine, oncologic, pulmonary, bariatric, and minimally invasive and image guided surgeries. Surgical residents are granted graded autonomy in diagnosis and clinical decision making, pre- and post-operative care, and supervision in the operating room, while developing their critical thinking and deductive reasoning abilities. The trainees are provided a vigorous clinical and basic science educational and research program along with development of their technical skills in the simulation center. The infrastructure of the Department of Surgery is strong and the financial base is stable with educational programs that are thriving, research programs that are expanding, and faculty development that progressively increases success.

I thank you for considering our program and hope we have succeeded in conveying the excitement and optimism that we in the Department share on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

John A. Savino, MD, FACS

John & Javnono

The Felicien Steichen Professor and Chairman of Surgery

New York Medical College

Senior Vice President of Medical Operations

Westchester Medical Center

Message from the Director of Surgery at WMC

Welcome to the Department of Surgery at Westchester Medical Center

Dear Applicant,

surgeon, and human being.

I would like to welcome you to the Department of Surgery at Westchester Medical Center Health
Network, and thank you for your interest in our General Surgery Residency program. Your
invitation to New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center Health Networks' Surgical
Residency Program reflects our opinion of your potential as a future academic surgeon. You all have
done great things already and have demonstrated leadership, dedication, and the ability to work
hard, however, the surgical residency is the most important segment of your development and growth as a



Rifat Latifi, MD, FACS, FICS Professor & Director of Department of Surgery

Westchester Medical Center Valhalla Campus, the flagship of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network is the premier provider of advanced medical care and it is the only designated Level I Trauma center serving the entire Hudson Valley region. The hospital has 895 beds with 50 ICU beds, a state-of-the-art telehealth center with 24 hour e-ICU coverage of all ICU beds. Our Trauma and Surgical Critical Care fellowship is one of the oldest in the country and has trained a number of surgical critical care leaders in the world.

In January 2016 I joined this amazing department with a long and rich clinical and research history. Our mission is to build on the rich departmental history; advance and grow clinical services; enrich academic and research portfolios; advance teaching and education of residents, medical students and health allied staff; expand our outreach and community activities; and become an internationally recognized academic department that honors the past, but builds and shapes the future or surgery.

The Department of Surgery has established a Clinical Research Unit (DSCRU), which will train and educate staff and residents on the basics of biostatistics, research design and provide continuing support for all research initiatives. Newly created (1-2 years) International Research Fellowship will be a true catalyst of research activities. This and future classes of residents will have the opportunity to do one to two years of research after the third year of residency. The residents are obligated to participate in research activities, mentored by faculty, and will have great opportunities to work on research projects on ongoing basis, through yearly research conference and participate in peer review publications, books and book chapters with faculty.

In summary, I am delighted to have a chance to show you our department at WMC, and that you have an opportunity to meet our faculty and residents, and look forward to prepare you for a life long journey as a successful academic surgeon who will be able to drive the field of surgery to new horizons. We understand that you are considering other programs and we would like to reinforce our commitment to your training at this first step in the selection process. We take great pride on training the next generation of leaders in surgery. The entire faculty, administration, graduate medical education, residents, and fellows will do everything to make your training a fulfilling educational experience with professional growth.

Sincerely,

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Rifat Latifi, MD, FACS, FICS

Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College Director of Department of Surgery Chief of Division of General Surgery and Trauma, Critical Care and Emergency Surgery Director of Surgical Critical Care Fellowship

Message from the Program Director

Welcome to the General Surgery Residency Program of New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center

The goal of our program is to train the complete general surgeon with expertise in the management of complex surgical patients with high acuity. We aim to make our residents the future leaders in surgery by emphasizing critical thinking, operative skills, and the ability to understand and assess the literature.



Jorge Con, MD, FACS Assistant Professor Program Director

Our main sites are Westchester Medical Center and the adjacent Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, a tertiary care academic medical center that serves as the regional referral center for the Hudson Valley serving a diverse population of about four million. We are the Regional Level-1 Trauma Center for both adult and pediatric patients. In addition, St. Vincent's Bridgeport hospital as an affiliate site provides a robust community general surgery experience.

We offer a five-year program with four Categorical & four Preliminary PGY 1 Positions. Rotations in MIS, Transplant, Pediatric, Thoracic, Vascular, Trauma, and Hepatobiliary provide a vigorous subspecialty curriculum in addition to the general surgery core to optimize the training experience/opportunity. The Department of Surgery Clinical Research Unit (DSCRU) will provide assistance on any research projects as well.

