International Trauma Research Fellowship Program



Department of Surgery Westchester Medical Center

Westchester Medical Center Health Network



NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

School of Medicine

Department of Surgery





2021-2022



International Trauma Research Fellowship Program

The International Trauma Research Fellowship provides an opportunity for qualified, highly motivated individuals to work intimately with nationally recognized academic surgeons at the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY. The goals of this program, in addition to conducting high-level clinical and basic science research, include establishing international relationships and opportunities for fellows to observe the trauma and acute care surgery systems in the United States so that they can share their experience with their home countries. The mentors have a track record of running numerous international trauma research fellowships to suppot success and positive outcome of the fellows' time spent.

Westchester Medical Center is located in the beautiful Hudson Valley region of New York, just 20 minutes from New York City. The medical center is an American College of Surgeons (ACS) and New York State-designated Level I Trauma Center, serving the entire Hudson Valley (north of the Bronx, up to Albany, NY) with over 50 ICU beds, a state-of-the-art Telehealth Center, and 24-hour e-ICU coverage of all ICU beds. As the only ACS Level I Trauma Center in the Hudson Valley region, we take care of patients with a high degree of complexity and acuity. With both an Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)-accredited General Surgery residency program and a Surgical Critical Care fellowship program, Westchester Medical Center, in partnership with New York Medical College, is a leading academic institution of New York.

Fellows will be an integral part of the Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, participating in all weekly conferences, meetings and didactic education. Fellows are expected to develop, and be actively engaged in, basic and clinical research studies through all phases of the research process including literature review, obtaining approval from the Institutional Review Board, data collection and analysis, and abstract/manuscript preparation and submission. The Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery targets several large meetings each year, including the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST), the American Surgical Association (ASA), the Academic Surgical Congress (ASC), the Western Trauma Association (WTA), the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), and the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

Trauma Research Fellows will be expected to be competent in statistical analysis and software, to work with the Department of Surgery Clinical Research Unit (DSCRU), and to publish manuscripts under the guidance of faculty.

Sponsor: Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery, Department of Surgery, New York Medical College & Westchester Medical Center

Thank you for choosing our International Trauma Research Fellowship program.

Sincerely Yours,

Peter Rhee, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM Chief, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Westchester Medical Center Professor of Surgery New York Medical College

Kartik Prabhakaran, MD, MHS, FACS Trauma Medical Director Westchester Medical Center Associate Professor of Surgery New York Medical College

International Trauma Research Fellowship Program Application



2021-2022

We are now accepting applications for the 2021-22 academic year.

Application

The application consists of a letter of interest and a current Curriculum Vitae in English. The letter should state your intent — for example, to broaden academic experience. It should also state your plans after visa expiration and your current level of education/ experience. You will also need:

- A copy of your medical school diploma and a letter from your medical school.
- □ To have successfully completed the Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) exam.
- ☐ At least two letters of recommendation.
- □ FULL comprehension of the English language, both written and oral (verified in the form of successful completion of the TOEFL or IELTS exam).
- To meet criteria for securing a qualifying visa to remain in the United States for the period of duration of this fellowship, you must obtain a visa from the United States Embassy in your country of origin.
- □ To commit to a fellowship duration of at least 24 months.
- □ A certificate of complete vaccination.
- □ A recent PPD test (TB test) if positive, provide a copy of a normal chest x-ray report (within 6 months).
- □ One passport-sized picture.

To apply, please email Dr. Kartik Prabhakaran: Kartik.Prabhakaran@wmchealth.org

Before applying, please inquire about additional International Trauma Research Fellowship program information to ensure that all requirements can be met.

International Trauma Research Fellowship Program Application



International Trauma Research Fellowship Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Department of Surgery Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College

After you have submitted your application and been accepted into the program, you must submit the following documentation to Rebecca Bates, the International Trauma Research Fellowship Coordinator, via email at: **Rebecca.Bates@wmchealth.org**, and to Krist Nikolla, the Administrator of the Department of Surgery, at Krist_Nikolla@nymc.edu, no later than 90 days before your fellowship start date. Upon submission of all documentation, you will receive an official Letter of Invitation from the Department of Surgery.

