Welcome to UCSD! We are excited to have you rotate with us and want to ensure that you feel supported during your time here. The goal of this document is to provide answers to basic logistical questions that you may have during your rotation and to provide you with contact information should you have any additional questions.

Program Information

We have 7 residents a year in our general surgery program. Our residents rotate through 5 major clinical sites: UCSD Jacobs Medical Center/Thornton Hospital, UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center, VA Medical Center, Rady Children’s Hospital, and Kaiser Permanente. These clinical sites give residents exposure to the full spectrum of surgical diseases, from “bread and butter” surgical cases to highly specialized surgical care. In this way, our program prepares residents for any type of surgical career. Our graduates match at top fellowship spots and pursue careers in academic medicine as well as practice general surgery right out of residency. Research years are optional but encouraged. Please visit our residency website for additional information. (https://medschool.ucsd.edu/som/surgery/education/residency/general-surgery/Pages/default.aspx).

Visiting Rotation Logistics

Where is my clinical site?
Visiting students rotate through 3 of the clinical sites: UCSD Jacobs Medical Center/Thornton Hospital in La Jolla (north), UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center in Hillcrest (south), and Rady Children’s Hospital (central east). The sites are about a 20-30 minute drive apart depending on traffic. Please see the map below for a visual. Your specific rotation will provide details about which clinical site you will be at.

There is conference every Wednesday morning from 6:30-8:30 am (M&M followed by Grand Rounds) on the La Jolla campus. An optional but highly encouraged part of your rotation will be to present an interesting case during M&M. There are also rotation specific teaching conferences as well as monthly Chairman Rounds at the La Jolla and Hillcrest sites.

Prior to arrival, please contact the listed course contact who will provide you with specific instructions and connect you with the resident team you will be working with. You can also contact the 4th year clerkship advisor, Dr. Ava Hosseini, for any questions (avhosseini@ucsd.edu).
Typical Traffic Patterns:
In the mornings, traffic is worse going from Hillcrest (south) to La Jolla (north). In the afternoons, traffic is worse going from La Jolla to Hillcrest. Typical drive time during morning and afternoon rush hour in these directions is 30-45 minutes.

UCSD Shuttle Information:
There is a UCSD Health System shuttle that runs multiple times throughout the day between the UCSD Hillcrest Medical Center (Hillcrest), the Gilman Transit Center (outside of the VA in La Jolla) and the UCSD Jacobs Medical Center (also in La Jolla). This shuttle runs about every half hour. You can see the scheduled departure/arrival times for this shuttle at: https://transportation.ucsd.edu/shuttles/hillcrest.html#Southbound-to-UC-San-Diego-Heal

Where should I live?
You can reference the map above to see the relative positions of various San Diego neighborhoods to the clinical sites. Many visiting students utilize services such as “Airbnb” or “Rotating Room” to locate a place to stay.

Program Leadership
Dr. Bryan Clary, MD – Chair of the Department of Surgery
Dr. Garth Jacobsen, MD – General Surgery Residency Program Director
Dr. Jason Sicklick, MD – Assistant Program Director
Dr. Laura Godat, MD – Assistant Program Director
Dr. Ava Hosseini, MD – 4th Year Clerkship Advisor

Best of luck on your rotation! We look forward to working with you.