

# Emergency Medical Services Disaster Medicine Fellowship

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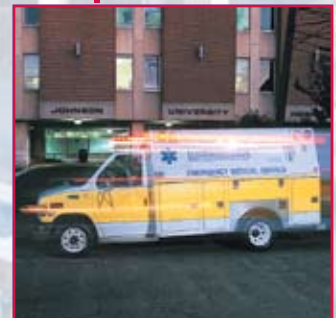
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey  
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School  
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON**  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL



**ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON**  
**MEDICAL SCHOOL**

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey



## Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

With its central location, status as a Level 1 Trauma Center and depth of healthcare resources, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) is a leader in emergency preparedness. It is uniquely poised to play a vital role in response to a variety of mass-casualty incidents, from highway and rail accidents, to hazardous materials incidents and acts of terrorism. RWJUH is one of the largest acute care hospitals in New Jersey and serves as a significant state and regional medical resource. RWJUH is the only academic medical center and provider of tertiary (e.g., cardiac surgery) and quaternary (e.g., solid organ transplantation) healthcare services in central New Jersey.

RWJUH is also a co-founder with Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem of the International Center for Terror Medicine, whose mission is to develop and disseminate scientific information and share best practices for caring for victims of terrorism and other multi-casualty events. In addition, RWJUH physicians, nurses, and emergency medical services personnel are key participants on the Medical Emergency and Disaster Prevention and Response Expert Panel (MEDPREP), the statewide bio-terrorism task force.

The hospital treats over 200,000 patients annually with 1,300 physicians on staff. It has the largest number of top doctors of all New Jersey hospitals according to New York Magazine Best Doctor listing for the New York metropolitan area.

The Emergency Department has 80,000 annual patient visits, two dedicated fast track areas and a separate 24 hour Pediatric Emergency Department. The Emergency Department is staffed by full-time academic faculty and physician assistants. There is also a dedicated pharmacy within the Emergency Department with a hospital pharmacist present 16 hours per day. All information, including physician order entry, is stored in electronic medical record format.

The EMS system at Robert Wood Johnson has approximately 250 pre-hospital care providers including Paramedics, EMTs, RNs, dispatchers and a full-time EMS Medical Director: Dr. Merlin. The system covers the Central New Jersey Region. The offices are located in an on campus EMS building which has the first Medical Command Center for New Jersey and the regional dispatch center (Med Central). All pre-hospital education and Specialty Care Transport operate out of this building.



## UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

As one of the nation's leading comprehensive medical schools, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, with campuses in New Brunswick, Piscataway and Camden, is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education, research, health care delivery and the promotion of community health for the residents of New Jersey. With 2,400 full-time and volunteer faculty, the medical

school maintains educational programs at the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels for more than 1,500 students, as well as continuing education courses for health care professionals and community education programs.

As one of eight schools of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the medical school encompasses 21 basic science and clinical departments and also integrates diverse clinical programs conducted at its 34 hospital affiliates and numerous ambulatory care sites in the region. UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School also hosts 85 centers and institutes; among them are The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, the Child Health Institute of New Jersey, the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and the Stem Cell Institute of New Jersey.



**CURRICULUM:** The following curriculum is designed to give the fellow a broad range of experience and learning opportunities in academic, administrative and practical aspects of EMS to prepare them for a leadership role in EMS upon completion of the training period.

**I. ORIENTATION-**The first week of the fellowship is spent at the Department of Health/Office of Emergency Medical Services. The fellow will rotate at Med Central, which is the EMS Dispatch Center and Medical Command Center for New Jersey at RWJUH. The fellow will also complete a 2 day practical Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Courses on disaster management (ICS 100, 200, 700)

**Site Directors:**

*Karen Halupke* RN, Director Office of Emergency Services,  
Department of Health NJ

*Lou Sasso*, MBA, NREMT-P, Director  
Mobile Intensive Care Unit, RWJUH

*Anthony Cascio*, BS, NREMT-P, Clinical  
Operations Director,  
EMS/RWJUH

**Rotation Objectives:**

1. Understand the history of EMS in New Jersey
2. Understand the different New Jersey EMS Systems and structure of the Department of Health
3. Successfully complete national courses in Disaster Management through the federal government
4. Understand EMS Dispatch Jargon and be familiar with Emergency Driving/Vehicle Operations

**II. AIR MEDICAL-**The fellow will spend 2 months with Northstar, the New Jersey State Police Medical helicopter and the primary 911 response for New Jersey. Twelve 12 hour day shifts will be spent on the helicopter per month.

**Site Directors:**

*Terrence Hoben*, MICP, Director Northstar  
Helicopter Program

*Dan Smith*, R.N., Chief Flight Nurse,  
Northstar Helicopter Program

**Rotation Objectives:**

1. Understand the role of Paramedics, Nurses and Physicians on a State Police helicopter program.

**III. NEW YORK CITY EMS-**Currently, New York City has the largest EMS system in the United States. The fellow will understand how a larger EMS system works with eight million residents. The fellow will rotate through the fire/EMS academy and be part of the NYC EMS Physician Response Program. The fellow will also have the opportunity to participate in the Time Square New Year's Eve preparation as well as the New York City Marathon.