- Bank statement in USD (must be current within 6 months)
- □ Scanned, color image of your passport
- □ Scanned, color image of your dependent's passport(s), if applicable
- Curriculum Vitae
- Scanned copy of your Certificate of Eligibility (once it is approved by the US Government)

Please be advised that you must pay the visa processing fee to New York Medical College. The visa processing fee is \$450.00 USD and is non-refundable.

International Trauma Research Fellowship Program Application



International Trauma Research Fellowship Requirements and Information:

Self-Funding	The Department of Surgery does not have the funds for reimbursement or stipends. You will need to arrive on your own funding. The amount of funds the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service requires is at least \$1680 USD per month for yourself, with an additional \$590 USD per month for each dependent accompanying you, if applicable.
Documentation	The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 requires that you produce documents that authorize you to be in the United States. Upon your arrival at Westchester Medical Center, you must present the department administrator original documents to establish (1) your identity and (2) eligibility to be in the United States. The day after your arrival, you must personally check in with the program coordinator. Please bring your passport, I-94, and health insurance verification with you.
Program Duration	The International Trauma Research Fellowship will be two years in duration. You are granted four weeks of vacation time per year. Vacation time must be communicated and worked out in advance with the fellowship program director.

International Trauma Research Fellowship Program Contacts



Program Contacts:

Peter Rhee, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM Chief, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Westchester Medical Center Professor of Surgery New York Medical College Peter.Rhee@wmchealth.org

Kartik Prabhakaran, MD, MHS, FACS

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Krist Nikolla, MPH

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Rebecca Bates

Trauma Program Coordinator Phone: (914) 493-6826 Rebecca.Bates@wmchealth.org

Location

Westchester Medical Center Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Department of Surgery E144 Taylor Pavilion 100 Woods Road Valhalla, NY 10595

Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Faculty



Rifat Latifi, MD, FACS, FICS

The Felicien Steichen Professor and Chairman of Surgery New York Medical College

Director, Department of Surgery Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: University of Prishtina, Kosovo

Medical School: University of Prishtina, Kosovo

General Surgery Residency: Yale University School of Medicine

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Lincoln Medical Center/ Cornell Medical College

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Rifat.Latifi@wmchealth.org



Peter Rhee, MD, MPH, FACS, FCCM, DMCC

Professor of Surgery New York Medical College

Chief of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: Georgia Institute of Technology

Graduate Degree (Public Health): University of Washington

Medical School: Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences F. Edward Herbert School of Medicine

General Surgery Residency: University of California Irvine Medical Center

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Harborview Medical Center/University of Washington

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Peter.Rhee@wmchealth.org



Kartik Prabhakaran, MD, MHS, FACS

Associate Professor of Surgery New York Medical College

Trauma Medical Director Associate Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: The Johns Hopkins University

Graduate Degree (Public Health): The Johns Hopkins University

Medical School: University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

General Surgery Residency: Albert Einstein Medical College/ Montefiore Medical Center

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Lincoln Medical Center/Cornell MedicalCollege

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Kartik.Prabhakaran@wmchealth.org

Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Faculty



Anthony J. Policastro, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College

Attending Surgeon, Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency General Surgery Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: Villanova University

Medical School: Creighton University School of Medicine

General Surgery Residency: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College



Gary G. Lombardo, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery New York Medical College

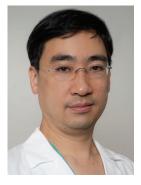
Attending Surgeon, Division of Trauma, Surgical Critical Care and Emergency General Surgery Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: State University of New York at Binghamton

Medical School: Ross University School of Medicine

General Surgery Residency: St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center/ New York Medical College

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine



Jorge Con, MD, FACS Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College

Program Director, General Surgery Residency Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: Yale University

Medical School: University of Costa Rica

General Surgery Residency: University of Texas Southwestern

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: University of Arizona

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

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Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Faculty



Joshua Klein, DO Assistant Professor of Surgery.

