Surgery-in-General and Surgical Specialties
From the Program Director

A warm welcome to the SingHealth Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties (SIGSS) Residency Program!

We are thrilled that you have an interest in pursuing specialist surgical training in SingHealth. The SIGSS program caters for Residents who will go into training in the fields of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Hand Surgery, Neurosurgery, Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery and Urology.

The SingHealth SIGSS Residency Program is a seamless track to specialist training. The aim is to give you a strong grounding in the fundamentals of Surgical Science and Practice over two years, prior to entering advanced training in the individual specialties. Having been carefully crafted and coordinated by the team, the program is tailored to the requirements for training in the various disciplines.

You can expect a structured curriculum with regular formative assessments and timely feedback. Fear not as you will be closely mentored – your progress in training is carefully monitored to ensure that you develop your clinical and surgical skills well.

Wouldn’t you like to gain exposure to a broad spectrum of clinical conditions? Well, the rich SingHealth clinical case-mix together with our strong Faculty and long heritage in post graduate medical education will ensure that you receive excellent training in your chosen field.

You are invited to join the program after completing either your Transitional Year (TY) or Housemanship. You can also apply for the program in your TY or Housemanship year. We are looking for committed individuals who are highly motivated, responsible and able to work in a team. Prior exposure to the specialty as a student or Medical Officer is preferable as it gives the individual a better perspective of the specialty. It goes without saying that a good attitude towards learning is vital.

A career in surgery is very demanding but also extremely rewarding. Dive wholeheartedly into your surgical career and training. I wish you all the best!
Your SIGSS Residency

The Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties Residency Program at SingHealth is a structured program crafted to hone your clinical acumen and surgical skills. The training curriculum comprises an excellent mix of surgical workshops, didactic lectures, conferences and research opportunities.

Cardiothoracic Surgery
The SingHealth Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency Program trains proficient Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons (CTS) to provide cutting-edge tertiary and quaternary care. The National Heart Centre Singapore is the largest CTS centre in Singapore, offering a comprehensive and extensive case-mix for maximum exposure.

Hand Surgery
The SingHealth Hand Surgery Residency Program is a six-year program that will equip you to be a proficient Hand Surgeon. Affiliated to a nationwide Hand Surgery specialist training program that is a world-first, the SingHealth Hand Surgery Residency Program trains Residents to manage all conditions affecting hand and upper limb function.

Neurosurgery
The SingHealth Neurosurgery Residency Program is the national leader, a key innovator in the field of Neurosurgery. The strength of our program lies in diverse clinical material, strong subspecialty focus, and a formalized cognitive training program that includes a fully funded year of research training.

Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery
The SingHealth Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery Residency Program equips Residents with all the competencies and principles of Plastic Surgery. Our comprehensive program encompasses in-depth clinical material, ranging from Pediatric Craniofacial conditions in KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital (KKH) to Adult Reconstructive Surgery and Burns in Singapore General Hospital (SGH).

Urology
The SingHealth Urology Residency Program is one of the first and foremost postgraduate Urology training programs in Asia. Taught by renowned Faculty, our intensive training program incorporates scientific and clinical training spanning the entire spectrum of Urology, including Andrology, Female Urology, Trauma & Reconstructive Urology, Urologic Oncology, Renal Transplantation, Benign Prostate Diseases and Endourology.
Your SIGSS Residency

Most extensive and diverse case-mix

As the nation’s largest and leading public healthcare cluster, SingHealth offers a diverse patient case-mix with our network of two hospitals, five national specialty centres and nine polyclinics. SingHealth performs an aggregate of 200,000 surgical operations annually. This wide exposure offers unparalleled learning opportunities with all the surgical rotations and operative experience necessary to hone your surgical skills.

Outstanding and dedicated Faculty as mentors

We have an outstanding pool of Faculty with a wealth of experience in their surgical specializations and medical education. Our highly committed Faculty will mentor Residents closely with regular feedback and progress tracked by formative assessments.

A world of research opportunities

With a strong emphasis on research, you can look forward to various basic science and clinical research opportunities with guidance from our Faculty and scientists. You will develop your scientific inquiry skills to ensure better patient care.

Vital training and rich exposure

The rich curriculum offers on-the-job training in clinical management through ward rounds, clinic and operative sessions, surgical skill workshops, didactic lectures and seminars. All this is supplemented by visiting professor lectures, grand rounds and conferences.

