

Leadership Team

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About the Residency Program

The MCG-GRU Internal Medicine program was fully reaccredited in 2013 by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. We are committed to the development of outstanding physicians according to the six core competencies of patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning, communication, professionalism, and systems-based practice. With 17 categorical, 10 preliminary, and 1 research/categorical residents per year, we are a moderate sized program allowing for personalized opportunities for residents with fluid training. With the aim of developing future leaders in medicine, our faculty and staff foster attitudes, skills, and habits of excellence amongst the residents, both individually and collectively. A unique combination of longitudinal mentorship, resident collegiality, and patient-centered care mark the program as one moving resolutely into the forefront of 21st century medicine.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Department of Medicine residency program is to train and produce outstanding clinicians able to

accept their choice of subspecialty fellowship or one of the broad range of practice opportunities afforded a general internist. This mission is accomplished through rigorous learner-centered education based on outstanding patient care experience, leadership development, and scholastic achievement.



MCG Facts:

- Founded in 1828; 13th oldest medical school in the US
- More than 2,400 students in Schools of Allied health, Dentistry, Graduate Studies, Nursing and Medicine
- Inpatient services at the bed MCG medical center and adjacent VA medical center, and training at nearby University Hospital
- Approximately 937 full and part time faculty, 455 residents and fellows, 88 PhD candidates, and 20 MD-PhD candidates
- Multidimensional basic, clinical, and translational resident research
- Within the University System, MCG has links to Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University and the University of Georgia
- Fellowships in *Allergy, Cardiology, Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Hematology-Oncology, Infectious Disease, Nephrology, Pulmonology-Critical Care, and Rheumatology*



Lee A Merchen, M.D.

Lee A Merchen, M.D., Program Director

The Medical College of Georgia reflects the diverse goals of our Residency program welcomes you to Augusta warmly, and we wish you a productive and informative interview while you are here. Our program is designed to train you to become a competent internist. During your training, we will challenge you and provide opportunities for diverse career paths, as practicing physicians, educators, physician-scientists and administrators. The program is fluid and adaptive, and you will have the opportunity to mold it to accommodate both patient and training needs as they evolve. The approach

community at large. We are the largest residency program at the University and have a strong reputation of clinical excellence, dedication to the art and practice of medicine, and camaraderie among our house staff. I am extremely proud of the exemplary work of our residents and equally proud of the outstanding and eclectic careers they pursue after graduating.

Please enjoy your visit to Augusta. Find out the distinctives that make us proud of who we are and what we offer here, and know that we are delighted to welcome you all!

Program Structure	2
Curriculum	3
Research	4
Fellowships	4
About Augusta	5-6
Resident Benefits	6-7
Resident Life	7
Application Process	8

Program Structure – Residency Program Tracks



The Old Medical College

“You will find warm weather, Southern hospitality, and an exciting quest for medical knowledge and its application to outstanding patients”

Categorical

We offer four tracks for categorical medicine residents. This provides residents the opportunity to pursue their personal academic goals while satisfying the requirements of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

1. General Medicine Track: Prepares residents for a career as a general internist working primarily in an outpatient primary care or multi-specialty setting. Residents receive special training in practice organization, communication skills and small group leadership.

2. Research Track: Designed for candidates primarily interested in pursuing a career in research, it is a 5 year integrated program that combines training in research with training in clinical internal medicine, where the first 3 years are dedicated to research work, followed by 2 years of residency training. Throughout the research block, 10% of time is dedicated to outpatient ambulatory clinic. The coursework will lead to a Master’s Degree in Biomedical Science and will focus on clinical and genetic epidemiology, pharmacology and medical outcomes, among others.



Preliminary Medicine Internship

This track is for medical graduates desiring strong internal medicine training prior to assuming a residency in specialties such as neurology, dermatology, radiology, emergency medicine, psychiatry, and others. The one year internship is rich in inpatient general medicine, cardiology, nephrology, hematology/oncology and critical care, and establishes key competencies in care of very ill patients that will be of great value during a future career in a variety of specialties.

