

Abbott Northwestern Hospital Vascular & Endovascular Surgery Fellowship

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How do I apply for the program?

A: We will begin interviewing qualified candidates this academic year, and interviewing for two positions through the match (NRMP) for July 2021.

We ask that applicants complete our application and include the following supplements:

- Personal statement
- Curriculum Vitae
- Photograph
- Three letters of recommendation from faculty members, including one from general surgery residency program director
- USMLE Board scores
- American Board of Surgery In-training (ABSITE) exams
- ECFMG certification (if applicable)
- Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)
- Medical School Transcript
- Postgraduate Training Authorization Letter (PTAL) or “California Letter” (International Medical Graduates only)

We ask that completed applications and supporting documents be emailed to amber.gray@allina.com or ANWVascularFellowship@allina.com

Q: What are some highlights of the program?

- Single institution
- Dedicated attending staff
 - 8 Board-certified Vascular Surgeons
 - Vascular Medicine and Wound Care specialists
 - MD Research Coordinator
- ICAVL-accredited non-invasive vascular laboratory
- IAC-accredited vein center
- Robust experience in open vascular surgery
 - Aortic aneurysm repair, including complex aneurysms
 - Carotid and vertebral artery reconstruction
 - Aorto-iliac and lower extremity bypass
 - Dialysis access
- Training in endovascular therapies
 - Endovascular aortic aneurysm repair (EVAR)
 - Fenestrated / branched graft aneurysm repair (fEVAR)
 - Carotid angioplasty / stenting
 - Transfemoral
 - Trans-carotid revascularization (TCAR)
 - Brachiocephalic disease treatment
 - Visceral / renal artery repair

- Lower extremity PAD
 - Advanced therapies for critical limb ischemia (CLI)
- Venous ablation
- Anterior exposure for spine surgery
- Vascular Medicine
- Wound care / Hyperbaric medicine
- Mentorship in clinical research
 - Prospective Vascular Surgery database
 - FDA-approved endovascular device trials
- NP / PA staff dedicated to the vascular service
- Two hybrid endovascular operating rooms
- Dedicated vascular surgery ORs

Q: Is there required/protected research time?

A: Yes. Fellows will have 1.5 days of dedicated research time every week during each vascular medicine/research rotation. Each rotation is 4 weeks long and there are 4 vascular medicine/research rotations in the program. In total, fellows can plan to have 24 days of dedicated research time in our program.

Fellows will also focus on research in their scholarly activities. The didactic curriculum includes lecture series in regards to research, specifically addressing critical thinking, experimental design, and data evaluation. In addition, regular journal clubs will be planned during which the fellows will be asked to present a paper along with their interpretation and critique of the results including the statistics as well as the overall study design and limitations. Through this learning the fellows will be expected to develop a research project and design their study.

All fellows will be assigned a faculty member as their research mentor. This mentor will implement academic projects and identify quality improvement activities. Fellows will choose either a quality improvement project they have identified or they may pursue, with the aid of their research mentor, another quality improvement project that current staff are working on. Examples of current projects include the creation of algorithms for decreasing hospital-wide complications from percutaneous femoral arterial access, decreasing surgical site infections in the ICU, identifying and improving barriers to prosthetic use in amputees. Support for these projects includes both a research director for the group but also association with the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, a non-profit research organization, who provide administrative and data analysis support for the vascular group. Further data support will be provided by both current participation in the regional/national VQI database as well as our groups own independent database. Evaluation of these projects will occur twice yearly with the program director and research mentor. Trainees will present their progress on these projects annually at the Minneapolis Heart Institute Grand Rounds conference.

Q: Are there teaching opportunities?

A: Yes. Fellows will have opportunities to teach Advanced Practice Providers as well as medical students rotating from the University of Minnesota.

Q: What are the block diagrams for the program?

A: Block rotations include 13 rotations over the course of two years. Each block represents a 4 week-rotation at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. There are three vascular surgery rotations, and one for vascular medicine and research.

Year 1													
Block	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rotation	VS1	VS1	VS2	VS2	VM/R	VS3	VS3	VS1	VS1	VM/R	VS2	VS2	VS3
% Inpatient	80%	80%	80%	80%	0%	80%	80%	80%	80%	0%	80%	80%	80%
% Outpatient	20%	20%	20%	20%	70%	20%	20%	20%	20%	70%	20%	20%	20%
% Research	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	0%	0%	0%

Year 2													
Block	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rotation	VS3	VM/R	VS1	VS1	VS2	VS2	VM/R	VS3	VS3	VS1	VS1	VS2	VS3
% Inpatient	80%	0%	80%	80%	80%	80%	0%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
% Outpatient	20%	70%	20%	20%	20%	20%	70%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
% Research	0%	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Vascular surgery attending are divided into three teams (VS1, VS2, and VS3). When on VS1, VS2, or VS3, fellows will spend two half days per week in outpatient clinic.

VM/R represents the vascular medicine and research rotation. This rotation includes vascular medicine outpatient clinics (2 half-days), non-invasive vascular lab (2 half-days), wound care/hyperbaric medicine (2 half-days), outpatient vein procedures (one half-day), research (1.5 days).

Detailed schedules of a general week at a glance can be found below.

VS1, VS2, and VS3- Week 1					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Fellow Conference	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding
PM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding
VS1, VS2, and VS3- Week 2					
AM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Fellow Conference	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding
PM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding
VS1, VS2, and VS3- Week 3					
AM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Fellow Conference	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding
PM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding
VS1, VS2, and VS3- Week 4					
AM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Journal Club	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Fellow Conference	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding
PM	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding	Outpatient Clinic	Surgery & Inpatient Rounding

VM/R- Week 1					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Outpatient Vein Procedures	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Fellow Conference	Research
PM	Research	Vascular Medicine Outpatient Clinic	Vascular Medicine Outpatient Clinic	Non-Invasive Vascular Lab	Research
VM/R- Week 2					
AM	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Outpatient Vein Procedures	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Fellow Conference	Non-Invasive Vascular Lab
PM	Research	Vascular Medicine Outpatient Clinic	Vascular Medicine Outpatient Clinic	Non-Invasive Vascular Lab	Research
VM/R Week 3					
AM	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Outpatient Vein Procedures	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Fellow Conference	Research
PM	Research	Vascular Medicine Outpatient Clinic	Vascular Medicine Outpatient Clinic	Non-Invasive Vascular Lab	Research
VM/R- Week 4					
AM	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Journal Club	Wound care/ Hyperbaric Medicine	Fellow Conference	Research
PM	Research	Outpatient Vein Procedures	Vascular Medicine Outpatient Clinic	Non-Invasive Vascular Lab	Research

Q: What are the 2017 case volumes?

A: From 7/1/16-6/30/17, the vascular and endovascular surgery team at Abbott Northwestern Hospital performed 4,365 procedures. This included 1,269 major procedures and 3,096 minor procedures.

Highlights include:

- Open aortic surgery: 27
- Standard EVAR: 66
- Fenestrated/branched EVAR: 29
- TEVAR: 16
- Carotid endarterectomy: 142
- Carotid stenting (TCAR): 16
- Peripheral obstructive procedures: 675
- Venous procedures: 612
- Spine exposures: 257
- Amputations: 50

Q: What if my question has not been answered?

A: Please feel free to visit our websites at <http://www.mplsheart.com/information-for-providers/fellowship-program/> or <http://www.mplsheart.com/services/vascular/> . If you have further inquiries, please reach out to us at ANWVascularFellowship@allina.com