



# The Norwalk Hospital/Yale School of Medicine

Physician Assistant  
Surgical Residency

## Nuvance Health

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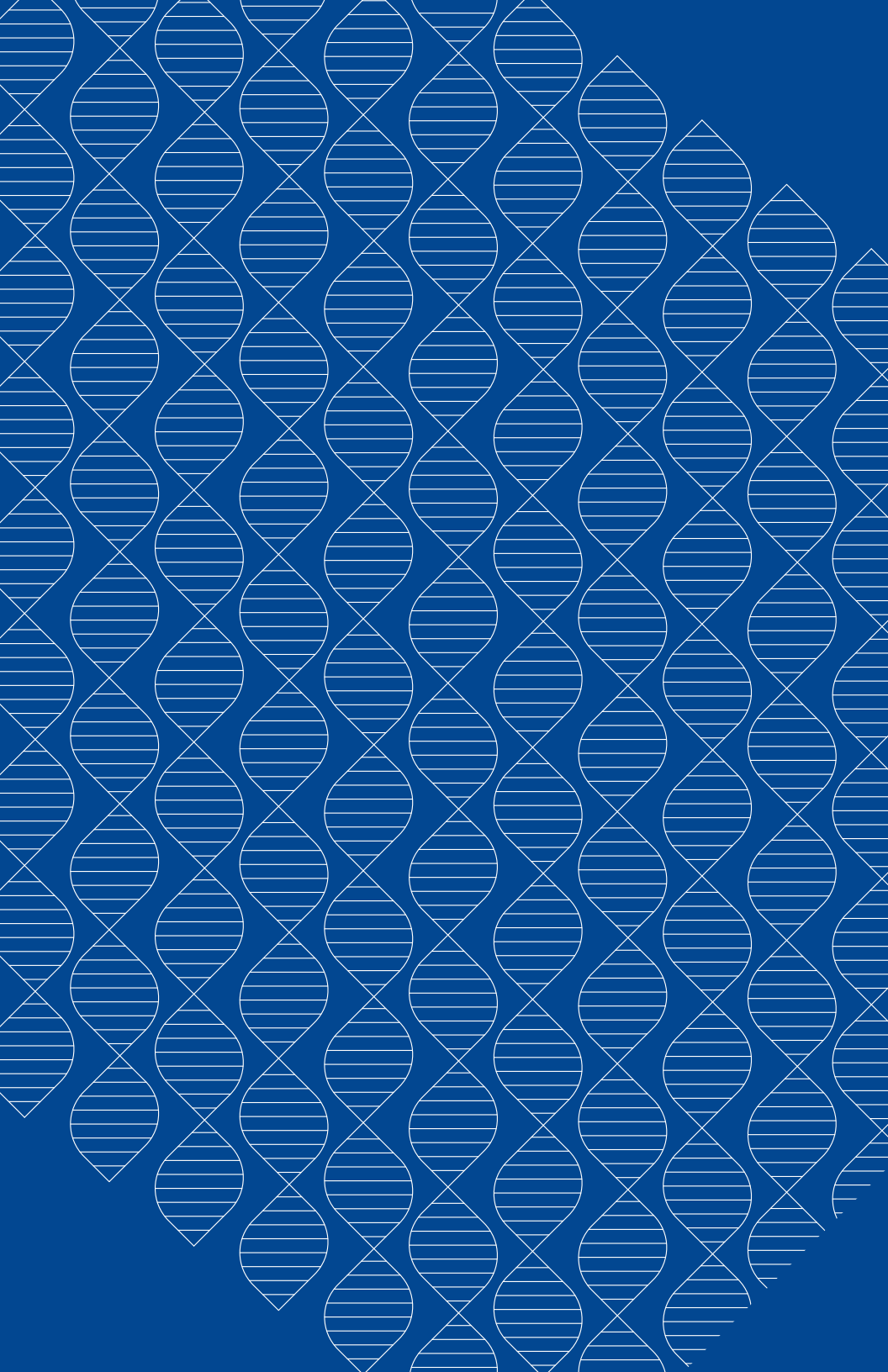
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Your future starts here



**Give us  
a year**

# A message from the program director:

If you're a physician assistant who's looking for the ideal opportunity to continue your education or gain diverse clinical experience, you'll find it in the Physician Assistant (PA) Surgical Residency offered by Norwalk Hospital/Yale School of Medicine.

Launched in 1976, this program was the first designed exclusively for graduate PAs – and it continues to offer a unique and consistently excellent learning environment. Here's what you can expect:

- **You'll be a member of the surgical house staff at Norwalk Hospital, providing 24/7 coverage for all surgical patients.** This means there's no standing in line behind MD surgical residents to first-assist in the OR. You'll also participate in all aspects of perioperative care.
- **You'll learn to think on your feet and present findings with clarity,** receiving supportive guidance from the PAs on staff
- **You'll collaborate with MDs in decision-making** while honing your problem-solving skills
- **Through offsite rotations, you'll be challenged by a range of experiences and procedural opportunities** beyond the community hospital setting

This rigorous 12-month program is demanding, but it's also thorough and rewarding. You'll emerge with greater self-confidence, the ability to handle increased responsibility, and command more respect for your professional endeavors.

If you choose to make this commitment to your future, you'll never look back.