Didactics



- Journal Club—Structured review of evidence based literature pertaining to specific clinical problems PGY 2 & 3 residents
- Noon Conference every Monday, Thursday, and Friday—system/specialty based
- Harrisons based curriculum integrated into Didactic schedule
- Interdisciplinary Conference every Wednesday at noon, Translational Research conference once a month
- Morbidity Mortality and Improvement Conference monthly
- Housestaff Meeting at noon once per month
- Quality Improvement projects - lead by PGY3's

- Afternoon report Monday - Friday at 3:00 PM—Discussion of interesting cases and key multidisciplinary management issues (EKG, Heme/Onc, GI, Nephrology, ID, Rheumatology Unknowns, Board/MKSAP Review, ADR)
- Medicine Grand Rounds every Tuesday at 12:00 PM—Leaders in their field from GRU and other institutions present cutting edge topics.
- Resident Report—Evidence-based discussion of current medical topics by PGY 2 residents

Curriculum

PGY-1		PGY-2	
	Blocks		Blocks
General Medicine Wards	4.5	General Medicine Wards	3
Nephrology Wards	1	Medical ICU	1
Hematology-Oncology Wards	1	Cardiology/CCU	1
Medical ICU	1	Night Float Team	2
Cardiology/CCU	1	ER	1
Patient Centered Care Selective (PCC)	1	Medical Economics	0.5
Night Float	1	Palliative Care	0.5
Electives	2.5	Neurology	0.5
		Electives	3.5

PGY-3	
	Blocks
General Medicine Wards	2
MICU	1
Cardiology/CCU	1
Geriatrics	0.5
University Hospital	1
Women's Health	0.5
Night Float Team	1.5
Quality Improvement Project	1
Electives	5
Medical Consults	0.5



“A strength of our program is the moderate size for an academic program which allows intimate, personal supervision and mentorship...”

Daily Schedule/Call Schedule

Inpatient Wards

- Currently there are 3 inpatient wards services at GRU and 3 at the VA. The general medicine teams are composed of 1 Resident and 2 Interns. Hematology/Oncology subspecialty team has 1 fellow and 2 interns. Nephrology subspecialty team has 1 fellow and 2 interns.
- The general medicine teams operate on a q4 call schedule at MCG and q4 at the VA with an incorporated Night Float system. When a team is on long call, they will admit patients from 7am-7pm, the Night Float Resident will have admitting responsibilities from 7pm-7am. No overnight call for any housestaff.
- Both GRU and VA hospitalists will have an inpatient hospitalist service working with the residency program.

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
7 - 8:15	RESIDENT WORK ROUNDS/PRE-ROUND WITH ATTENDING ON DISCHARGES				
8:15 - 9:30	RESIDENT WORK ROUNDS				
9:30 - 11:00	ATTENDING ROUNDS				
11 - 12	FINISH ROUNDS/WORK ORDERS/PATIENT DISCHARGES				
12 - 1	CONFERENCE	GRAND ROUNDS	IRCC	CONFERENCE	CONFERENCE
1 - 3	UNFINISHED WORK FROM THE AM				
3 - 4	AFTERNOON REPORT				
4 - 7	LONG CALL TEAM CAN BEGIN ACCEPTING CHECKOUT				

MICU/CCU

- At MCG each Critical Care service has 1 Fellow, 2-3 Residents, and 1-2 Interns in addition to 1-2 off-service interns.
- At the VA, the MICU team consists of 1 Fellow, 1 Resident, and 1 Intern.
- MICU/CCU Nights covered by rotating intern/resident
- ICU/Cardiology coverage at night has been incorporated into our Night Float Team system.
- In-house pulmonary/critical care fellow

4+2 Ambulatory Block Scheduling

- We are transitioning to a 4+2 block schedule which will consist of 4 week blocks of inpatient duties alternating with 2 weeks of outpatient ambulatory experiences and continuity clinic.
- Inpatient services will not have the distraction of outpatient duties and our outpatient experience will remain protected
- This will ensure full immersion in the educational experience for our housestaff over the course of their training.



Augusta, the 2nd largest city in Georgia, is located on the south bank of the Savannah River, only a short distance from the Great Smokey Mountains or the coastal beaches of South Carolina and Georgia. It is a growing and thriving city with a metropolitan area population of 500,000. Augusta, nicknamed the Garden City of the South, is the hub of the CSRA (Central Savannah River Area) which includes the surrounding counties of South Carolina and Georgia and is well known for its balmy climate with an average temperature of 64 degrees and its golf, headlined by the Augusta National Golf Club, home of the annual Masters Golf Tournament.



