

University of Rochester Internal Medicine Critical Care Fellowship Program Mission, Goals, and Objectives

Program Mission:

The critical care fellowship serves seriously ill patients and their families by developing talented internists and emergency physicians into clinically excellent intensivists who deliver compassionate, high-quality treatment at the bedside and who improve the health care system as educators, administrators, or researchers.

Program Goals:

The University of Rochester Internal Medicine Critical Care Fellowship is an academic program that prepares trainees for all aspects of intensive care practice.

- Recognizing that many programs offer combined pulmonary and critical care training, we recruit highly qualified candidates who are interested in critical care independent of pulmonary medicine.
- We combine clinical experiences and didactic sessions to prepare fellows to provide high-quality, evidence-based treatment to any critically ill patient with a primary diagnosis within internal medicine or general surgery.
- We leverage our relationships with our colleagues in cardiac, surgical, trauma, and neurology critical care to ensure fellows become proficient in treating conditions frequently encountered in these specialty ICUs.
- We combine opportunities in a university-based, tertiary care referral center and a moderate-sized community hospital so that our graduates will be comfortable practicing in any setting.
- We engage fellows in scholarly activities so they graduate capable of improving the care of critically ill patients at a systems level through teaching, quality improvement, and/or research initiatives.

ACGME-Defined Core Competencies:

Each component of the curriculum has been chosen to support fellows in their progress toward the above program goals. The specific targets that must be met to achieve the program goals constitute the program's educational objectives, which are categorized using the ACGME core competencies defined below.

Professionalism: Fellows must demonstrate a commitment to professionalism and an adherence to ethical principles.

Medical Knowledge: Fellows must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills: Fellows must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals.

Patient Care and Procedural Skills: Fellows must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. Fellows must be able to perform all medical, diagnostic, and surgical procedures considered essential for the area of practice.

Practice-based Learning and Improvement: Fellows must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and lifelong learning.

Systems-based Practice: Fellows must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, including the social determinants of health, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources to provide optimal health care.

Program Objectives:

Graduates of the University of Rochester Internal Medicine Critical Care Fellowship will...

Professionalism:

- treat others with respect regardless of circumstances
- act with honesty and integrity at all times
- demonstrate accountability to patients, families, health care team members, and the profession
- consistently promote the well-being of others
- maintain confidentiality of patients' health-related information
- work continuously to improve their performance as physicians
- constructively manage ethical dilemmas and conflicts of interest
- balance professional responsibilities with effective self-care
- serve as a model of appropriate behavior for other members of the health care team

Medical Knowledge:

- demonstrate awareness of the principles of the scientific method and the role of medical evidence clinical decision-making
- develop a thorough working knowledge of the disease states and contemporary evidence pertinent to the entirety of internal medicine and general surgical critical care as well as those conditions commonly seen in subspecialty critical care
- estimate characteristics of diagnostic tests, including sensitivity, specificity, and predictive value
- recognize indications, contraindications, risks, benefits, and limitations of critical care procedures
- apply medical knowledge in the context of patient care
- demonstrate insight into the psychosocial and emotional effects of critical illness on patients and families
- identify ethical and legal principles pertinent to the treatment of critically ill patients
- teach less experienced learners, both in formal didactic settings and at the bedside
- generate knowledge that advances the practice of critical care beyond the level of individual caregivers

Interpersonal and Communication Skills:

- display sensitivity to all people regardless of age, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, cultural background, religion, level of education, socioeconomic status, disability, or political beliefs
- use communication strategies, both verbal and nonverbal, that make others feel valued and supported
- form a therapeutic alliance with patients and their families
- facilitate effective communication within and among health care teams

Patient Care and Procedural Skills:

- assess patient acuity with accuracy
- perform an efficient history and physical with a level of detail appropriate to the patient's condition
- acquire and interpret diagnostic ultrasound images
- generate a thorough, accurate, prioritized differential diagnosis
- request diagnostic tests that are likely to alter management while avoiding those likely to be low yield
- synthesize all available data to define each patient's central clinical problem(s)
- correctly identify patients who would benefit from admission to the intensive care unit
- explain diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment options to patients and families in terms they understand
- elicit patient values, goals for medical care, and preferences regarding treatment
- provide patients and families with emotional support and assistance with decision-making
- implement prompt, high-quality, evidence based treatment for the identified diagnoses in accordance with available resources and the expressed wishes of patients or their surrogates

- consult reference materials as necessary to inform clinical decision-making
- deploy preventative strategies to avert avoidable harms
- interpret information provided by patient monitoring systems and adapt care plans as required
- request consultant evaluations when appropriate
- recommend invasive procedures only after thoughtfully weighing benefits and risks
- acquire meaningful informed consent prior to invasive procedures unless emergently indicated
- perform necessary critical care procedures safely and successfully, with attention to patient comfort
- recognize and manage procedural complications
- estimate prognosis with accuracy
- communicate an expected poor outcome to patients and families with compassion
- offer and deliver comprehensive comfort-oriented care for patients at the end of life
- document important clinical events in the medical record clearly, thoroughly, and promptly

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement:

- accept, consider, and incorporate performance feedback
- routinely review and reflect on patient care experiences to identify personal learning needs
- formulate clinical questions
- leverage information technology to search the literature for pertinent data
- evaluate the quality and applicability of identified evidence
- change practice patterns based on new data when appropriate
- approach adverse events as an opportunity to improve performance

Systems-Based Practice:

- mobilize resources within the health care system to deliver high-quality care to individual patients
- support other health care professionals in their efforts to provide excellent patient care
- function as a leader who orchestrates the efforts of a multidisciplinary team
- identify system-level threats to patient well-being
- activate and participate in safety systems to mitigate or resolve these threats
- practice medicine in a cost-conscious manner
- advocate for patient and family centered care across the health care system