

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a typical call schedule for residents? Our call schedule is varied based on year in residency. First year residents will take more in-house call, especially the Main OR call. As you advance, you are eligible for various call pools (e.g. OB, cardiac, liver transplant, VA OR call) as well as night float. Cardiac and liver transplant calls are "pager calls," so the resident will be at home, unless a case comes up. Night float is currently scheduled in 1-2 week blocks, Monday to Friday nights, 7 PM to 7 AM. When on night float you are the back up for both the OB call resident and the Main OR call resident, as well as eligible for any liver transplant cases that may arise. Thus, this is a more senior resident position.

Typically, a CA1 will have 5-6 in-house calls per month, while a CA3 will average 4 in-house calls per month, with additional pager calls to also average 5-6 call nights per month. Additionally, when on specialty rotations, a resident is typically not available to the main call pool, but will instead take call on that rotation. Apart from in-house call covering the ICU during the mandatory ICU months, these calls are pager calls.

What options do residents have for electives? Electives are available to CA3 residents, for selection during the latter part of the CA2 year. Currently, UCSD offers two 4-week blocks for elective. Available electives include research, (this is actually available as up to a 6 month block), echocardiography (both TEE/TTE training, residents are able to qualify for TEE Basic exam if desired), Regional Anesthesia (this is an optional 3rd month), Pediatrics (again, an optional 3rd month, available at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, or at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles), Pain Medicine (optional 2nd month), as well as certain away/international electives (e.g. one resident lectured on regional anesthesia in Vietnam with one of our faculty members).

A month spent writing part/all of a book chapter with Dr. Jonathan Benumof is an additional elective. This provides an opportunity to work directly with a prominent member of our field, get an insight into scientific/medical writing, as well as a high likelihood of getting your work published.

What are acceptable programs for the internship year? We welcome residents from a variety of internships. We currently have a resident cohort whose backgrounds include surgical internships, medical internships (and residencies), as well as the popular transitional internships. At this time, we have designated up to 6 transitional internship spots at the Scripps Mercy Medical Center, here in San Diego. (http://www.scripps.org/health-education_graduate-medical-education-gme).

Do you have a minimum for Board Scores? We consider the breadth of the application, not just your test scores, and although we don't have a strict cut-off for USMLE/COMLEX scores, our residents tend to be above the average in this measure. That being said, life experience counts, and many of our residents have experiences beyond the straightforward high school --> college --> medical school --> residency pathway.