

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis. I would like to briefly describe the fellowship. One of the unique aspects of the fellowship here in Memphis is that we have followed the Acute Care Surgery model since the Presley Trauma Center opened in 1983.

The Presley Trauma Center is the heart and soul of the fellowship. It is the region's only Level 1 trauma center and admits over 4,000 trauma patients annually. The number of admissions has been constant over the past several years and the blunt to penetrating ratio is about 3 to 1. Given the volume, that results in a large number of penetrating trauma patients, most of who require operations. The trauma center has 4 dedicated operating rooms. The Trauma Intensive Care Unit is a closed unit with 23 beds. There is also a dedicated laboratory and radiology facilities to include plain film, 2 high-speed CT scanners, and an MRI, all of which are on the same floor and in close proximity to the trauma area. The trauma patients are managed by the trauma service and there is no involvement with the regular emergency department. We provide the vast majority of all surgical critical care for our patients. Surgical attendees are involved in the surgical procedures and the 5th year surgical house officer is the primary operating surgeon. The fellow typically acts as a first assistant to the senior surgical resident, which allows the fellow to learn a number of operations from "the other side of the table." This is extremely important when pursuing an academic career. With such a large volume of trauma patients the fellow will see a wide variety of both blunt and penetrating trauma. The fellow will make rounds in the trauma intensive care unit and in the general and neurotrauma intensive care units, which house the overflow patients. The Presley Trauma Center is essentially a self-contained hospital and is one of the more aptly designed trauma centers in the country. The trauma admitting area, the trauma operating rooms, the trauma intensive care unit, CT, plain films, and MRI are all located on the same floor.

The Presley Trauma Center is part of Regional One Health at Memphis. It is a busy county hospital, and there is a variety of pathology present. The hospital is a tertiary referral center and is becoming a complete referral center for non-traumatic surgical emergencies.

The fellowship is either a one or two year commitment. The first year is the same for both, and involves caring for the patients as described. The second year offers a unique opportunity as a junior attending. This year will hone decision-making skills, operative techniques, and administrative skills. Either track allows sitting for the Critical Care boards after completion.

Enclosed please find an application form for the fellowship. If you are interested please feel free to contact me or my assistant, Flavenia Leaper, either by telephone or email. Thank you again for your interest in our fellowship.

Sincerely,

John P. Sharpe, MD
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