

Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College

International Research Fellowship Program

Thank you for your interest in the International Research Fellowship program. We welcome you to the Department of Surgery at Westchester Medical Center, Valhalla Campus, the flagship hospital of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network and the premier provider of advanced medical care in the Hudson Valley. Westchester Medical Center is an 895-bed quaternary care academic hospital. The faculty of the Department of Surgery perform some of the most complex surgical procedures available today, using state-of-the-art technology, interdisciplinary collaborative approaches, and leveraging evidence-based practices.

The Department is composed of the following sections: General Surgery (Trauma, Trauma ICU, Surgical ICU, General Emergency Surgery), Burn Surgery, Breast Surgery, Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Surgical Oncology, Cardiac Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, Transplant Surgery, Pediatric General Surgery, Cardiac Pediatric Surgery, and Vascular Surgery. Our designated Level I Trauma Center serves the entire Hudson Valley region, and our general residency and critical care fellowship programs have trained some of the world's leaders in surgery.

Having joined this amazing department in January 2016, my goal is to grow the clinical, academic and research portfolios, advance teaching and education of residents, medical students, fellows, and allied health staff, while expanding our outreach and services across the Hudson Valley and beyond.

The main pillars of the Department of Surgery mission include: 1) providing innovative, timely and compassionate clinical care to all patients 2) cultivating a collaborative research environment in order to build an academic program, second to none; and 3) advancing educational mandate through diverse and informative forums such as Grand Rounds, Journal Clubs and other daily and weekly programs.

The Department of Surgery Clinical Research Unit (DSCRU) will be the catalyst to enhance the research activity of the Department. It will provide the forum for research support for attending staff, residents, and fellows through a number of initiatives and programs including the International Research Fellowship.

I am delighted to share with you my vision and commitment for expanding our Department. I look forward to hearing from you.



Rifat Latifi, M.D., FACS, FICS
Director, Department of Surgery
Fellowship Program Director
Westchester Medical Center
Professor of Surgery
New York Medical College

International Research Fellowship Program



The International Research Fellowship creates a mutually beneficial relationship between academic surgeons at Westchester Medical Center and aspiring researchers from abroad. Our training will provide you with an understanding of the principles of clinical research and enable you to critically evaluate studies. This collaboration between institutions will also involve instruction in how to carry out clinical studies, from conception of research questions through design, conduct, analysis, presentation, write-up and publication.

At our state-of-the art quaternary care facility, home to a level I trauma center, fellows will learn from professionals devoted to clinical excellence and researchers striving for the highest levels of scientific rigor. Accepted applicants will be exposed to new experiences from perspectives of our cultural environment and the health care delivery system. Westchester Medical Center shares faculty and a campus with New York Medical College. Our affiliated institutions both regard clinical research as among our highest priorities.

You will be expected to make valuable contributions to our research efforts. Didactic training on research methods and statistics will be provided commensurate to your level of knowledge. You will also grow tremendously as a scientist, gaining insights from mentors and learning to interact effectively with diverse team members. The Department of Surgery encourages presenting at several large meetings each year, including the AAST, EAST, ASA, ASC, WTA, SCCM, and the ACS. Completing the one to two year program will produce tangible benefits; in addition to presentations, you will have opportunities to co-author publications and observe academic surgeons as they progress through exciting career paths.



Sponsor

Westchester Medical Center
Department of Surgery
100 Woods Road
Valhalla, NY 10595

Director

Jorge Con, MD, FACS

Funding

The funding (housing, travel, cost of living) of each fellow will be provided by their home institution and organized and managed by the WMC Department of Surgery. Fellows and their institutions can expect affordable housing in one of the hospital-owned resident townhouses near the hospital.

Application

We will be accepting applications for the 2017 academic year starting December 1, 2016. The academic requirements for this position are having an MD degree or being in good standing within 12 months of obtaining the MD degree or equivalent. Oral and written English proficiency is a must.

Please send a letter stating your academic interests and what you would like to achieve during this fellowship. It should also state your plans after expiration of visa and your current level of education/experience. We will need your current Curriculum Vitae in English. Include any information relevant to your qualifications such as an MPH degree or coursework in statistics, prior publications, TOEFL scores (if available), and USMLE board scores (if available).

To apply, please email Jorge Con, MD at info@research@wmchealth.org. Please include in your email

- a current and complete mailing address,
- the length of fellowship you are requesting, and
- the month/year you wish to start.