History—There's more than Bobby Jones

Augusta, also the 2nd oldest city in Georgia, was founded in 1736 by General James E. Oglethorpe, who named the city for Princess Augusta, wife of the Prince of Wales. The city is steeped in history as a pivotal site during the Revolutionary and Civil wars, boasting the only structure ever built by the Confederate States of America—the site of the old Confederate Powderworks. With the construction of the Augusta Canal in 1847, it became the second largest inland cotton market in the world during the cotton boom. Several historic neighborhoods and buildings grace the city, including the Cotton Exchange, est. in 1872, the boyhood home of Woodrow Wilson (28th President), the Ezekial Harris House (1797), Meadow Garden (home of George Walton, the youngest signer of the Declaration of Independence), and the Springfield Baptist Church, the oldest African American church in

America. One can tour the Augusta Museum of History, the Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, or even endeavor to participate in one of the many walking/driving tours.

The Outdoors—Not all water is considered a Hazard

While water hazards on the course challenge the avid golfer, the Savannah River bordered by Riverwalk Augusta, Strom Thurmond Lake and Dam, Lake Olmstead, the Augusta Canal, and Savannah Rapids provide many leisurely activities throughout the year including:

- Swimming, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and even cycling along the Canal
- Augusta is recognized as the water sports capital of the Southeast and home to the Augusta Southern Nationals (the world's richest drag boat race) and several international rowing regattas
- One can also enjoy the beauty of the wild at several state parks, as well as Aiken's Hitchcock Woods, the largest urban forest in America.



Sports—Imagine that...the Augusta "Greenjackets"



- Headlined by the Augusta Greenjackets, Augusta's professional baseball team,
- Across the river in nearby Aiken, equestrian events are king, as the area is well known for breeding Kentucky Derby contenders and has the oldest continuously active polo club in the Americas, now hosting the third leg of the Triple Crown of Polo. The Aiken Trials and Steeplechase events also dot the calendar in the spring and fall, the latter typically drawing around 25-30,000 spectators.
- Augusta is also only 2 hours from Atlanta for any major professional sporting events, as well as within 2 hours of the 4 major universities in the area—the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, Clemson, and the University of South Carolina
- Last but definitely not least is of course the sport Mark Twain was quoted as describing "a good walk spoiled"—golf. The CSRA boasts >30 golf courses and >15 allow non-member play



Art, Music, and Festivals—From Masters week to Lobster Races??

First Friday headlines the art scene, where on the first Friday of each month all of the downtown art galleries and studios are open from 5-10pm with live music and entertainment. The Morris Museum of Art, the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Artists Row, the Aiken Center for the Arts, and the National Science Center’s Fort Discovery are all offered as a change of pace. Several entertainment venues outside of the bar scene are also in the area, including:

- Imperial Theatre, Bell Auditorium (featuring the Augusta Ballet and Symphony), the Riverwalk amphitheater, the Civic Center, Fort Gordon Dinner Theater, the Aiken Convocation Center, and the Aiken Community Playhouse.
- Featured events include everything from Broadway musicals and national musical acts, such as Hinder and Charlie Daniels, to the Wiggles, the Ringling Bros Circus, and Disney on Ice
- The plethora of festivals in the area include Arts in the Heart of Augusta, the CSRA Winefest, A Day in the Country at the Riverwalk, the USC/Georgia Football Border Bash, Riverblast, Lights of the South, Kicks 99 Guitar pull, both the Western Carolina and Georgia/Carolina fairs, Aiken Bluegrass Festival, Aiken Jazz Festival, Aiken Highland Games, Aiken’s Makin’ arts and crafts show, the Hopelands Gardens Concert series, and of course the Aiken Lobster Races held on the day of the Kentucky Derby each year. The Saturday Farmers Market on Broad is also a shopping destination for local produce and crafts.



Fine Dining—From the veranda at the National to Takosushi

- Augusta boasts a wide variety of restaurants to appease any palate from down home Southern cooking to French, Italian, Cajun, German, Indian, Cuban, Thai, Mexican, Irish, and anything in between.
- Some local favorites are Bee’s Knees, Takosushi, Pizza Joint, Calvert’s, Cotton Patch, French Market Grille, La Maison on Telfair, Rhinehart’s Oyster Bar, Sconyer’s BBQ, Augsburg Haus, Boll Weevil Café, Villa Europa, Wild Wings, Augustino’s, Blue Sky, Bistro 491, Frog Hollow, Farmhaus, and 5 o’clock bistro.



