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
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 inforesearch@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., FACS, FICS
Director, Department of Surgery Chief of General Surgery, and Trauma Program Director, Surgical Critical Care Fellowship Westchester Medical Center
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