During the program, Residents will complete courses organized by the Center for Resident and Faculty Development (CRAFD) which are targeted to address the 6 areas of core competencies:

1. Patient Care
2. Medical Knowledge
3. Systems-based Practice
4. Practice-based Learning and Improvement
5. Professionalism
6. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Courses include Residency Quality Improvement (RQI) Workshops, CATs, Systematic Reviews, Meta-Analysis, Mastering Your Risk (MYR), Improving Doctor-Patient Relationship (IDPR) and more.
Your Career Prospects & Development

Residents who graduate from the program will move on to their chosen specialties, including Hand Surgery, Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery and Urology. These are four or five-year programs, excluding the first two years in SIGSS. Residents will be fully trained in their specialty. After completion of their specialty training, they will be on track to be promoted to Associate Consultants in the restructured hospitals in Singapore.

A Wealth of Research Opportunities

The Clinician Scientist track is targeted at Residents who are interested in Research as a career. Residents are expected to spend at least one year doing Research during their Residency. This will lead to a Masters of Clinical Investigation or an equivalent. Clinical Scientist track Residents are also encouraged to do a PhD. After graduating from this program, they are expected to spend at least 50% of their time conducting research as a Clinician Scientist.

If you wish to carve out a name for yourself as a Clinical Scientist, contact us to get started on this exciting pathway.
Your Residency Curriculum

Cardiothoracic Surgery
The SingHealth Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency program is a six-year structured program that includes two years of Surgery-in-General and four years of Advanced Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons (CTS) training. The Advanced CTS Training is spent in cardiovascular and thoracic rotations at the National Heart Centre Singapore. Clinical rotations provide for progressive responsibility and a balanced exposure to adult Cardiovascular Surgery, Congenital Cardiac Surgery, and general Thoracic Surgery.

Hand Surgery
The SingHealth Hand Surgery Residency Program provides Residents with maximum exposure to all aspects of Hand and Microsurgical Reconstructive Limb Surgery. This includes but is not limited to trauma surgery, replantation surgery, reconstructive and flap surgery, nerve and paralytic surgery and wrist surgery.

The first two years in the curriculum will focus on Surgery-in-General, with rotations in General Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery. This is followed by four years of specialization in Hand Surgery where you will be attached to the Singapore General Hospital Hand Surgery Department.

Neurosurgery
The depth of the seven-year SingHealth Neurosurgery Residency program includes two years of Surgery-in-General. This is followed by four years of clinical Neurosurgery where Residents are rotated through Singapore General Hospital, Tan Tock Seng Hospital and KK Women's and Children's Hospital covering all aspects of Neurosurgery. The diverse curriculum spans Neurotrauma & Neurocritical Care, Neuro-oncology, Neurovascular Surgery, Skull Base Surgery, Spine Surgery, Pediatric Neurosurgery, Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, Epilepsy Surgery, Neuroendoscopy and Peripheral Nerve Surgery. In their fifth year, Residents will enjoy a year of fully funded research training in basic, translational or clinical research.
Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

The SingHealth Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery Residency Program is a structured six-year program. The foundational two years for Surgery-In-General include rotations in General Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Hand Surgery, Anaesthesia + SICU and Orthopaedic Surgery.

For the four-year Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery specialization, Residents will be rotated through both departments in Singapore General Hospital and KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital. There, they will cover all aspects of Plastic Surgery including Reconstructive Surgery, Craniofacial Surgery, Burns and Aesthetic Surgery.

Urology

The SingHealth Urology Residency Program is a six-year comprehensive program where Residents participate in a broad and diverse range of open, endoscopic, laparoscopic and robotic urologic surgery procedures. The two-year Surgery-In-General training is designed to enhance acquisition of general surgical knowledge and surgical conditions and features customised rotations in General Surgery, Anaesthesia + SICU, Pediatrics Surgery and Emergency Medicine for Residents. The four-year Urology training encompasses rotations in Singapore General Hospital and Changi General Hospital, giving you extensive exposure in diverse clinical urology conditions, and their medical and surgical management.

"Our highly committed Faculty will mentor Residents closely with regular feedback and progress tracked by formative assessments."
| Rotation Chart - Cardiothoracic Surgery | General Surgery | 12 months |
| R1 SIG | | |
| R2 SIG | Cardiothoracic Surgery | Cardiology and Respiratory Medicine | Anaesthesia + SICU | Emergency Medicine |
| R3 R6 | | | 3 months | 3 months |

Sample Specialties - Cardiothoracic Surgery

| Rotation Chart - Hand Surgery | General Surgery | 12 months |
| R1 SIG | | |
| R2 SIG | Orthopedic Surgery | Emergency Medicine | Hand Surgery | Plastic Surgery |
| R3 R6 | | 3 months | 3 months | 3 months |

Sample Specialties - Hand Surgery

| Rotation Chart - Neurosurgery | General Surgery | 12 months |
| R1 SIG | | |
| R2 SIG | Neurosurgery | Neurology | Anaesthesia + SICU | Orthopedic Spine Surgery |
| R3 R7 | | 3 months | 3 months | 3 months |