For further information about current research projects, contact:

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Core Training Faculty



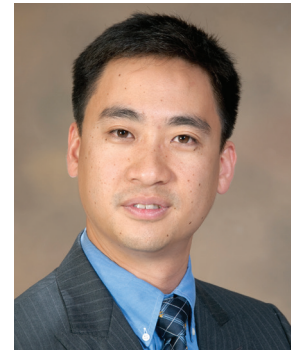
**Rifat Latifi, M.D.,
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Instructor,
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Saranda Gashi, MPH

Research Coordinator,
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Manuscripts Published in Peer-Reviewed Journals 2016

1. Abu Saleh WK, Tang GHL, Ahmad H, Cohen M, Undemir C, Lansman SL, et al. Vascular complication can be minimized with a balloon-expandable, re-collapsible sheath in TAVR with a self-expanding bioprosthesis. *Catheter Cardiovasc Interv.* 2016 Jul;88(1):135–43.
2. Affi I, Parchani A, Al-Thani H, El-Menyar A, Alajaj R, Elazzazy S, et al. Base deficit and serum lactate concentration in patients with post traumatic convulsion. *Asian J Neurosurg.* 2016 Jun;11(2):146–50.
3. Amin A, Safaya A, Ronny F, Islam H, Bhuta K, Rajdeo H. Hemorrhagic Shock from Spontaneous Splenic Rupture Requiring Open Splenectomy in a Patient Taking Rivaroxaban. *Am Surg.* 2016 Feb;82(2):E54-55.
4. Amin A, Zhurov Y, Ibrahim G, Maffei A, Giannone J, Cerabona T, et al. Combined Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Management of Postcholecystectomy Mirizzi Syndrome from a Remnant Cystic Duct Stone: Case Report and Review of the Literature. *Case Rep Surg.* 2016;2016:1896368.
5. Asensio JA, Petrone P, Ogun OA, Perez-Alonso AJ, Wagner M, Bertellotti R, et al. Laparotomy: The conquering of the abdomen and the historical journey of pancreatic and duodenal injuries. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Jun;80(6):1023–31.
6. Azim A, Haider AA, Rhee P, Verma K, Windell E, Jocar TO, et al. Early feeds not force feeds: Enteral nutrition in traumatic brain injury. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Sep;81(3):520–4.
7. Cassuto J, Babu S, Laskowski I. The survival benefit of kidney transplantation in the setting of combined peripheral arterial disease and end-stage renal failure. *Clin Transplant.* 2016 May;30(5):545–55.
8. Chen K, Garg J, Malekan R, Spielvogel D, Ahmad H. Assessing Intraoperative Bleeding Risk in Patients Undergoing Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting with Prior Exposure to Clopidogrel: Single Center Retrospective Analysis. *Am J Ther.* 2016 Jan 28;
9. Chirumamilla V, Prabhakaran K, Patrizio P, Savino JA, Marini CP, Zoha Z. Pericardiocentesis followed by thoracotomy and repair of penetrating cardiac injury caused by nail gun injury to the heart. *Int J Surg Case Rep.* 2016;23:98–100.
10. El-Menyar A, Asim M, Latifi R, Al-Thani H. Research in Emergency and Critical Care Settings: Debates, Obstacles and Solutions. *Sci Eng Ethics.* 2016 Dec;22(6):1605–26.
11. Gillick JL, Cooper JB, Babu S, Das K, Murali R. Successful Treatment of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome with Pseudoaneurysm Excision and Median Nerve Neurolysis. *World Neurosurg.* 2016 Aug;92:582.e5-8.
12. Hadeed GJ, Smith J, O'Keeffe T, Kulvatunyou N, Wynne JL, Joseph B, et al. Early surgical intervention and its impact on patients presenting with necrotizing soft tissue infections: A single academic center experience. *J Emerg Trauma Shock.* 2016 Mar;9(1):22–7.
13. Hagler D, Prabhakaran K, Lombardo G, Marini CP. Splenic abscess requiring early splenectomy following angioembolization for blunt splenic injury in an immunocompromised host: implications for management. *Am Surg.* 2016 Nov;82(11):e310–2.
14. Joseph B, Azim A, Haider AA, Kulvatunyou N, O'Keeffe T, Hassan A, et al. Bicycle helmets work when it matters the most. *Am J Surg.* 2016 Jul 28;
15. Joseph B, Azim A, Zangbar B, Bauman ZM, O'Keeffe T, Ibraheem K, et al. Improving mortality in trauma laparotomy through the evolution of damage control resuscitation: Analysis of 1,030 consecutive trauma laparotomies. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Oct 31;
16. Joseph B, Hadeed S, Haider AA, Dittillo M, Joseph A, Pandit V, et al. Obesity and trauma mortality: Sizing up the risks in motor vehicle crashes. *Obes Res Clin Pract.* 2016 Mar 17;
17. Joseph B, Haider AA, Azim A, Kulvatunyou N, Tang A, O'Keeffe T, et al. The impact of patient protection and Affordable Care Act on trauma care: A step in the right direction. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Sep;81(3):427–34.