Like the population we serve, the residents come from diverse backgrounds and nationalities. Working together and emphasizing the concept of teamwork with mutual respect is a cornerstone of our program. Located in Suburban New York, Westchester has a wonderful quality of life with diverse activities and recreational opportunities. It also helps that Manhattan is approximately 18 miles away from the hospital (35 minutes by car or commuter rail).

In summary, I believe Westchester Medical Center provides an environment that will challenge you and train you to become an outstanding academic or community surgeon for the new millennium.

Sincerely,

Jorge Con, MD FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program
Department of Surgery
New York Medical College
Westchester Medical Center

Program Leadership

Chairman, Department of Surgery

John A. Savino, MD, FACS The Felicien Steichen Professor and Chairman of Surgery New York Medical College Senior Vice President, Medical Operations Westchester Medical Center

Vice-Chair of Research and Faculty Development

Rifat Latifi, MD, FACS
Professor of Surgery
New York Medical College
Director of Surgery & Chief of General Surgery
Westchester Medical Center

Program Director

Jorge Con, MD FACS
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Program Director, General Surgery Residency Program
New York Medical College
Westchester Medical Center

Associate Program Directors

Prem Swaroop Patel, MD Associate Professor of Surgery Senior Associate Director, General Surgery Residency Program Attending Surgeon

Igor Laskowski, MD Associate Professor of Surgery Associate Director, General Surgery Residency Program

Gregory Veillette, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Transplant & Hepatobiliary Surgeon
Surgical Director of Pancreas Transplant Patients
Associate Director, General Surgery Residency Program

Program Leadership

As Associate Program Directors for the General Surgery residency program, Drs. Laskowski, Patel, and Veillette assist in virtually all aspects of management of the surgical residency program. As Associate Program Directors, they regularly mentor and advocate for residents; assist the Program Director in curriculum design; develop educational programs and clinical research; direct weekly educational meetings and conferences, and organizes the Basic Science Conference, and Teaching Rounds.

Professional Educator

Kevin C. Wolfe, PhD Assistant Professor of Surgery Section of Surgical Education, Evaluation and Research

As a professional educator, Dr. Wolfe applies his expertise in the psychology of learning, motivation, evaluation, and skill development to the design of educational programs for residents, medical students and attending surgeons, which has led to many innovative educational and evaluation programs and methodologies. Dr. Wolfe joined our staff after receiving his doctoral degree in Applied Organizational Psychology in 2008. In addition to Applied Psychology, Dr. Wolfe's training includes advanced course work in research design and multivariate statistics. Dr. Wolfe also manages our online educational resources and evaluation systems, and works closely with faculty and residents to develop education, training, evaluation and educational research projects.

Coordinators

Olga Mateo-Rodriguez Residency Program Coordinator, General Surgery

Olga Mateo-Rodriguez has served as the coordinator for the General Surgery Residency Program for the last 15 years. As coordinator, she works closely with the Program Director, Associate Program Directors, Director of Surgery, Chairman and House Staff office in all aspects of management of the surgical residency program. Ms. Mateo-Rodriguez has proven herself indispensable to the residents as well as program administration.

Christina Lennon
Education & Fellowship Coordinator, General Surgery

Christina Lennon has served as education coordinator in the Department of Surgery for several years. She is also the Fellowship coordinator for our SCC; MIS; & International Research fellowships. She works closely with the Directors, Residency Program Director, Associate Program Directors, Professional Educator and Residency Coordinator to develop and administer educational programs, such as our semi-annual Mock Certifying Exam, and committees, such as the Clinical Competency Committee. Ms. Lennon has been a great asset to our programs.

Rotations

Objectives for all rotations are conceptually organized within the framework of the six ACGME core competencies. Our curriculum includes rotation- and PGY-specific goals and objectives. Below is the Block Schedule diagram for the categorical track in our program.