New York Medical College Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery

Undergraduate Education: SUNY Buffalo

Westchester Medical Center

Medical School: Nova Southeastern University

General Surgery Residency: Hackensack University Medical Center

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

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Ryan Malcom, MD Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College

Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: University of Illinois

Medical School: University of Illinois College of Medicine

General Surgery Residency: Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Medical Center

Surgical Critical Care Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Ryan.Malcom@wmchealth.org



Matthew Bronstein, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College

Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: University of Wisconsin, Madison

Medical School: Ross University School of Medicine

General Surgery Residency: Westchester Medical Center/ New York Medical College

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Weill Cornell Medical College/ New York Presbyterian Hospital

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Matthew.Bronstein@wmchealth.org



Ilya Shnaydman, MD, FACS

Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York Medical College

Attending Surgeon, Section of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Westchester Medical Center

Undergraduate Education: Drexel University

Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine

General Surgery Residency: Hofstra North Shore LIJ School of Medicine at Northwell Health

Surgical Critical Care Fellowship: Jackson Memorial Hospital

Board Certification: Surgery, Surgical Critical Care

Ilya.Shnaydman@wmchealth.org

Research Portfolio



The Department of Surgery Clinical Research Unit (DSCRU) will be a catalyst and resource to enhance the research capability and productivity of the department. It provides the forum for research support for all research fellows and staff through a number of initiatives and programs that utilize hospital databases, the institutional trauma registry, and national databases such as the Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) and the National Trauma Data Bank (NTDB).

Trauma Brain Injury

Geriatric Trauma

Bleeding and Resuscitation

Spinal Cord and Blunt Cerebrovascular Injury

Thoracic Trauma

Emergency General Surgery

Surgical Critical Care and Nutrition

Penetrating and Vascular Trauma

Frailty and Geriatric Trauma

Emergency General Surgery

Telemedicine and Telepresence

Recent Books:



The Modern Hospital: Patients Centered, Disease Based, Research Oriented, Technology Driven

Editor: Rifat Latifi



Surgical Critical Care and Emergency Surgery: *Clinical Questions and Answers* Editors: Forrest "Dell" Moore, Peter Rhee, Gerard J. Fulda



Surgery of Complex Abdominal Wall Defects: Practical Approaches Editor: Rifat Latifi



Surgery Decision Making: *Beyond the Evidence Based Surgery* Editor: Rifat Latifi



50 Landmark Papers: *Every Acute Care Surgeon Should Know* Editor: Peter Rhee

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- Angeles C, Lombardo G, Prabhakaran K, Con J. Retained piece of glass in pleural cavity: Is chest X-ray enough? Am Surg. 2018;84(11):e448-e450.
- Angelos G, Dockter AG, Gachabayov M, Latifi R, Bergamaschi R. Emergency colorectal surgery in a COVID-19 pandemic epicenter. Surg Technol Int. 2020;36:18-21.
- Azevedo V, Latifi R, Parsikia A, Latifi F, Azevedo A. Cabo verde telemedicine program: An update report and analysis of 2,442 teleconsultations. Telemed J E Health. 2020.
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- Choi J, Gogna S, Rozenblit G, Latifi R. Hybrid surgical management for massive splenomegaly in a septuagenarian for chronic myelofibrosis. Am Surg. 2020;86(4):e175-e176.
- Coccolini F, Roberts D, Ansaloni L, et al. The open abdomen in trauma and non-trauma patients: WSES guidelines. World J Emerg Surg. 2018;13:7-018-0167-4. eCollection 2018.
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- Diaconescu B, Uranues S, Fingerhut A, et al. The bucharest ESTES consensus statement on peritonitis. Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg. 2020.
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- El-Menyar A, Consunji R, Asim M, et al. Traumatic brain injury in patients screened for blood alcohol concentration based on the mechanism of injury. Brain Inj. 2019;33(4):419-426.
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- Gachabayov M, Dong XD, Latifi R, Bergamaschi R. Considerations on colorectal cancer care in a COVID-19 pandemic epicenter. Surg Technol Int. 2020;36:148-149.
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- Gachabayov M, Gogna S, Samson D, Latifi R. Does CT scan add any diagnostic value to the evaluation of stab wounds of the anterior abdominal wall? A systematic review and meta-analysis. J Trauma Acute Care Surg. 2020.
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- Latifi R, Parsikia A, Boci A, Doarn CR, Merrell RC. Increased access to care through telemedicine in albania: An analysis of 2,724 patients. Telemed J E Health. 2020;26(2):164-175.
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- Litow K, Jabbour G, Bahn-Humphrey A, et al. Curative resection of a duodenal gastrointestinal stromal tumor in the setting of von willebrand's disease. J Surg Case Rep. 2020;2020(4):rjaa081.
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a nationwide program in albania and analysis of 590 patients. World Neurosurg. 2019;128:e340-e346.

