



Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Residency

An amazing beginning to an amazing career

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WHY AN EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESIDENCY?

A Message from the Physician Assistant Emergency Medicine Residency Director Lynn Scherer, PA-C, MS



Albert Einstein Medical Center

“Why would I want to be part of a PA postgraduate residency program?” You may be a current physician assistant student, a recent graduate, or an experienced physician assistant considering a residency or postgraduate program and find this question surfacing over and over again. Among some of the other questions might be:

- Why not just take a job in emergency medicine and learn it from my employer?
- What advantages will this residency offer me and how will it help my career?
- Will I get a certificate or advanced degree from the training?

In emergency medicine, physician assistants serve many roles, including those in: Pre-hospital; triage; patient care within the emergency department (ED); and selective administrative functions. Furthermore, physician assistant providers in emergency medicine are not limited to practicing only in emergency departments. We provide emergency care for patients in other settings,

including, but not limited to, critical care units, prehospital situations, ground or air transport of patients, and disaster relief situations. Emergency medicine PA's serve patients in communities of every type and size. As a result, there currently is a *de facto* recognition of specialties within the PA profession. We are experiencing an unprecedented evolution as a profession as evidenced by the increasing specialization and subspecialization of PAs. In addition, the increase in specialty organization (Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants – SEMPA) membership is being recognized by our larger national organizations.

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is a premier emergency medicine organization that promotes the highest quality of emergency care and is the leading advocate for emergency physicians, their patients, and the public. ACEP has long valued the use of PAs within the emergency setting and has begun to set forth criteria to shape the skill set suggested of PAs

to work in the emergency setting. A position statement posted by ACEP states: “PAs working in EDs should have or should acquire specific experience or specialty training in emergency care, should participate in a supervised orientation program, and should receive appropriate training and continuing education in providing emergency care. They should possess knowledge of specific ED policies and procedures. PAs must be aware and participate in the performance improvement activities of the ED.” I believe as PAs we will, and should continue to, move in this direction of specialty training in order to provide better overall patient care in the unique emergency setting

Residency programs such as ours provide intense, organized educational training that offers the participant a wide variety of experiences. In a relatively short time you are able to develop increased confidence and experience that would otherwise take years to attain. This experience will make you a much more attractive candidate to potential employers and, hopefully, allow you to start your career with a higher level of responsibility and salary. If you are an experienced PA, it may provide an opportunity for you to change specialty areas or to significantly advance your skills and knowledge in your current employment. At the end of your EM PA residency you will be awarded a postgraduate certificate of completion.

The Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Residency Program at Albert Einstein Healthcare Network (AEHN) allows PA residents the opportunity to train for a career in emergency medicine. Residents are paid a stipend of approximately \$46,600 the first year (a total of approximately \$69,900 for the entirety of the 18 months residency), and are provided life, professional liability insurance, flexible spending account, retirement benefits, laundry service, and free parking. Medical, dental and vision plans are also offered, as well as continuing medical education funds. All residents receive paid time off.

The PA emergency medicine residency at AEHN will enhance the knowledge of PAs in the field of emergency medicine through various disciplines receiving hands-on training in emergency medicine ENT, ophthalmology, orthopedics, intensive care, trauma, radiology, gynecology, and pediatric emergency medicine. Also each resident is provided the opportunity to participate in ACLS, PALS, ATLS, Basic Disaster Life Support and Advanced Disaster Life Support training, and Dr. Richard Levitan’s nationally renowned Airway Course. Following the residents completion of the required 18-month residency, with Faculty approval they will be eligible to participate in an additional 6-month mini fellowship in a focus area of their choice (e.g. ultrasound, EMS). Participating PA residents are expected to uphold the Medical Center’s core values of teamwork, communication, honesty and integrity as they grow to become competent and confident emergency medicine Physician Assistants.

The questions that you have in front of you regarding your training are important ones. I believe that our profession is heading in a direction where you will need to be specialty trained in order to be competitive for emergency medicine positions. I think our patients deserve our utmost dedication to having exceptional experience in our specialty. There is no better place to enjoy that experience than at Einstein. We have a top-notch medical residency that has been around for decades and has a proven track record. We have a multitude of specialty training areas such as toxicology, research, and disaster medicine. We are dedicated to providing quality care for our patients and to ensuring the best training, mentoring, and professional support for our residents. This is the place where emergency care and emergency medicine training exceeds expectations.

“You’re not training for yourself, you’re training for your patients.”

