Educational Goals and Objectives of Training Year NS-2 (PGY3)

Residents in the Albany Medical Center Neurological Surgery Residency Program are expected to reach goals and objectives in six areas. Those areas and the expectations to be achieved in each area for NS-2 are:

**Patient Care**

The resident will develop the ability to:

- Take and document a neurosurgery history and do a physical examination, with emphasis on spinal, pediatric and complex neurosurgical disorders
- Know what laboratory and imaging studies should be ordered when and be able to interpret the results as relates to neurosurgery
- Apply complex diagnostic and patient-management skills, including participation in busy outpatient neurosurgical clinics
- Establish and implement effective patient care plans
- Counsel patients on the risks, goals, limits and alternatives to neurosurgical procedures
- Perform selected surgical procedures under direct supervision, focusing on spinal neurosurgery (e.g., lumbar and cervical laminectomies, lumbar discectomy, anterior cervical discectomy with and without fusion)
- Assist in major surgical procedures, and perform portions of the procedure that are appropriate to the resident's level of training under guidance
- Practice critical care skills as required for inpatient neurosurgery

**Medical Knowledge**

The resident will develop the ability to:

- Perform above the 15th percentile on the ABNS primary examination
- Demonstrate a solid foundation of knowledge of anatomy, physiology and pharmacology related to inpatient neurosurgery patients.
- Demonstrate an increasing familiarity with the neurosurgical literature, particularly as relates to spinal and pediatric neurosurgery and critical care issues
- Accurately do clinical evaluations, including correctly interpreting basic and advanced laboratory and radiological studies

**Practice-Based Learning and Improvement**

The resident will develop the ability to:

- Demonstrate an improving ability to learn from errors
- Construct and implement educational goals for instruction in different elective fields (e.g., neuropathology, radiosurgery, neuro-oncology)
- Develop fundamental research skills that can be used to develop a fundable basic science research proposal
- Locate, appraise and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to common neurosurgical problems, with emphasis on spinal and pediatric neurosurgery
- Identify areas of neurosurgical practice where current knowledge is inaccurate or inadequate and participate in clinical studies to improve the general fund of neurosurgical knowledge
**Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

The resident will develop the ability to:

- Provide compassionate care
- Work effectively as a member of a health care team, particularly in outpatient specialty clinics
- Participate meaningfully in multidisciplinary conferences focused on specific neurosurgical fields

**Professionalism**

The resident will develop the ability to:

- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender and disabilities
- Demonstrate integrity and a commitment to patients that supercedes self interest
- Participate meaningfully in ongoing professional development by submitting research for peer review to journals and national professional meetings

**Systems-Based Practice**

The resident will develop the ability to:

- Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities, especially in an outpatient setting
- Use evidence-based medical practice to provide cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
- Understand practice management issues, such as patient processing, evaluation and management coding, procedural terminology, documentation of services rendered and other reimbursement process-related issues in outpatient clinic setting
- Demonstrate an understanding of practice types and opportunities, health care delivery systems and medical economics.