PGY Level	Rotation	Length	Location
PGY 1	General Surgery / Surgical Oncology / MIS / Thoracic	2 Months	WMC
	Trauma / ER/Burn	2 Months	WMC
	General Surgery	3 Months	SVMC
	Vascular Surgery	1 Month	WMC
	Night Float	1 Month	WMC
	Surgical Critical Care	2 Months	WMC
	Vacation	1 Month	
PGY 2	Pediatric Surgery	2 Months	WMC
	General Surgery	3 Months	SVMC
	Surgery Consults	1 Month	WMC
	ICU Nights	1 Month	WMC
	Vascular Surgery	1 Month	WMC
	General Surgery / Surgical Oncology / MIS / Hepatobiliary Surgery	1 Month	WMC
	Surgical Critical Care	2 Months	WMC
	Vacation	1 Month	
PGY 3	General Surgery	3 Months	SVMC
	Elective Surgery	1 Month	WMC
	Vascular Surgery	1 Month	WMC
	Trauma/ACS/ER/Burn	3 Months	WMC
	Trauma/ ACS Nights	2 Months	WMC
	Transplant/ Hepatobiliary Surgery	1 Months	WMC
	Vacation	1 Month	
PGY 4	Pediatric Surgery	3 Months	WMC
	General Surgery	3 Months	SVMC
	Trauma/ACS/ER/Burn	3 Months	WMC
	Endoscopy	1 Month	SVMC
	Trauma/ACS Nights	1 Month	WMC
	Vacation	1 Month	
PGY 5	General Surgery	2 Months	WMC
	Vascular Surgery	3 Months	WMC
	General Surgery	3 Months	SVMC
	Thoracic Surgery	3 Months	WMC
	Vacation	1 Month	

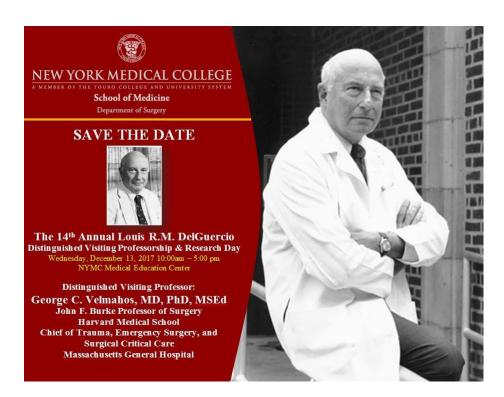
Research Opportunities

Research is an important component of the activities of the Department of Surgery at Westchester Medical Center. The faculty at both the Medical Center and nearby New York Medical College works cooperatively on clinical and laboratory research.

Residents are encouraged to participate in New York Medical College research projects and many opt for elective 12-month rotations in research programs, usually after the third year. State-of-the-art facilities are available for the trainee's use in research. These include the latest laboratory equipment and technology, an animal facility with an operating room and advanced computer systems. The additional surgical research year may also be spent in other university research laboratories in which case residents must seek funding from the sponsoring institution.

The surgical faculty has a strong record of publications in major scientific journals. Residents present research results at national surgical meetings and are expected to assume authorship or co-authorship of a publication of original work during the five-year program.

Dr. Louis R.M. Del Guercio Lectureship and Research Day



This annual symposium is designed for surgeons, interventional radiologists, anesthesiologists, intensivists, researchers and other allied health care professionals involved in the surgical arena.

Research Opportunities

Through presentations and lectures, it is anticipated that upon completion of this activity, participants will have gained knowledge about new developments in surgical research and surgical critical care.

Since 2002, the symposium has been held annually in December on the campus of New York Medical College, in the Medical Education Center auditorium. Residents, fellows and medical students from New York Medical College present research in the form of both poster and podium presentations. Every resident in the WMC General Surgery Residency program is strongly encouraged to present at least one poster or podium presentation during their training.

The conference is multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional, with presentations from several surgical specialties and NYMC affiliated hospitals. An award is given each year for the best clinical and basic science papers. Several distinguished visiting professors have included:

- Carol E.H. Scott-Conner, MD, PhD, MBA (University of Iowa)
- Rifat Latifi, MD (NYMC/WMC)
- Mark A. Malangoni, MD (ABS)
- David Feliciano, MD (Indiana University)
- Juan Asensio, MD (Miami Miller)
- Harvey Sugerman, MD (VCU)
- Marc Wallack, MD (NYMC/Metropolitan)
- Steven Lowry, MD (UMDNJ)
- James A. O'Neill, MD (Vanderbilt University)
- Timothy C. Fabian, MD (University of Tennessee)
- Stephen V. Barone, Ed.D (President Transformation Systems, LLC)
- Eric J. DeMaria, MD (Duke University)
- Thomas Scalea MD (Maryland Shock Trauma)

General Surgery Resident Alumni

Recent history has shown that nationally approximately 80 percent of departing trainees pursue fellowship training. Trainees from NYMC/ WMC have followed the national trend with greater than 90 percent pursuing additional training in a wide range of areas, such as minimally invasive surgery, plastic surgery, cardiothoracic surgery, surgical critical care, vascular surgery and pediatric surgery. They have been accepted into some of the finest fellowship programs in the country. Following fellowship training, approximately 50 percent of graduates have gone on to pursue academic faculty positions around the country with the remainder pursuing private practice opportunities.