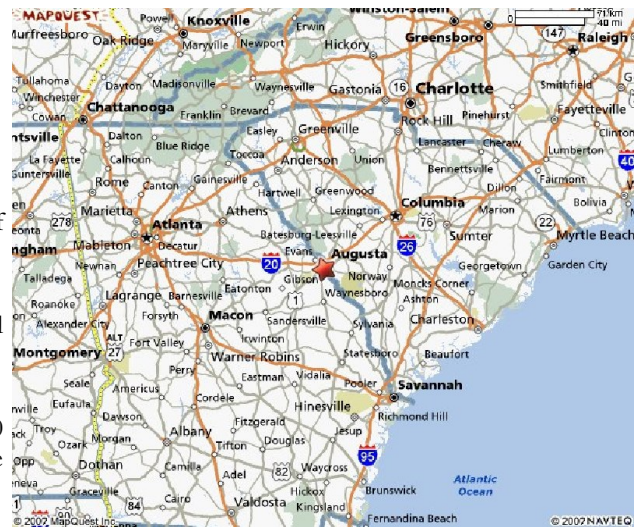
Nightlife—In Augusta, you’ll see plenty of birdies, eagles, and night owls

Whatever your style, Augusta can probably offer you a nighttime haven outside of the hospital. Broad street has an eclectic mix of restaurants, clubs, pubs, and coffeehouses that boast live music throughout the year, whether you like jazz, techno, dance, karaoke, or are even feeling a little country. Enjoy local music and cuisine each ‘Fifth Friday’ in Downtown.

- MCG hotspots include Bee’s Knees, Coyote’s, Joe’s Underground, Metro A Coffeehouse,, Room 9, Soul Bar, Still Water Tap Room, Surrey Tavern, Tap Tap, The Country Club, Wild Wings and the Fox’s Lair, (where once a week an MCG attending plays traditional Irish pub and drinking songs to a vocal crowd).

Quick Facts—2-3 hours from the mountains or the beach

- Est 1736
- Metro Population 500,000
- Major Highways: Interstates 20 and 520, US Routes 1, 25, 78, 278
- Colleges: MCG, Augusta State, Pain College, Augusta Tech, University of South Carolina at Aiken, Aiken Tech
- Military Installations: Fort Gordon
- Airports: Augusta Regional Airport, Daniel Field, and Aiken Municipal Airport
- Average temperature: 64 degrees F
- 68 miles to Columbia, 100 miles to Athens, 124 miles to Savannah, 150 miles to either Atlanta or Charleston (a couple of hours to either the mountains or the beach!)



Research



MCG Cancer Research Center

“We have to dream the impossible to make it possible...We have to create a team of people who are in it for the fun of science, and beyond that, making the lives of others better”



Residents actively participate in research in various basic and clinical science settings. Around 25 residents had presentations accepted at regional and/or national meetings of various professional organizations such as American College of Physicians, American College of Gastroenterology, and American Heart Association, American College of Cardiology.

The **7th Annual Rahn-Peacock Research Day** was held in March 2015. There were 121 presentations with cash prizes awarded to the winners:

Award for Excellence in Research by a Graduate Medical Residents: Abhishek Mangaonkar “Indoleamine 2,3-Dioxygenase-1 Expression in Acute Myeloid Leukemia” and Monique Bethel “Nephrolithiasis and Osteoporosis: Findings from the Women’s Health Initiative”



Resident Salaries

Annual Monthly

PGY 1	48,327	4,027.00
PGY 2	49,947	4,162.25
PGY 3	51,656	4,304.66
PGY 4	56,648	4,470.66
PGY 5	55,917	4,659.75
PGY 6	58,341	4,861.75

Link to GME site: <http://www.gru.edu/Resident/Index.html>

Link to Benefits Plan, contract and summary of benefits:

<http://www.gru.edu/Resident/forms/benefits.pdf>

Fellowships/Post-Residency Plans

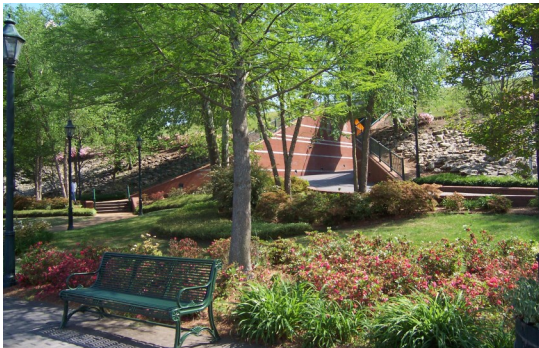
About 60% of our residents pursue subspecialties, while the remainder are divided equally into primary care and Hospitalist positions.

