

University of Washington Neurological Surgery Residency Program Position Description and Essential Functions

Program Name

University of Washington Neurological Surgery Residency Program

Position Identification

Resident Physician (PGY-1 through PGY-7)

Position Summary

The University of Washington Neurological Surgery Residency Program is a seven-year postgraduate medical education program accredited by ACGME that is designed to prepare physicians for independent practice in neurological surgery and eligibility for certification by the American Board of Neurological Surgery (ABNS). The residency provides progressive clinical, operative, research, educational, and leadership experiences across multiple training sites, including Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle Children's Hospital, and affiliated clinical and research locations.

Residents participate in the comprehensive care of patients with disorders of the brain, spine, peripheral nerves, and cerebrovascular system. Responsibilities include inpatient and outpatient care, operative management, emergency consultation, perioperative management, intensive care, scholarly activity, and teaching of more junior learners. Residents progressively assume greater responsibility for patient care, operative decision-making, team leadership, and supervision under the direction of attending neurosurgeons and program leadership.

The program emphasizes development in all ACGME core competencies, including patient care, medical knowledge, professionalism, interpersonal and communication skills, systems-based practice, and practice-based learning and improvement.

Under the supervision of attending faculty, residents are responsible for participating in the evaluation and management of neurosurgical patients across inpatient, outpatient, operative, emergency, and intensive care settings.

UW GME Expectations for Professional Behavior

All residents must comply with UW Medicine professionalism policies, ACGME Common Program Requirements, UW GME policies, and institutional requirements.

Essential Position Functions

Administrative Functions

Residents must complete credentialing, onboarding, evaluations, procedure logs, work hour reporting, scheduling requests, annual surveys, required examinations, and participation in program meetings in a timely manner.

Educational Functions

Residents are expected to attend required educational conferences, Grand Rounds, M&M conferences, and surgical simulation activities. Residents must also participate in scholarly activity (including research, presentations, quality improvement, and manuscript preparation).

Patient Care Functions

Residents must provide timely and effective patient care across inpatient, outpatient, emergency, intensive care, and operative settings. Responsibilities include documentation, consultations, patient communication, operative participation, and emergency response responsibilities.

Shift and Schedule Functions

Residents must complete day, night, weekend, holiday, in-house call, and home call assignments at any/all participating training sites, including Harborview Medical Center, University of Washington Medical Center-Montlake, University of Washington Medical Center-Northwest, and Seattle Children's Hospital.

Cognitive Functions

Residents must gather and synthesize complex clinical information, recognize urgent neurological conditions, maintain sound judgment under stress, and apply evolving medical knowledge to patient care.

Communication Functions

Residents must communicate effectively in verbal and written formats with patients, families, faculty, staff, and interdisciplinary healthcare teams, including effective handoffs and documentation.

Physical Functions

Residents must maintain prolonged stationary positions during operative procedures, move throughout clinical environments, perform repetitive fine motor tasks, utilize surgical instruments and clinical equipment, and respond rapidly to emergencies.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

The University of Washington prohibits discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct in any education program or activity that it operates. Residents are entitled to equal access and opportunity consistent with institutional and legal standards.