The chart shows the distribution of NYMC/WMC residents who have gone on to fellowship training in various surgical specialties over the last 14 years. The following is a list of programs where our recent graduates have gone on to receive fellowship positions:

Minimally Invasive Surgery at:

NYMC / Westchester Medical Center, NY Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL St. Francis Hospital, CT University of Texas Medical School, TX Cleveland Clinic, Weston, FL

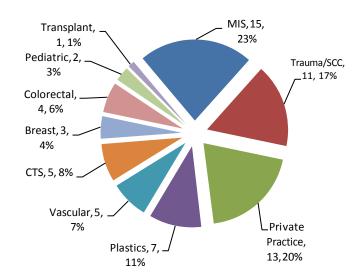
Plastic Surgery at:

Indiana University, IN University of Kansas, KS University of Utah, UT Albert Einstein-Montefiore, NY

Transplant Surgery at:

Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, IL University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Program Graduates: 2002 - Present



Cardiothoracic Surgery at:

Boston Medical Center, MA MCP Hahnemann University, PA Yale University, CT East Carolina University, NC

Vascular Surgery at:

Toledo Hospital (Jobst Vascular Surgery), OH UMDNJ, Newark, NJ UMDNJ, R.W. Johnson, NJ

Breast Oncology at:

Southwestern Center for Breast, University of Texas John Wayne Cancer Institute, Santa Monica, CA

Pediatric Surgery at:

Emory University, GA

Trauma and Emergency Medicine / Surgical Critical Care / Burns at:

Johns Hopkins, MD
Jacobi Medical Center, NY
Yale University, CT
University Health Center of Pittsburg, PA
R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, Baltimore, MD
San Antonio Medical Center, Texas

Following is a listing of all the graduates from 2002 to present identifying where they went to medical school and what they went on to do after completing the program at NYMC/WMC.

Academic Year 2002-2003

Geoffrey Kim, MD

Dartmouth Medical School
University of Kansas – Plastics

Joel Sebastien, MD SUNY – Buffalo

Private Practice - Florida

Leon E. Stockton, MD St. George's University Private Practice – North

Carolina

Karl Strom, MD

St. George's University

NYMC/WMC-Advanced Laparoscopic

Academic Year 2004-2005

Adil Haider, MD

Aga Khan University, Pakistan

Johns Hopkins, MD – Trauma / Critical Care

Michael Paccione, MD New York Medical College

Private Practice – Trauma / Critical Care Surgery

Stoney Brook, NY

Jon Pirrello, MD

New York Medical College

NYMC/WMC-Advanced Laparoscopic

Marc Stingone, MD

University of Med & Dentistry of NJ

Jacobi Medical Center, NY - Burn Fellowship

NYMC/WMC - Trauma / Critical Care

Academic Year 2003-2004

Min Kim, MD

SUNY, Brooklyn

Private Practice - Virginia

Prashant Soni, MD

Meharry Medical College
University of Utah – Plastics

Benjamin Youdelman, MD

St. Louis University

MCP Hahnemann, PA - CTS

Sergey Zhitnikov, MD

Odessa Medical Institute, Ukraine

NYMC/WMC - Advanced Laparoscopic

Academic Year 2005-2006

Mark Loewen, MD

Rush Medical College

St. Francis Hospital, CT-Advanced Laparoscopic

AyeMoeThu Ma, MD

SUNY @StoneyBrook

The University of Texas – Breast Oncology

Southwestern Center for Breast

Aleksandr Rakhlin, MD

SUNY @ Buffalo

NYMC/WMC-Advanced Laparoscopic

Elizabeth P. Renza, MD

New York Medical Collge

US Dept. of the Army Falls Church, VA

NYMC/WMC-Advanced Laparoscopic

Academic Year 2006-2007

Ovidiu Cristea, MD New York Medical College Indiana University – Plastics

John A. Fiorianti, MD
Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara SOM
UMDNJ, Newark – Vascular Surgery

Michael Christopher Morris, MD Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara SOM NYMC/WMC-Advanced Laparoscopic

Brian Basik Whang, MD SUNY – Downstate Yale University – CTS

Academic Year 2007-2008

Jeffrey Chaudhari, MD
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
NYMC/WMC – Advanced Laparoscopic

Lindita Coku, MD Tirana University School of Medicine – Albania Boston Medical Center – CTC

Benjamin Leong, MD Medical College of Ohio University of Texas Medical School, Houston – Advanced Laparoscopic

Academic Year 2008-2009

Faisal Aziz, MD

King Edward Medical College – Pakistan

Toledo, Ohio – Vascular Surgery

Alok Gupta, MD
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
General Surgery/Trauma & Critical Care Surgery
R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center –
Baltimore, MD

