



Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai

Career Planning Services Newsletter

August 2016

Spotlight on: Surgery

Overview

From [AAMC Careers in Medicine](#) >choose your specialty>Surgery

General surgery is a discipline of surgery having a central core of knowledge common to all surgical specialties--anatomy, physiology, metabolism, immunology, nutrition, pathology, wound healing, shock and resuscitation, intensive care, and neoplasia. General surgeons are trained to manage a broad spectrum of diseases and injuries affecting almost any area of the body that requires surgical intervention. These physicians are involved in diagnosis, preoperative, operative and postoperative care of the surgical patient, and they are trained to provide comprehensive management of trauma and complete care of critically ill patients with underlying surgical conditions. The surgeon uses a variety of diagnostic techniques, including endoscopy, for observing internal structures, and may use specialized instruments during operative procedures. Although its scope is broad, general surgery usually involves the abdomen, breasts, peripheral vasculature, skin, and neck. General surgeons rarely perform neurologic, orthopaedic, thoracic, or urologic procedures, but they should be familiar with other surgical specialties to know when to refer a patient to another specialist. They should possess excellent manual dexterity and make decisions quickly and decisively.



Why I Chose General Surgery

By Linda Zhang, MD, Assistant Professor of Surgery, Director of Global Surgery Program

When I did my surgery rotation in medical school, I discovered that I loved many aspects of the field. I did not mind waking up earlier than any other rotation, working harder, and staying later. The fact that I could see the product of my hard work in a patient's recovery made it worthwhile. Surgery is a hands-on skill, and it's about perfecting that skillset that keeps me yearning to be better. I love that surgery is about fixing people, in a controlled and speedy manner. Unlike many other medical problems, a surgeon is able to provide a solution to a sometimes life-threatening condition and make a dramatic difference within a short period of time.

Surgery is a field that you have to really love in order to be happy in it. Yes, residency and lifestyle is harder than other fields. But I could not imagine myself being as fruitful and happy in any other profession. Now as an attending, I am able to make it all work, have a family, and still be excited every day when I go to work.

Information about Surgery from AAMC Careers in Medicine

Subspecialties

- Hand Surgery, General Surgery
- Pediatric Surgery, General Surgery
- Surgical Critical Care, General Surgery
- Vascular Surgery, General Surgery

Setting

55% of physicians in this specialty practice in an urban setting at:

- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Administration

6% of physicians in this specialty practice in a rural setting at:

- Office Based Patient Care
- Hospital Based Physician Staff
- Administration

Patient Profile

5 most frequently encountered conditions

1. Breast disease
2. Gall bladder disease
3. Hernias
4. GI cancer
5. Acute abdomen/appendicitis

Length of training

5 year(s)

Median Salary

Early career
\$ 310,373

All physicians
\$ 383,598

Average Hours Worked Per Week

59.4



Want more information about Surgery?

Specialty advisor: Dr. Susan Lerner, Assistant Professor

Chairman: Michael Marin, MD Professor and System Chair, Department of Surgery

Check out the Specialty Information page on the CPS App!

<http://cps.careteamapp.com/home>

Societies, Boards, and Other Organizations

[American Board of Surgery](#)
[American College of Surgeons](#)
[American Society for Bariatric Surgery](#)
[American Society of General Surgeons](#)
[Association for Surgical Education](#)
[Association of Women Surgeons](#)
[Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons](#)

Publications

[Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons](#)
[Journal of the American College of Surgeons](#)
[Archives of Surgery](#)
[American Journal of Surgery](#)
[Surgery](#)
[Annals of Surgery](#)

Office of Student Affairs

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Annenberg 13-30

Blackboard>Student Resources>Career Planning Services

<http://icahn.mssm.edu/education/medical/student-affairs>