SAMPLE CLINICAL BLOCK SCHEDULE

| | Block 1 | Block 2 | Block 3 | Block 4 | Block 5 | Block 6 | Block 7 | Block 8 | Block 9 | Block 10 | Block 11 | Block 12 | Block 13 |
|------|-------------|-----------|----------------------|---------|------------|----------|----------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| EM 1 | Orientation | EM | Gen Surg | EM | Anesthesia | Tele/GMF | Lab Week EM | EM | EM | ED Obs | Ortho | EM | Rad/OB |
| EM 2 | EM | ENT/OPHTH | PEDS ED St. Chris | EM | CCU/MICU | EM | Lab Week EM | | | | | | |



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Seeking ARC-PA Accreditation.
- PA PGY 1 – 2 program, with a split academic curriculum formatted for different levels of training.
- A dedicated month of orientation each July for the incoming class with didactic and clinical curricula centered on the approach to common emergency department complaints and procedures.
- The faculty and residents care for more than 166,500 patients a year in our Emergency Departments, more than any other system in the Delaware Valley. Einstein’s main campus alone sees over 100,000 patients a year.
- The spectrum of illness is vast and the level of acuity is high at Einstein. This is exemplified by our admission rates to intensive care level settings, which is twice the national average, and an overall admission rate that is 36% higher than the national average reported by the Centers for Disease Control.
- High acuity, high volume trauma experiences with Emergency Medicine-led trauma resuscitations. Our residents alternate responsibility for the primary management of every trauma patient with the senior residents from the Department of Surgery. Managing the airways for every trauma is the responsibility of our residents alone.
- Areas you will confront daily in your career that are an integral part of your training at Einstein:

Toxicology
Pediatrics

Ophthalmology
Orthopedics

Neurology
Research

ENT
Ultrasound

- We provide online supervision to Philadelphia Fire/EMS and surrounding county EMS systems, on-site medical support for major bike races, concerts, sports, events, and other special events in the Philadelphia region.
- As a “Thank You” for all of their hard work, the faculty cover shifts for the residents three times a year so all of them can attend the Annual Resident Retreat as well as the departmental fall picnic and holiday party.
- Our faculty’s academic productivity is outstanding, with over 100 publications in the last 5 years in the area of Emergency Medicine and its subspecialties. They hold several national and regional leadership positions and as well as local, national, and international visiting professorships.
- Fellowship training programs are offered in EMS & Disaster Medicine and in Research. A fellowship in Medical Toxicology is accepting its first applicants in 2008-2009.
- Few other cities rival all that Philadelphia has to offer. Famous as the birthplace of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Philly offers much more than cobblestone streets and historical landmarks. Cultural, culinary, artistic and ethnic treasures abound in this city and its surrounding countryside. By day, explore four centuries of history and architecture, beautiful neighborhoods, remarkable museum collections and endless dining and shopping. After the sun sets, the city heats up with acclaimed performing arts, candlelight tours, multi-cultural dining and vibrant nightlife. Visit www.gophila.com to see for yourself!

DIVISIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS



Division of Graduate and Undergraduate Medical Education

The Division of Education at Albert Einstein is second to none and its mission is to prepare residents for the successful practice of Emergency Medicine in whatever environment they choose. It is our goal to ensure that residents master both a vast body of content knowledge as well as effective clinical skills. We strive to prepare residents to graduate with the skills necessary to become leaders in our field. Our programs are enhanced through a dedicated faculty with a commitment to state of the art instruction, use of current instructional technologies, and opportunities for student and faculty participation in elective and international educational experiences. The Faculty's dedication and commitment to teaching and learning enables our graduates to secure satisfying professional positions and enjoy rewarding life-long careers.

Each faculty member of the Division is specialty trained in curriculum development, program management, teaching and evaluation methods, mentoring, research and scientific writing skills through the ACEP Teaching Fellowship and the ACEP/Emergency Medicine Foundation Research Skills training program. They are well prepared to run one of the largest and oldest Emergency Medicine Residency Programs in the country. Our Division is diverse, not only in training but in

personality, viewpoint and social background. Each member brings a unique set of tools to the issues and complexities of residency training and mentorship. We also have an outstanding assembly of physician assistants from various backgrounds and Einstein is a strong advocate of our physician assistants and their goals. Our Division is characterized by expertise, experience, and innovation.

Division of Emergency Medical Services, Operational Public Health, & Disaster Medicine

The mission of the Division is to prepare physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, and out-of-hospital emergency care professionals for the challenges they will confront when delivering, researching or planning out-of-hospital emergency medical care in disaster and non-disaster environments and when special operations is required. Hazardous materials, weapons of mass destruction, technical rescue, mass gatherings, fire ground operations, tactical law enforcement situations, and major incident management are among the areas of expertise of our division staff. The Division has been entrusted with the primary responsibility to direct and support all emergency management initiatives within the Albert Einstein Health System, including all-hazards approach to emergency and disaster preparedness.

DIVISIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Division of Medical Toxicology and Critical Care

Our Division of Medical Toxicology is the largest faculty of full time residency trained emergency medicine physicians with specialty fellowship training in the city of Philadelphia. Members of the division exemplify diversity in their training and practice interests. Each have published extensively in the emergency medicine and toxicology literature and are nationally recognized speakers and lecturers. The Toxicology Division has an active research program and offers inpatient and outpatient toxicology consultation services with an emphasis on bedside teaching of the care and management of poisoned patients. Emergency medicine PA residents spend one month during the PPGY-2 year rotating on the toxicology service, receiving daily lectures, and participating in the activities of the Regional Poison Control Center in Philadelphia.

Fellowship in Toxicology: The two year ACGME Fellowship in Medical Toxicology offers a wide range of training experiences. The fellowship focuses on the clinical care of poisoned patients, on education, and on research.

The Division of Toxicology has a busy inpatient consultation service and a 23-hour Observation Unit. The faculty also staffs an outpatient toxicology clinic. There is a breadth of clinical exposure including acute overdoses, chronic poisonings, and occupational/environmental medicine. In affiliation with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the fellow will also have an integrated pediatric experience.

Division of Clinical and Biomedical Research

Our objective is to support faculty and resident research and promote excellence in research to further the field of Emergency Medicine. The division involves an established research office, which supports faculty initiated, grant supported, and

pharmaceutical funded research studies. The mission of the clinical research office is to support investigators to conduct clinical research by offering the best suitable environment to perform clinical trials including an annual main campus ED census of over 100,000 patients, full time dedicated research and medically trained personnel, and dedicated space to assure the best quality research. The research infrastructure that has grown rapidly over the last several of years, and the research staff is composed of physicians who screen and enroll patients 24 hours a day and directly coordinate the projects.

Fellowship in Clinical Research: The Department of Emergency Medicine endorses the concept of formal research training to promote the development of career researchers to further the specialty of Emergency Medicine. The goal of fellowship training is to receive the necessary skills to perform quality research as well as to develop the ability to teach others. Graduating Fellows should be able to utilize analytical skills to mentor the research efforts and presentations of their colleagues. Fellows apply their knowledge in representing the department's research efforts in the broader national research context. For more information, contact Dr. Kenneth Deitch, Fellowship Director at deitchk@einstein.edu.





MEET THE PA RESIDENCY DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Albert Einstein Medical Center and the Emergency Medicine PA Residency Program. We are very proud to be part of one of the few Emergency Medicine PA Residency Programs in the country and would like to share with you some of our program's distinguished attributes.

Our vibrant urban setting, affords us the opportunity to care for a diverse and challenging patient population presenting with various medical needs. Because Einstein houses a Level I Trauma Center, our residents frequently treat trauma patients with multiple and severe injuries while working closely with other disciplines including surgery and orthopedics. Some of the many resources available while working in the emergency department include: advanced airway management equipment, comprehensive emergency ultrasound, and active cardiac catheterization lab, and a dedicated radiology suite with a dedicated CT scanner.

However, it is not only by virtue of our location and outstanding facilities that our residents are provided assorted advanced learning and training opportunities throughout their tenure here. Via weekly conferences and various other forums, our residents receive specialized training in areas not offered in other residency programs. These advanced skill and knowledge-base building opportunities allow our residents to become uniquely qualified to assume increasing responsibility within the ED and, ultimately, to become comfortable managing patients, including the critically ill, simultaneously.

Additionally, our residents are fortunate to receive hands on mentoring by some of the country's most distinguished leaders in emergency medicine. In fact, many of our current staff have received special recognition for their outstanding work; conducted national presentations; contributed to and written chapters in nationally recognized textbooks, such as *Emergency Airway Management*, Tintinalli, Roberts and Hedges; Rosen's; and the *EMRA Antibiotic Guide* - now distributed to approximately 20,000 residents, medical students, and faculty nationwide. Several of our PA's and attendings hold leadership positions within the hospital. Our PA Residency Director functions as the Clinical Manager of the PAs in four of our emergency departments, she is a member of the AAPA, has been elected to the national Board of Directors of SEMPA (Society of Emergency Medicine Physician Assistants), and is an adjunct professor at Philadelphia University. Our Medical Director is Maria Halluska-Handy, who is the Assistant Residency Director for the EM-physician residency training program and she is an American College of Emergency Physicians Teaching Fellow. She received her medical degree from the Medical College of Pennsylvania-Hahnemann University School of Medicine and completed her residency training at Drexel University College of Medicine. Undoubtedly, the rich inter-disciplinary collaboration and our dedication to ongoing professional development, which are integral parts of our program philosophy, truly make our PA residency program one to emulate.