Samir Ramesh Pandya, MD Medical College of Virginia Emory University, Atlanta GA – Peds Surgery

James Michael Parker, MD UMDNJ/R.W. Johnson Med School Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL Advanced Laparoscopic

Academic Year 2009-2010

Bishwajit Bhattacharya, MD SUNY @Syracuse School of Medicine Yale University, CT – Trauma/Critical Care Surgery

Matthew Carlson, MD

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Yale University, CT – Trauma/Critical Care Surgery

Harry Francisco Dorn-Arias, MD
Universidad San Francisco de Quito – Ecuador
University of Virginia – Transplant Surgery

Camelia Lawrence, MD
University of Rochester School of Med & Dentistry
John Wayne Cancer Institute, CA – Breast Oncology

Academic Year 2010-2011

Kamran Azad, MD Rosalind Franklin University of Med Science, Chicago, IL Albert Einstein-Montefiore – Plastics

Tal S. Bash, MD SUNY – Downstate College of Medicine UMDNJ-R.W. Johnson, NJ – Vascular Surgery

Edward Choung, MD UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School Cleveland Clinic, Weston FL – MIS / Colorectal

Ayodeji O. Nubi, MBBS Ogun State University – Nigeria Univ Hlth Ctr of Pittsburg, PA – Critical Care

Academic Year 2011-2012

Sarah P. Cate, MD UMDNJ – R.W. Johnson Medical School St. Luke's Roosevelt – Beth Israel – Breast Oncology

David Y. Cho, MD SUNY – Downstate College of Medicine Boston Medical Center – Surgical Critical Care

Finny George, MD SUNY @Syracuse College of Medicine Albert Einstein-Montefiore – Plastics Surgery Fellowship

Academic Year 2012-2013

Luis F. Alberton, MD Monterrey University – Mexico LIJ/North Shore Medical Center Cardiothoracic Surgery

Michael Donaire, MD St. George's University Private Practice

Pawandeep S. Hunjan, MBBS Maulana Azad Medical College – India NYMC/WMC – Advanced Laparoscopic Christina N. Jenkins, MD Albany Medical School Greater Baltimore Medical Center Colon & Rectal Surgery

Irene J. Lo, MD
Columbia University
Alta Bates Summit Medical Center - Advanced Laparoscopic

Susana Samaniego, MD Rosalind Franklin University Private Practice

Academic Year 2013-2014

Rodrigo Ruiz Gamboa, MD Universidad del Mayab – Mexico Johst Vascular Institute, Toledo, OH Vascular Surgery

Roberto Jose Arias-Gautreaux, MD Instituto Tecnologico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) Private Practice – General Surgery

Lorenc Malellari, MD UMDNJ-R.W. Johnson Medical School University of California, Irvine (UCI) Colon & Rectal Surgery

Jyoti Sharma, MD
University of Connecticut
NYMC/WMC – Trauma / Surgical Critical
Care

Jai Prakash Singh, MBBS
Maulana Azad Medical College – India
Oswego Hospital, Oswego, NY
Fellowship
Private Practice – General Surgery

Academic Year 2015-2016

Hanna Alemayehu, MD Weill Cornell Medical College Pediatric Surgery Fellowship The Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City

Heidi Hansen, MD University of Nebraska College of Medicine Vascular Surgery Fellowship East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

Jasvinder Singh, MD Maulana Azad Medical College Currently Applying for Colorectal Surgery

Jeffery Wannares, MD
Tufts University School of Medicine
NYMC/WMC – Advanced Laparoscopic

Academic Year 2014-2015

Arpit Amin, MD SUNY Upstate Medical University Private Practice – General Surgery

Jose A. Aquino-Garcia, MD Instituto Tecnologico de Santo Domingo University of Nebraska – Plastic Surgery

Allison Sweny, MD St. Matthew's University School of Medicine Private Practice – General Surgery

Irlna Ingrid Tantchou, MD UMDNJ-R.W. Johnson Medical School University of Texas SOM – Colorectal

Academic Year 2016-2017

Alexandra Kharazi, MD University of California @ Davis SOM Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

Erwin P. Rusli, MD St. George's University General Surgery – Private Practice

Irony Sade, MD SUNY – Upstate Medical University General Surgery – Private Practice Rapids City, SD

Dominick A. Vitale, MD University of South Carolina SOM Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Fellowship San Antonio Medical Center, Texas

General Surgery Residency Program of New York Medical College at Westchester Medical Center



School of Medicine

Department of Surgery