*Richard Cassa, PA-C, MPAS, MBA*



**The first three months were full of new experiences, a whole new speed at which information was learned.**



—Alumni





# Advice from the medical director:

When you're ready to create a rewarding future as a surgical PA, the critical first step is choosing the right surgical residency to fuel your career. That's exactly what we deliver.

The Norwalk/Yale residency is the right choice for so many reasons. Chief among them:

- You acquire the perfect mix of experience in an active community hospital *and* a renowned academic setting
- You're a valued member of the Department of Surgery – the fact that PAs make up the surgical house staff at Norwalk Hospital is testament to the importance we place on the PA's role
- You learn by doing in a dynamic educational environment with access to today's most advanced surgical technology and techniques
- You gain progressively more surgical expertise and take on more patient-care responsibilities throughout the program
- You join the ranks of respected graduates of our program who are sought out by academic medical centers, hospitals HMOs, private and group practice settings across the nation – and across a full range of surgical specialties

In other words, the opportunities for graduates of our PA surgical residency program are virtually limitless. *That's* a future worth investing in.

*Kathleen LaVorgna, MD, FACS*

## More about the program:

Here is a closer look at the Norwalk/Yale PA surgical residency program, which is conducted jointly by the departments of surgery at Norwalk Hospital and Yale School of Medicine:

### *Curriculum*

The comprehensive curriculum at Norwalk Hospital includes a structured series of lectures reinforced by the practical realities of ongoing clinical responsibilities and challenges. Instruction covers:

- Core topics in general surgery and the subspecialties as well as clinical anatomy and all aspects of surgical care
- Study and participation in management of surgical emergencies, trauma, and every aspect of postoperative care and complications
- Practice labs for laparoscopic techniques and suturing workshops
- Medical ethics forums
- Grand rounds
- Morbidity and mortality conferences
- Trauma rounds
- Journal club

“The NH/YSOM residency was probably the best educational thing I ever did . . . being on-call was an incredible learning tool . . . loved being in the O.R. and first-assisting. It is amazing to me that after 24 years, I still have knowledge of things that I learned in the Norwalk Hospital program.”

—Alumni  
Private Practice  
Orthopaedics



Notably, our patient management conferences and multidisciplinary rounds encourage problem solving and cultivate your abilities in this regard. Equally important, our unique-to-us leadership curriculum focuses on leadership skills and developing communication tools that will serve you throughout your career.

## *Clinical experience in the hospital setting*

During your residency, you'll spend time at Norwalk Hospital and Danbury Hospital as well as at elective sites including Yale New Haven Hospital and various rotations throughout Connecticut. Your clinical experience at Norwalk Hospital includes:

- General surgery
- Orthopedics
- Urology
- Neurosurgery
- Plastic surgery
- ENT
- Thoracic and vascular surgery
- Surgical intensive care

## Academics at Yale

The Yale School of Medicine is renowned for its teaching excellence. The facilities at Yale New Haven Hospital and the School of Medicine are accessible throughout your residency year, and the academic offerings provide such valuable opportunities as:

- Dissecting the human cadaver in a clinically oriented anatomy course
- Gaining operating experience in the animal surgery lab, performing procedures with instructors from the School of Medicine

**I liked that I would have the opportunity to assist many surgeons . . . and that the program demanded excellence. It was a challenge that I was compelled to meet.**

—Alumni

## Direct patient care

Putting your knowledge and skills to work in caring for patients is an essential part of your training, and your patient-care responsibilities will expand as you progress through the year.

- You'll care for a number of patients daily, conducting physical exams and admission histories, and learn to evaluate laboratory data and radiological tests
- You'll assist in emergency and ICU care of the surgical patient
- You'll be an active member of the trauma team at Norwalk hospital
- You'll collaborate with surgeons and other MDs on specific clinical issues and orders, and will be expected to participate in decision-making regarding patient care
- You'll rotate night and weekend call hours, helping to strengthen your confidence and skills
- In the OR, you'll perform the duties of first or second assistant, honing your surgical expertise
- By the conclusion of this 12-month program, caring for surgical patients from admission through discharge will be your daily routine

## Getting down to business

Here's information on our program's benefits, CME credits, job placement assistance and more:

- **Competitive benefits package:** During your residency year, you'll receive a competitive stipend, hospital-paid medical, dental and life insurance, and paid holidays and vacation time
- **Housing:** Hospital housing is provided in an apartment complex adjacent to the Norwalk Hospital campus
- **CME credits:** This program is approved by the NCCPA for Category I and II CME credits (and we are an active founding member of the Association of Postgraduate PA programs)
- **Job placement assistance:** Alumni job placement assistance is available to all graduates, and employment networking is strong, effective and ongoing
- **Certificate of completion:** In addition to the advanced training and clinical experience you gain from this nationally recognized postgraduate program, you'll be awarded a certificate issued by Norwalk Hospital and the Yale School of Medicine

## Eligibility

To apply to our program, you must be a graduate of an ARC-PA approved PA program and hold a bachelor's degree or higher. You also must have passed or be eligible for the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) when the program begins in September of each year.

## Ready to take the next step into your future?

[nuvancehealth.org/surgical-pa-residency](https://nuvancehealth.org/surgical-pa-residency)