Sample Specialties - Neurosurgery

| Rotation Chart - Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery | General Surgery | 12 months |
| R1 SIG | | |
| R2 SIG | Plastic Surgery | Hand Surgery | Anaesthesia + SICU | Orthopedic Surgery |
| R3 R6 | | 3 months | 3 months | 3 months |

Sample Specialties - Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery

Note: For Clinician Scientist track Residents, there will be an additional year allocated for research on top of the six years.

| Rotation Chart - Urology | General Surgery | 12 months |
| R1 SIG | | |
| R2 SIG | Anaesthesia + SICU | Pediatrics Surgery | Emergency Medicine | Elective |
| R3 R6 | | 3 months | 3 months | 3 months |

Sample Specialties - Urology

Please note that actual learning modules may differ from these sample charts.
## Your Faculty

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<th>Program Director</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Ong Yee Siang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Director (Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties) and Program Director (Plastic, Reconstructive &amp; Aesthetic Surgery) Consultant, Department of Plastic, Reconstructive &amp; Aesthetic Surgery, SGH</td>
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<th>Associate Program Directors</th>
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<td>Dr Victor Chao Tar Toong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Director (Cardiothoracic Surgery) and Associate Program Director (Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties) Senior Consultant, Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, NHCS</td>
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| Dr Vincent Tay Shian Chao |
| Program Director (Hand Surgery) and Associate Program Director (Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties) Senior Consultant, Department of Hand Surgery, SGH |

| Dr David Low Chyi Yeu |
| Program Director (Neurosurgery) and Associate Program Director (Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties) Consultant, Department of Neurosurgery, NNI |

| Dr Sim Hong Gee |
| Program Director (Urology) and Associate Program Director (Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties) Senior Consultant, Department of Urology, SGH |

| Assoc Prof Alexander Chung Yaw Fui |
| Associate Program Director (Surgery-In-General and Surgical Specialties) Senior Consultant, Department of Surgery, SGH |
Your progress in training is carefully monitored to ensure that you develop your clinical and surgical skills well.

Hear from our Residents

“I chose the SingHealth Residency because I enjoy the time I have spent as a doctor in the Academic Health Cluster. The seniors are accomplished surgeons but are also humble. The environment has been supportive and nurturing and there is an emphasis on Education and the need to train the junior doctors. I enjoy the learning opportunities that are given to me as a Resident and I appreciate having adequate time off to devote to one’s passions. I appreciate that people around us are trying to make our learning as productive as possible.”

Dr Cynthia Chia
Cardiothoracic Surgery Resident
The University of Adelaide Alumni Member

“My experience so far in the Residency program has been very positive. There has been a high patient volume with a wide variety of pathologies and plenty of learning opportunities. The Program Directors and coordinators have been very supportive of my professional development, both in the clinical and research setting. They have also been receptive of continuous feedback and incorporated changes into the later years of training.”

Dr Ng Shu Li
Hand Surgery Resident
University of Nottingham Alumni Member

“The program has far exceeded my expectations. I feel that there is a structured training program which has been meticulously planned by our Program Directors, and honestly, I feel it is a well-laid path. Also as part of SIGSS, we are regularly rotated around so that we meet different Residents from the various specialties. This gives us valuable networking opportunities and also allows us to constantly learn from each other.”

Dr Julian Han
Neurosurgery Resident
YLL SoM Alumni Member
SingHealth being the largest public healthcare cluster in Singapore has a large patient case variety ranging from Pediatric to Geriatric, coupled with experienced mentors that come from virtually every specialty you can think of. This makes learning here a truly immersive experience, and a natural choice for anyone who wants to be in the forefront of his or her practice.

Dr Jeremy Sun
Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery Resident
YLL SoM Alumni Member

SingHealth is an excellent training ground for Residents especially those in surgical fields as it combines diverse volume centres with dedicated and experienced supervisors, many of whom are giants in their own fields who patiently share their years of experience with us. Much of the learning in surgical disciplines occurs within the operating theatre and comes with hands-on practice. Residents certainly will not be short of that!

Dr Raj Tiwari
Urology Resident
YLL SoM Alumni Member

Our Achievements & Awards

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<th>Residency in SingHealth Excels (RiSE) Awards 2012</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Ong Yee Siang</td>
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<td>Passionate Educators Award</td>
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<td>Dr James Mok</td>
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<td>Outstanding Residents Award</td>
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Get In Touch!

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Members of the SingHealth Group

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KK Women's and Children's Hospital
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National Dental Centre Singapore
National Heart Centre Singapore
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The information in this brochure is correct as at time of print.