Spine Center Fellowship

Duration: 1 year

The interview date for the 2019-2020 fellowship program is TBD.

Dates: August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2020

Stipend: $65,005.00 plus benefits


UCSF Fellowship in Spine

Bobby K-B Tay, M.D. (Fellowship Director)
Sigurd Berven, M.D.
Shane Burch, M.D.
Vedat Deviren, M.D.
Lionel Metz, M.D.
Murat Pekmezci, M.D.
Christopher P. Ames, M.D.
Dean Chou, M.D.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
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Location: UCSF Medical Center (Parnassus)

Fellowship Goals

The UCSF Spine Surgery Fellowship is designed to provide fellows with a comprehensive and rigorous training in the evaluation and operative management of a wide variety of spinal disorders. Our mission is to train surgeons to be compassionate and capable care providers, with the knowledge and skills to care for patients presenting along a broad spectrum of complexity. Unique aspects of this fellowship include significant exposure to deformity, degenerative and complex reconstruction spine surgery cases and a strong educational program with teaching and research conferences 3 days per week. In addition to traditional instrumentation procedures, the fellowship also offers exposure to new technologies including minimally invasive approaches and investigational studies involving new devices and clinical trials. The faculty of the UCSF Spine Service performs over 1000 operative procedures per year, encompassing a balance of simple and complex spinal pathologies.
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Research components

Extensive research opportunities exist in the fellowship, and all fellows are required to prepare one manuscript based upon original research for publication. Opportunities exist for clinical research through the UCSF Orthopaedic Surgery Health Outcomes Center, a multi-disciplinary research center that includes orthopaedic surgeons, epidemiologists, and other health services researchers. Basic science facilities are also available, including bioengineering, biomechanics, and molecular biology laboratories. Specific research responsibilities include:

- To work with the UCSF Orthopaedic Outcomes Institute Research Coordinator to improve the quality and consistency of data collection.
- To assist residents and medical students in designing and carrying out research projects.
- To submit at least one research manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, based on research done during the fellowship year.

Didactic components

Monday: Spine Lecture Series – every other week 5:00 pm  
Spine Conference – Inman Resident’s Room 7 am, didactic, interactive, topic directed conferences.  
Case conference: 8 am: review of pre and postoperative cases for the week.

Wednesday: UCSF Grand Rounds- Grand Rounds is held weekly September through June and covers general orthopaedic topics. Grand Rounds are organized by the UCSF Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Thursday: Research conference. 7 am. MU605

Other conferences

Journal Club: Every month

City-wide Grand Rounds: Occurs quarterly, and is attended by bay area orthopaedic surgeons. The topics are of interest to the general orthopaedic surgeon.
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Current Fellows

Grigoriy Arutyunyan, MD.
Residency: Mayo Clinic

“When selecting a fellowship, I was looking not only for a great degree of complexity, volume and hands on experience, but also a great location and great attending surgeons. UCSF satisfied all the criteria that would make a fellowship outstanding not only in surgical and research theaters but in all dimensions.”

Josiah Orina, MD.
Residency: Mayo Clinic

“I wanted to join an Orthopaedic spine program that specialized in complex cases and could add a new perspective to my training. UCSF has exceptional spine faculty who are not only thought leaders in our field but great mentors and friends. The opportunity to learn from expert surgeons at a leading academic center while living in a beautiful city like San Francisco is what drew me to UCSF, and I am excited to be a part of this team.”

Sun Ilk Lee, MD.
Residency: Tulane University Medical School

“During my last month of residency, I had a chance to scrub into a deformity case with orthopedic spine surgeon and was fascinated by the extent of those cases. For the last 3 years of practice in small town of Nebraska, I realized there had been a paradigm shift in the field of spine surgery. The general public are more educated about this field due to availability of information on websites. Unfortunately, the general public are often forced to cherry-pick information from unreliable and unfounded sources out of superfluous amount of information on internet of other types of media. I strongly feel that the training with world-renowned surgeons and physicians at this prestigious institution will rekindle my academic interest, complement and enhance my residency training/practice experience to a next level that I can serve community better with confidence and guide patients to the right path. Plus, everybody wants to live in San Francisco.”
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To apply

*Currently accepting applications for the 2018/2019 academic year. Deadline for applications: November 1, 2017.*

The interview dates for the 2019-2020 fellowship program is TBD. Please submit your application materials through SFMatch (https://www.sfmatch.org/)

For any additional questions, please contact Johnson Huang at Johnson.huang@ucsf.edu

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