

**Medical Student Rotation Guide  
Spine Service**

***Overview***

Welcome to the medical student rotation on the Spine service in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at Rush University Medical Center! We are excited to have you on service and hope you enjoy the rotation. Our goal is for you to learn more about our program and orthopaedics. On your rotation you will spend time in our ambulatory clinics, the operating room, as well as on call. You will work with our residents, fellows, and faculty all of whom are available to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have.

***Faculty, Residents, & Fellows***

During your rotation on the Spine service, you will work with the following faculty, fellows, and residents:

*Faculty*

- Howard S. An, M.D.
- Kern Singh, M.D.
- David Fardon, M.D.
- Frank M. Phillips, M.D.
- Christopher J. DeWald, M.D.
- Edward J. Goldberg, M.D.
- Matthew W. Colman, M.D.

***Rotation Schedule***

Each day, you will be assigned to work with an attending in either the operating room or the ambulatory clinic. On the Spine rotation, all ambulatory clinics that you will be covering are located in the Midwest Orthopaedics (MOR) building at Rush University Medical Center (RUMC). The MOR building is directly across the street from RUMC. You can access the building via the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the parking garage. Our Spine attendings operate at RUMC exclusively on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor in the tower.

Below is your typical weekly schedule barring any adjustments for vacations or other obligations.

<b>Rotation Schedule</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Dr. Singh Clinic MOR	Dr. Singh OR RUMC	Dr. Fardon Clinic MOR	Dr. An OR RUMC	Dr. An Clinic MOR

Each week, your senior resident will confirm your daily schedule. You will typically begin your day preparing the patient list on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of the tower building at RUMC. You and one of the residents will then round on all spine inpatients prior to our intake. All residents and medical students attend intake each morning on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor to review the call cases that came in the day prior. Intake starts between 6:15a – 6:45a each morning, depending on the day of the week. After

intake, residents and medical students then work with our faculty in the operating rooms and clinics. More details about your schedule will be provided upon arrival.

### ***Responsibilities & Expectations***

#### ***Operating Room***

To prepare for the operating room, students should know what cases they will be assisting in each week. Residents will typically tell you what your cases are, however, students should not hesitate to ask what the cases are for the coming week. In the operating room, we expect students to understand the relevant anatomy for each case and the indication for surgery. We do not expect students to know the steps of the case or how to do the case. If something is unclear, please feel free to ask questions. To assist in the OR, pay particular attention to draping and the workflow so that you can help after observing the first few cases. Please introduce yourself to the OR staff and be respectful of them at all times. Write your name on the white board so the circulator knows who you are. The OR staff can be your biggest advocates and will provide us feedback on how you are doing throughout the rotation. We expect that you assist with all scheduled cases each day. You will be excused from the operating room for required conferences, but please always check that the OR is adequately covered prior to leaving the hospital.

#### ***Clinic***

In the clinic, we expect all students to dress appropriately and assist when asked. For men, please wear a clean pressed shirt and tie with a clean white coat. For females, please wear business casual attire with a clean white coat. Please do not wear any low cut shirts or skirts above the knee. Please introduce yourself to all support staff including PAs, NPs, nurses, and administrative assistants. Our support staff will be extremely helpful and will also provide us feedback on your performance.

We hope that through your experience in our ambulatory clinics you will be able to perform a detailed history and physical examination for a patient presenting to an orthopaedic spine clinic. Each physician will have different responsibilities for you in the clinic. Some faculty will allow you to see patients independently, perform a detailed history and physical, present the patient, and dictate the note. Other physicians will ask that you work with a resident or fellow while in clinic. Please ask your attending physician at the start of clinic what his or her expectations are for you. If you are not given the opportunity to see patients independently or dictate you can still help with workflow and learn a significant amount about the clinical exam and indications for surgery.

### ***Conferences & Presentations***

In addition to resident didactic conference on Monday evening, medical student conference on Tuesday evening, and Grand Rounds on Wednesday morning, the Spine service has conference on Monday afternoon and Friday morning that you are expected to attend.

On Monday afternoons, our faculty give lectures on core topics in spine surgery. The time and place for the lectures vary each week and should be confirmed with the Chief resident on service. The topics rotate on an 8-week cycle and include:

1. Cervical herniated disk and spinal stenosis

2. Spondylolisthesis
3. Spinal Infections and Inflammatory Conditions
4. Adolescent and adult scoliosis
5. Congenital and Juvenile scoliosis
6. Sagittal plane deformities
7. Spinal tumors
8. Lumbar herniated disk and spinal stenosis

On Friday mornings at 7:00AM the spine faculty, fellows, and residents on service meet in room 208 of the MOR building for our indications conference. During this conference, challenging cases are reviewed and discussed. Residents and fellows also give a brief didactic lecture on important spine topics. As part of your rotation, you will be required to give one of these presentations on the last Friday of your rotation. The presentation should be a PowerPoint presentation that lasts no more than 12 minutes. The presentation should be on a specific and narrow topic and focus on providing a thoughtful review of the literature on the topic, with published data to support recommendations. Your residents on service can assist you with selecting a topic and preparing your presentation.

### ***Recommended Readings***

1. SPORT Trials (<https://www.dartmouth.edu/sport-trial/whatissport.htm>)
  - a. The Spine Patient Outcomes Research Trials are long-term studies that looked at 3 of the most common back conditions and compared surgical and non-surgical treatments. Approximately 2500 patients took part in the study, which was conducted at 13 sites across the country.
2. Synopsis of Spine Surgery by Dr. Howard S. An & Dr. Kern Singh
  - a. Synopsis of Spine surgery is a concise text that discusses the fundamentals of orthopaedic spine surgery including anatomy, history and physical examination, pathology, and treatment options. A copy will be provided for you to use while you are on service. We recommend you use this text to prepare for cases and conferences throughout your rotation. At the end of your rotation please return the book to Charlie Hannon (203-247-9390) so it can be passed onto future medical students who rotate on the spine service.

### ***Chief Residents & Program Director***

Once again welcome to the Spine service! If you have any additional questions or concerns throughout your rotation please do not hesitate to reach out to our Chief residents or our Program Director, Dr. Monica Kogan.

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