



Resident Education:
*Advancing the Science of
Surgical Care*

**Mark & Susan Horwitz
Surgery Resident Education Fund**

University of Florida
College of Medicine
Department of Surgery

Investing in Resident Education – Why here? Why now?

This document is designed to illustrate how meaningful your gift of \$50,000 will be in the area of resident education at the University of Florida, College of Medicine, Department of Surgery.

The Department of Surgery has a long tradition of training outstanding clinical surgeons and leaders in academic surgery. The fundamental mission of the department is to provide excellence in patient care, research and education.

The University of Florida (UF)

The University of Florida is a major public, land-grant, research-intensive institution with over 50,000 students. As the state's oldest public university with the most comprehensive range of specializations, UF is among the nation's most academically diverse higher education institutions in the Southeast, as well as the country. UF is proud to be Florida's only member of the Association of American Universities, composed of 62 of the most distinguished public and private research universities in North America. In addition, the university has been ranked in the top three institutions in the area of tech transfer for successfully transferring our discoveries in the lab to applications available to the public to improve the quality of life.

Training the Next Generation of Surgeons

The purpose of the Resident Education program is to create a learning environment that focuses on objective-driven education to challenge learners and encourage critical thinking. The program provides the structure to acquire the depth and breath of knowledge that will serve as the foundation for sound surgical judgment and evidence-based solutions. With a sound fund of knowledge the surgical trainee is prepared to deliver excellent patient care addressing the great diversity of pathology that exists at the University of Florida.

The program provides the best general surgical training by inculcating highly motivated learners with a sound fund of knowledge that translates into superb clinical judgment and expert technical skill. Importantly, the program instills in the trainees a purpose and commitment to the patient, confidence based on self-education for life-long learning, and professionalism that will allow them to adapt to the ever-changing environment of general surgery.

The Department of Surgery believes cutting-edge surgical care begins with outstanding surgical investigators, who ask important questions that will lead to major advances in patient care. Therefore, surgical research is a cornerstone for clinical care and

education. The commitment to surgical science education has established a culture of outstanding achievement in scientific investigation.

The curriculum provided for residents advances a residents' knowledge of the basic principles of research, including how research is conducted, evaluated, explained to patients, and applied to patient care. The Department of Surgery allocates resources to residents to be able to participate in clinical and/or laboratory research that supports their scholarly activities.

Residents in Action

UF SURGICAL RESIDENTS HONORED FOR TRAUMA RESEARCH

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Two University of Florida College of Medicine surgical residents recently swept a state trauma research competition with wins in both the basic and clinical science categories. The UF honors extended to the regional level in November with a win in the clinical science category at an American College of Surgeons' competition.

Robert Winfield, M.D., a third-year clinical resident, won both the Florida State Committee on Trauma and the American College of Surgeons' Committee on Trauma Region IV resident competitions for his clinical research work in the area of trauma's impact on morbidly obese patients.

Winfield, who took two years out from his clinical residency training to focus on research, found that morbidly obese people involved in major trauma do not respond the same way to traditional resuscitative measures, such as intravenous fluids, as people of normal weight do, and that this response can be associated with the development of multiple organ failure.

"Our identification of a differential response to traditional resuscitative practices carries profound implications for the care of these patients following traumatic injury," said Winfield, who added the next steps will be to evaluate amounts and types of fluids provided to patients and assess how they are monitored, and to look at other variables that may play a role in the development of multiple organ failure in obese patients.

Elizabeth Warner, M.D., currently in her second year of research as part of her surgical residency training, found that neutrophils, a type of white blood cell that migrates to the lungs of patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome, or ARDS, have very different patterns of gene expression than neutrophils found in the same person's circulatory system.

“These findings will help the scientific community to understand the mechanisms that drive the inflammation and progression of ARDS, which can lead to the development of new drug and gene therapies that might one day improve the survival of these patients,” said Warner, who will return to her clinical training next fall. She added that further research could potentially identify a specific gene expression pattern associated with the syndrome that may help surgeons determine how patients will respond after surgery.

Both Winfield and Warner conducted their research in the UF department of surgery’s Inflammation Biology and Surgical Science laboratory, headed by Lyle L. Moldawer, Ph.D., the department’s vice chair of research. UF offers surgical residents an opportunity to spend one or two years in a laboratory conducting research. Traditionally this opportunity is available to any of the five residents in each training class who have the interest.

Winfield’s research was supported by a combination of departmental funding, funding from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and a training grant from the National Cancer Institute. Warner’s research was supported with UF general surgery research funding, and funding from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Both received the Quillian H. Jones Jr. Award plaque, along with a monetary award, at the state competition.

Winfield’s research will now be considered for national presentation at the American College of Surgeons’ Committee on Trauma annual meeting. He will find out this winter if he has been selected.

Lawrence Lottenberg, M.D., a UF associate professor of surgery and trauma medical director, said he is very proud of the accomplishments of Drs. Winfield and Warner, and that their outstanding research has been recognized at the state, regional and national levels.

“The University of Florida acute care surgery division within the department of surgery is training the true 'triple talent surgeon'; clinical, education and research,” said Lottenberg.

Mark & Susan Horwitz Surgery Resident Education Fund

The department is poised, with the assistance of private philanthropy, to address the most challenging healthcare issues facing patients. The integration of surgical proficiency with advanced surgical science creates a unique environment for patients,

faculty, trainees and staff. It is an exciting time to participate in such an invigorating healthcare setting.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing the science of surgical care.

The **Mark & Susan Horwitz Surgery Resident Education Fund** will allow three residents per year to be able to attend educational seminars and present original data, papers, and/or research to advance their scholarly work.

You will be invited to the Annual End of Year Celebration for graduating residents. The event is called the Chief Resident Dinner and it is generally held the middle of June each year. *The event this year will be held on June 20, 2009.*

The Vision

The residents in the Department of Surgery at the University of Florida have the unique opportunity to take time away from their clinical responsibilities after the completion of their second year to gain experience and training in the basic sciences. Typically the residents have a choice to matriculate onto either of two NIH National Research service Award Y32 Postdoctoral Training Grants that are dedicated to training surgeon scientists in the basic sciences.

The vision is to add a third research slot supported entirely by private philanthropy. The cost to have a resident take two years away from their clinical responsibility to gain experience and training in the basic sciences is \$125,000 per resident.

Thank you for your gift.

DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS

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