2015 Graduate Plans

Pulmonary	- 4
Hospitalist	- 5
Chief Resident	- 3
Primary Care	- 2
ID	- 3
Cardiology	- 3
Hem/Onc	- 3

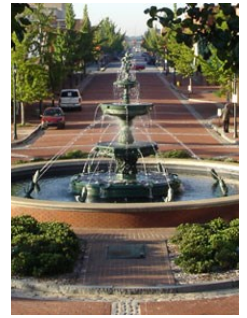


Resident Benefits



- CME days available (2nd and 3rd year)
- Dental insurance is available at group rates
- Professional liability insurance provided
- Life insurance (Disability insurance)
- Malpractice insurance
- 14 days of sick leave
- Maternity / paternity leave
- ABIM – In-Training Exam yearly – fees paid
- Associate membership to the ACP
- Subscription to Annals of Internal Medicine
- BLS and ACLS Certification & re-certification
- Handbook for inpatient medicine
- Leadership conference – PGY-2 categorical
- Pager
- MCG Email Account

- 4 weeks vacation (includes 1 week at Christmas or New Year)
- MKSAP – PGY-2 year
- Travel stipends for those who present at conferences
- 2 lab coats
- Lunches provided at many noon conferences
- Free Parking in deck located adjacent to hospital
- Membership at state-of-the art MCG Wellness Center (\$20/month) or families (\$40/month)
- Health Insurance – resident and dependents receive plans at a favorable rate and are fully reimbursed (within the MCG network) and prescriptions



As James Brown would put it "We Feel Good"

Cost of living comparison

Equivalent Income to Maintain Living Standard based on \$50,000 income in Augusta, GA

Atlanta	\$55,521	Gainesville, FL	\$57,122
Birmingham, AL	\$51,078	Jacksonville, FL	\$55,096
Chapel Hill, NC	\$63,418	Nashville, TN	\$50,717
Charleston, SC	\$57,415	New York, NY	\$97,446
Charlotte, NC	\$54,390	Richmond, VA	\$58,149
Charlottesville, VA	\$59,354	San Francisco, CA	\$92,935
Chicago, IL	\$66,683	Tampa, FL	\$53,564
Dallas, TX	\$55,262	Washington, DC	\$80,228
Boston, MA	\$79,034		

"These activities have led to a strong sense of camaraderie, which we believe is vital to a positive work environment and residency experience"

Resident Life

Our residents and attendings are an affable and fun loving group that enjoys spending time with each other outside the hospital, just as much as working together at MCG. In addition to the numerous activities Augusta has to offer, we sponsor events such as residents' night out, softball games, holiday parties, Greenjackets' games, and other social outings to further help residents relax and foster relationships with their peers outside the hospital setting. These activities have led to a strong sense of camaraderie, which we believe is vital to a positive work environment and residency experience.



In addition to an outstanding medical education, our community offers great weather, minimal traffic, affordable living, and world-class golf. We invite you to visit us soon at the Medical College of Georgia and look forward to showing you what Augusta has to offer!



Internal Medicine Residency Program
Medical College of Georgia
1120 15th Street BI-5070
Augusta, GA 30912-3103
Phone: 706-721-2423



Application Process

Resident Recruitment

Candidates must apply through ERAS, and December 1st is the final date we accept applications. It is best if you apply and book your date early as we get filled quickly and space is limited by date. The recruitment activities include dinner the evening before the interview, an introduction to MCG, a tour of the facility, free time with the residents, interviews, lunch, and a tour of Augusta.

Preliminary intern candidates can be interviewed on the same date as their specialty interview. Candidates must apply directly to the program through the ERAS system and schedule your interview accordingly. If you need more information about this, you can email mtorres@gru.edu or call the housestaff office at 706-721-2423. For more information visit www.gru.edu/resident/internalmed.

