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Residency Program Receives Five-Year Accreditation, Reorganizes to Serve Growing Program

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On the Job

This Spring, Paul Hazen and Brielle Maugeri joined the Department of Surgery as Education Programs Administrator and Residency Program Coordinator, respectively. In these roles, Hazen and Maugeri will support expansion of the Department of Surgery’s Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs.



Paul Hazen

Hazen joined Jefferson from Einstein Health, where he was a residency coordinator and then a fellowship coordinator. Prior to that, he served as program manager for Emergency Medicine at Drexel Hahnemann and held administrative roles at Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

At Jefferson, Hazen is focusing on centralizing the Department of Surgery’s educational programs and streamlining and standardizing the supporting processes. The longer-term vision is to bring on more coordinators dedicated to GME programs, helping to ensure that all learners receive consistent and excellent service.

Hazen’s own education focused on jazz performance (his specialty: the saxophone). These days, he doesn’t play much sax but does enjoy participating in a musical improv team. While on stage, the team takes a suggestion from the audience. The pianist runs with the idea, and he joins his teammates in creating a musical in real time.



Brielle Maugeri

As the team continues to take shape, Maugeri is getting to know current residents and taking over aspects of day-to-day communication and coordination. She came to Jefferson after serving as special events coordinator on the team that opened the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City, NJ, in 2018.

Although this is her first experience in higher education, the field is “all in the family.” Maugeri’s mother has a similar position at another university – providing a detailed understanding of the role and the skills and strengths that lead to success.

While earning a bachelor’s degree in communications studies, Maugeri landed a sought-after internship through the Disney College Program. She supported the parade and fireworks at the Magic Kingdom theme park – and still visits Orlando any chance she gets.

Education

Residency Program Receives Five-Year Accreditation, Reorganizes to Serve Growing Program



During her 28-year tenure with the Residency Program, Donna Guinto supported over 200 residents including associate program directors Adam Bodzin, MD (left), and Joshua Marks, MD (right) – both Class of 2013 – and program director Karen Chojnacki, MD (sidebar).

The General Surgery Residency Program within the Department of Surgery received full accreditation for five years from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in January 2022. In March, the Residency Program completed a successful match—selecting seven categorical residents from about 1,600 applications. And in June, it said goodbye to longtime Residency Program Administrator Donna Guinto, who retired after 38 years with Jefferson.

Since Guinto became coordinator in 1994, the Department of Surgery’s Residency Program has grown in length (from five to six years), number

of residents (from six to seven) and complexity (with more guidelines from ACGME and other bodies). The Department also offers Fellowships in Colorectal Surgery, Surgical Critical Care, Transplant Surgery and Vascular Surgery, with plans to add more in the future. Fellowships in pediatric surgery and vascular medicine are also offered but are managed by Nemours Children’s Hospital and the Division of Vascular Medicine respectively.

Considering Guinto’s retirement and other staff changes, Associate Dean of GME, Surgical Division, Karen Chojnacki, MD, recognized an opportunity to reorganize based on

Gratitude for Guinto

“I remember just graduating medical school and walking into Donna’s office,” Dr. Chojnacki says. “It’s unbelievable to think about Donna not being there.” For Guinto, supporting learners like Dr. Chojnacki has been the most rewarding part of her job: “I have loved watching medical students apply and then become proficient in their specialty. The other day I pulled Dr. Chojnacki’s interview application from 1995. Since then, I’ve watched her grow into this amazing person and now the residency program director and a leader at Jefferson.”

Karen A. Chojnacki, MD
Program Director
Class of 2000

the program’s expansion. By bringing residency education together with both undergraduate (medical students) and fellowship education, the Department could offer better experiences to learners.

The Department hired Paul Hazen as program administrator across all three education levels and Brielle Maugeri as residency program coordinator. Currently, various departmental secretaries serve as fellowship coordinators. The longer-term plans call for those roles to move under Hazen for a team of six people supporting GME administration.

“With our new team in place, we hope to administer these residencies and

fellowships with greater attention to detail,” Dr. Chojnacki says. “We also want stay ahead of the game with ACGME and start proactively innovating how we design and run the programs.”

Dr. Chojnacki says that innovative approaches will be essential with major changes on the horizon. One of the most urgent: the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) moving to pass/fail grading.

“Many schools are also moving to pass/fail grading, which makes it much harder to differentiate candidates,” she says. “We will have to become more innovative in who – and how – we recruit.”