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- Rojas A, Felsenreich DM, Quintero L, et al. Robotic sutured rectopexy for external full-thickness rectal prolapse - a video vignette. Colorectal Dis. 2020.
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- Sartelli M, Kluger Y, Ansaloni L, et al. Raising concerns about the sepsis-3 definitions. World J Emerg Surg. 2018;13:6-018-0165-6. eCollection 2018.
- Singh K, Trinh W, Latifi R, Weaver JD. Correction: An elusive thermal [2 + 2] cycloaddition driven by visible light photocatalysis: Tapping into strain to access C2-symmetric tricyclic rings. Org Biomol Chem. 2019;17(7):2028.
- Ten Broek RPG, Krielen P, Di Saverio S, et al. Bologna guidelines for diagnosis and management of adhesive small bowel obstruction (ASBO): 2017 update of the evidencebased guidelines from the world society of emergency surgery ASBO working group. World J Emerg Surg. 2018;13:24-018-0185-2. eCollection 2018.
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- Prabhakaran K, Azim A, Khan M, Jehan F, Feeney J, Anderson P, Policastro A, Latifi R. Predicting the need for tracheostomy in trauma patients without severe head injury. Am J Surg. 2019 Dec 20. pii: S0002-9610(19)31570-3. doi: 10.1016/j.amjsurg.2019.12.018.

- Prabhakaran K, Gogna S, Pee S, Samson DJ, Con J, Latifi R. Falling Again? Falls in Geriatric Adults- Risk Factors and Outcomes Associated With Recidivism. J Surg Res. 2019 Nov 22. pii: S0022-4804(19)30771-1. doi: 10.1016/j. jss.2019.10.041.
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- Gogna S, Latifi R, Choi J, Con J, Prabhakaran K, Smiley A, Anderson PL. Predictors of 30- and 90-day readmissions after complex abdominal wall reconstruction with biologic mesh: a longitudinal study of 232 patients. World J Surg. 2020 Jul 30. doi: 10.1007/s00268-020-05714-9. Online ahead of print.
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- 65. Bauman ZM, Kulvatunyou N, Joseph B, Jain A, Friese RS, Gries L, O'Keeffe T, Tang AL, Vercruysse G, Rhee P.A Prospective Study of 7-Year Experience Using Percutaneous 14-French Pigtail Catheters for Traumatic Hemothorax/ Hemopneumothorax at a Level-1 Trauma Center: Size Still Does Not Matter. World J Surg. 2018 Jan:42(1):107-113. (Senior-Author)
- Joseph B, Khan M, Rhee P. Non-invasive diagnosis and treatment strategies for traumatic brain injury: an update. J Neurosci Res. 2018 Apr;96(4):589-600. Review. (Senior-Author).
- 67. Turner A, Williams M, Matthews LR, Nguyen J, Bashan-Gilzenrat A, Taha A, Udobi K, Rhee P, Childs E, Danner O. Necrotizing Fasciitis Due to Kocuria rosea With Progression to Severe Sepsis, Septic Shock and Death: A Reason for Concern About Proper Treatment of Emerging Opportunistic Pathogens. J Surg. 2017 Oct:12:1-4. (Co-Author).

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