**Site Directors:**

*Dr. John Freese* and *Dr. Brad Kaufman*,  
Deputy Medical Directors NYC EMS and  
NYC EMS Fellowship

**Rotation Objectives:**

1. Gain an appreciation of the interaction between local, regional and national legislative process on EMS Administration
2. Gain an understanding of the inner workings of the largest EMS system in the country
3. Gain pre-hospital experience with the NYC Fire Department and EMS Response Program

**IV. EMS PHYSICIAN RESPONSE VEHICLE-**"MD-1" is the New Jersey EMS Physician Response vehicle based out of Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. If a physician is needed to go the scene of a Mass Casualty situation, bus accident or entrapment, MD-1 will be dispatched. The fellow will have the vehicle for 4 months to interact with the paramedics and gain experience in the pre-hospital environment.

**Rotation Objectives:**

1. Gain experience in the pre-hospital setting treating patients
2. Understand the importance of interactions between different EMS systems
3. Gain experience providing medical direction to pre-hospital care providers
4. Provide Medical Oversight and Quality Assurance to pre-hospital providers

**V. PARAMEDIC PROGRAM -**The fellow will act as the Assistant Medical Director of the regional paramedic program. The regional program provides paramedic education for 15 Health Systems in North Central New Jersey. The fellow will prepare lectures and provide education as well as learn the process of becoming an EMT/Paramedic. This rotation is concurrent with the EMS Physician Response Program module.

**Site Director:**

*Jennifer McCarthy*, MAS, MICP (para-

medic), Administrative Director, Regional Paramedic Program

**Rotation Objectives:**

1. Understand national and state regulations of Paramedic/EMT Education
2. Prepare Power Point presentations for pre-hospital care providers on various pre-hospital topics

**VI. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of EMS PHYSICIAN MEETING and MEDICAL DIRECTORS COURSE-**

During the month of January, the EMS Physician Society (NAEM-SP) holds the National EMS Physician Medical Directors Course. This is a one week course prior to the one week National meeting.

**Rotation Objectives:**

1. Attend the National Society Meeting for EMS Physicians
2. Successfully Complete the National EMS Medical Director Course. This course provides information for current and future EMS Medical Directors on the topics of Aeromedicine, Telemetry, EMS Administration, EMS operations and paramedic education as well as QI/QA.

**VII. DISASTER MEDICINE-**This rotation will complement previous experience in disaster situations. The fellow will be at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The fellow will experience decontamination and rotate with our Hazardous Material team as well as county tactical EMS teams. The fellow will spend time at the State Medical Command Center which is located at RWJUH. Site Director: RWJUH EMS Staff

**Rotation Objectives:**

1. Understand local and national disaster preparedness systems
2. Understand interactions between different Disaster Medicine Teams systems
3. Understand the process of tactical EMS systems

**VIII. RESEARCH-**There is one research day per month built into the schedule. The fellow is expected to publish one original research/review article in an EMS Journal as well exhibit one poster presentation.

**IX. CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES-**The fellow will work one clinical shift per week and one weekend per month in the Department of Emergency Medicine at RWJUH and will have the rank of Instructor of Emergency Medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS.

**X. VACATION -**The fellow will have one month paid vacation.

Program Director-Dr. Mark A. Merlin

Dr. Merlin is an EMS Physician/Paramedic with 23 years experience in pre-hospital care. He received training in Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine and is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine. Dr. Merlin is the medical director of the largest regional paramedic training program in New Jersey serving 15 health systems. He has been involved with paramedic education since 1987.

Currently Dr. Merlin is the full time Emergency Medical Services director at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. He is also an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at UMDNJ-RWJMS. Dr. Merlin started the first EMS Fellowship in New Jersey and created "MD-1" which is the EMS physician response program.

Dr. Merlin was awarded the New Jersey American College of Emergency Physicians "EMS Physician of the year" for 2005-2006. He has been the "Clinical Instructor of the year" at both Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Morristown Memorial Hospital.

**For More information about the Hospital, Medical School or EMS Department, please see our websites at:**  
[www.rwjuh.edu](http://www.rwjuh.edu)  
[www.rwjms.umdj.edu](http://www.rwjms.umdj.edu)  
[www.rwjuh-ems.org](http://www.rwjuh-ems.org)

**All interested EMS/Disaster Medicine fellowship candidates should submit a CV and two letters of recommendation by December 31st to:**

**Dr. Mark A. Merlin**  
Medical Director, Emergency Medical Services  
UMDNJ/RWJMS  
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
One Robert Wood Johnson Place, MEB 104  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
(732) 937-8686



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