

Trauma Postgraduate Elective

Sunnybrook's Tory Regional Trauma Centre is an American College of Surgeons verified Level I trauma centre. It is Canada's largest trauma centre and one of the highest volume centres in North America, managing approximately 1,400 severely injured patients each year. Approximately 80% of patients are high velocity blunt injuries and 20% are victims of firearm injuries or stab wounds. This elective provides an opportunity for exposure to complex injury care in the trauma bay and on the inpatient trauma service, with a census of anywhere from 50-90 patients.

This elective is appropriate for family medicine, emergency medicine, anaesthesia and surgical residents. Other residents should enquire to determine if this elective meets their learning objectives.

Trainees work within a multidisciplinary team that includes emergency medicine, general surgery, family medicine, and anesthesia residents and fellows, under the leadership of surgical staff. Responsibilities span from initial trauma bay resuscitation—where trainees attend all activations and may act as the sub-Trauma Team Leader (sub-TTL) with direct staff supervision—to ongoing inpatient management through to discharge. Surgical residents will have additional opportunities in the operating room.

The service requires call commitments consistent with the Professional Association of Resident of Ontario (PARO) contract, with other expectations consistent with that of an inpatient surgical service. Day-to-day activities focus on inpatient trauma care, including daily morning report, care coordination and participation in trauma activations.

Overnight call includes both trauma resuscitations and coverage of the inpatient trauma ward, with senior in-house backup.

Educational opportunities include informal teaching at morning report, in the trauma bay and the operating room. Formal teaching occurs through twice weekly didactic teaching, monthly trauma video review, and monthly morbidity and mortality review.

Procedural opportunities outside of the operating room, such as chest tube insertion, REBOA and others are shared equitably among trainees. The rotation is dedicated exclusively to trauma care, with no exposure to general surgery cases such as appendectomies or cholecystectomies, nor does it include shifts in emergency medicine.

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