MEET THE PA RESIDENCY DIRECTORS



Lastly, Philadelphia and the surrounding communities provide many avenues for enjoyment outside the hospital. Many sports and concert arenas, theaters, fine restaurants, local museums, and historic attractions make Philadelphia a unique and culturally rich place to live and to work. New York City, Baltimore, Washington D.C., and numerous beaches are within an easy drive. It is easy to see why Philadelphia attracts so many visitors and has become one of the most sought-after cities in which to live!

We know that many factors will influence your decisions in choosing the program that is right for you. We are confident that Einstein offers the diversity, challenge, training, staff, and geography like no other program can provide. We wish you the best of luck as you enter this exciting time in your professional development and look forward to meeting you during the interview process.

Sincerely,



Lynn M Scherer, PA-C, MS



APPLICATION INFORMATION

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Albert Einstein Medical Center (AEMC) PA Emergency Residency Program.

The PA Emergency Medicine Residency is a 18-month postgraduate certificate program for NCCPA eligible/certified Physicians Assistants. To complete your application, please forward the following documentation by **March 1st**.

- Completed application form
- Current resume
- PA Program transcripts (official copies forwarded directly from the schools)
- Three current professional letters of recommendation – one from your PA Program Director or Clinical Coordinator – mailed directly to the Admissions Committee (must be in a sealed envelope)
- Official copy of NCCPA scores (if certified) – sent directly from NCCPA
- A one page typewritten narrative stating why you are interested in becoming an Emergency Medicine PA
- Application Fee of \$40.00 (Checks made payable to: AEMC Department of Emergency Medicine)

After the application deadline, our Admissions Committee will review completed files, and selection will be made for formal interview. If you have any questions regarding the program and/or the admissions process, please feel free to contact us at 215-456-6336.

Sincerely,

Lynn Scherer, PA-C, MS
Program Director



STIPEND AND BENEFIT INFORMATION

- Taxable stipend (paid bi-weekly) of \$48,950 1st year; \$50,326 2nd year
- Employee benefits include long & short-term disability, savings plan, and flexible benefit plan for:
 - ✓ Life Insurance
 - ✓ Medical Insurance (includes spouse/domestic partner/children)
 - ✓ Dental Insurance
 - ✓ Flex-plan spending accounts for healthcare and dependent care (pre-tax dollars)
 - ✓ Childcare subsidy
 - ✓ Membership to SIS Fitness
- Each resident is entitled to 20 working days annually. VACATION REQUESTS ARE SUBMITTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR AND ARE APPROVED BY PROGRAM DIRECTOR.
- May participate in Freedom Credit Union.
- Some student loans may be deferred while attending the program. Loans after 1994 may not always be allowed. Contact your loan originator for information and forms.
- Pending Category I & II CME hours recognition by NCCPA.
- Pending Membership to the Association of Postgraduate PA Programs (APPAP).



Application for Appointment EMPA Residency Program

PERSONAL

Date of Application

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Date of Birth

Current Address (#, Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Telephone number

Permanent Address (#, Street, City, State, Zip Code)

Alternate Telephone number

Social Security Number

US Citizen?

Yes

No

E-mail Address (please provide a personal e-mail)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PA School Name and Address

Graduation Date

College Attended

Graduation Date

Degree

Additional Colleges

Graduation Date

Degree

NCCPA Certification

NCCPA Certification Eligible?

Date Certified

Yes

Yes

No

No

NCCPA Certificate Number

REFERENCES - Please list three professional references. Please have them send personal letters of recommendation on professional letterhead under separate cover. They may fax the letter, attention as below and forward a hard copy by USPS.

Name of Program Director or Clinical Coordinator

Telephone number

Address (#, Street, City, State, Zip Code)

E-mail

Name of reference #2

Telephone number

Address (#, Street, City, State, Zip Code)

E-mail

Name of reference #3

Telephone number

Address (#, Street, City, State, Zip Code)

E-mail

Signature _____

Date

*****Important:** Completion of your application requires receipt by us of ALL components of the application noted in the cover letter

Postmark Deadline: March 1

**Send to: Admission Committee
Attn: Lynn Scherer, PA-C, MS
Einstein Medical Center Philadelphia
EMPA Residency Program
5501 Old York Road
Korman Building, B-9
Philadelphia, PA 19141
E-mail: schererl@einstein.edu
Phone: 215-456-6336
Fax: 215-456-6601**