18. Joseph B, Ibraheem K, Haider AA, Kulvatunyou N, Tang A, O'Keeffe T, et al. Identifying potential utility of REBOA: An autopsy study. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 May 18;
19. Joseph B, Ibraheem K, Haider AA, Kulvatunyou N, Tang A, O'Keeffe T, et al. Identifying potential utility of resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta: An autopsy study. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Nov;81(5 Suppl 2 Proceedings of the 2015 Military Health System Research Symposium):S128–32.
20. Joseph B, Jokar TO, Khalil M, Haider AA, Kulvatunyou N, Zangbar B, et al. Identifying the broken heart: predictors of mortality and morbidity in suspected blunt cardiac injury. *Am J Surg.* 2016 Jun;211(6):982–8.
21. Joseph B, Parvaneh S, Swartz T, Haider AA, Hassan A, Kulvatunyou N, et al. Stress among surgical attending physicians and trainees: A quantitative assessment during trauma activation and emergency surgeries. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Oct;81(4):723–8.
22. Joseph B, Phelan H, Hassan A, Jokar TO, O'Keeffe T, Azim A, et al. The impact of frailty on failure-to-rescue in geriatric trauma patients: A prospective study. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Sep 16;
23. Khalil M, Rhee P, Jokar TO, Kulvatunyou N, O'Keeffe T, Tang A, et al. Antibiotics for appendicitis! Not so fast. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2016 Jun;80(6):923–32.
24. Lansman SL, Goldberg JB, Kai M, Tang GHL, Malekan R, Spielvogel D. Aortic Symposium 2016: Aortic surgery in pregnancy. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2016 Jun 24;
25. Latifi R, Gunn JKL, Bakiu E, Boci A, Dasho E, Ollidashi F, et al. Access to Specialized Care Through Telemedicine in Limited-Resource Country: Initial 1,065 Teleconsultations in Albania. *Telemed J E Health.* 2016 May 24;
26. Latifi R. Practical Approaches to Definitive Reconstruction of Complex Abdominal Wall Defects. *World J Surg.* 2016 Apr;40(4):836–48.
27. Lee JY, Alizadeh K. Spacer Facial Artery Musculomucosal Flap: Simultaneous Closure of Oronasal Fistulas and Palatal Lengthening. *Plast Reconstr Surg.* 2016 Jan;137(1):240–3.
28. Leung A, Bonasso P, Lynch K, Long D, Vaughan R, Wilson A, et al. Pediatric Secondary Overtriage in a Statewide Trauma System. *Am Surg.* 2016 Sep;82(9):763–7.
29. Lynch K, Cho S, Andres R, Knight J, Con J. Pre-operative Identification and Surgical Management of the Appendiceal Mucocele: A Case Report. *W V Med J.* 2016 Aug;112(4):28–30.
30. Lynch KT, Essig RM, Long DM, Wilson A, Con J. Nationwide secondary overtriage in level 3 and level 4 trauma centers: are these transfers necessary? *J Surg Res.* 2016 Aug;204(2):460–6.
31. Mahmood I, El-Menyar A, Dabdoob W, Abdulrahman Y, Siddiqui T, Atique S, et al. Troponin T in Patients with Traumatic Chest Injuries with and without Cardiac Involvement: Insights from an Observational Study. *N Am J Med Sci.* 2016 Jan;8(1):17–24.
32. Maxwell J, Gwardschaladse C, Lombardo G, Petrone P, Policastro A, Karev D, et al. The impact of measurement of respiratory quotient by indirect calorimetry on the achievement of nitrogen balance in patients with severe traumatic brain injury. *Eur J Trauma Emerg Surg.* 2016 Sep 22;
33. Zangbar B, Khalil M, Gruessner A, Joseph B, Friese R, Kulvatunyou N, et al. Levetiracetam Prophylaxis for Post-traumatic Brain Injury Seizures is Ineffective: A Propensity Score Analysis. *World J Surg.* 2016 Nov;40(11):2667–72.



Department of Surgery

**Westchester
Medical Center**

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NEW YORK MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Department of Surgery