

Away Rotation Evaluation Form

1. Specialty:

General Surgery – Colorectal Service

2. Medical School / Hospital:

Mt Sinai School of Medicine (Main Campus – NYC)

3. How would you rate your overall experience? (check one)

Poor Fair Good Very Good Excellent

4. How many hours per week were you on duty?

80

5. How many hours per week did you spend with:

a. Interns: 40

b. Residents: 40

c. Fellows: 10

d. Attendings: 10

6. Did you meet with or work with the Residency Program Director or the Department Chair? No – had no desire to do so by the end of my month there.

7. Which attendings had the greatest influence on your experience?

Colorectal attendings.

8. What were your daily duties?

Seeing patients, writing notes, going to OR. Students at Mt. Sinai have very little involvement in patient care. You have no real responsibilities except to go to the OR to retract for the attendings.

9. Did this rotation (check one):

Create new interest in the specialty

Reinforce existing interest

Decrease interest

Have no effect

10. Any tips on how to get the most out of this rotation?

Don't go to this hospital.

11. Any warnings or tips on what NOT to do?

See above.

12. Did you get a letter of recommendation?

Yes – but did not use for ERAS.

13. Did this rotation help you get an interview?

Decided not to apply.

14. Is housing provided? If not, any recommendations on where to stay?

Limited Sinai housing is available, but you must apply early. Otherwise, Craigslist or renting from recent Jefferson grads who matched at Sinai are your best bet.

15. Is parking provided? If not, any recommendations on where to park?

N/A – use the subway.

16. Who did you contact to set up this rotation?

a. Did you use VSAS? No.

Contact info found through Mt Sinai website, called clerkship coordinator. The more popular surgical services fill up quickly.

17. When did you apply for the rotation and when did they inform you that you got the rotation?

Applied in early spring – easiest to just call clerkship coordinator directly, he will be able to tell you over the phone if there are spots available, and on which services.

18. Where there any special requirements for the rotation (i.e. BLS re-certification, LOR, etc.)?

Only had to fill out simple one-page form downloaded from school website documenting completion of all core clerkships, and standard health waiver form with proof of immunizations. Forms stamped by registrar, faxed to program.

19. Would you recommend this rotation to future JMC 4th years?

NO!

20. Please add additional comments (strengths, weaknesses, miscellaneous tips...)

I entered this rotation having heard very positive comments about this program, with the expectation that I would love it, and definitely apply here. Instead, it was an extremely negative experience, and I did not apply as a result. In the OR, the attendings performed EVERY aspect of the cases, from skin incision to skin closure. I would retract while CHIEF RESIDENTS cut sutures for the attending. As a result (I assume), the residents were technically very poorly trained compared to surgical residents at Jefferson. The PGY4 on my service was not able to enter the abdomen without the attending slowly walking her through step-by-step, and appeared to be learning laparoscopic skills for the first time. From what I saw, the technical skill level of the chiefs was about equal to a PGY2 or 3 at Jefferson. The attendings often boasted of how Sinai puts a heavy emphasis on teaching. From my experience, this was carried out by pimping the student and resident through the majority of most OR cases, but without any technical training for the resident. The student was not ever allowed to do anything in the OR except retract. Importantly, these technical training issues were also present in cases I scrubbed into while on call with other services, so I believe them to be department-wide, and not isolated to the Colorectal service.

On the floor, the attendings were arrogant, and extremely rude to their patients on a regular basis. Bedside manner did not exist. On my service, there was one categorical intern and

two prelims. The categorical intern was well-trained, and took the majority of responsibility for the floorwork of a very busy service due to the incompetence of the 2 prelims.

Of note, about 2 hours of my day (1 hour each, AM and PM) were spent gathering vitals and I/Os for patients. Sinai does not have a computer system like JeffChart, instead using only an archaic system which displays labs. Patient vitals and I/Os are recorded by nurses on charts hanging on each patient's bed, and the interns and students must go from bed to bed to record them for rounds/running the list. Our census usually ran ~40 patients spread over 2-4 floors, so this would take the better part of an hour each time. At Jefferson, this information is available on the computer, and can be printed out for an entire census at the press of a button – emphasizing the value of a good computer system!

Overall, I had an extremely negative experience on the Colorectal Service. Perhaps other students have had better experiences on other services. However, the bottom line is that I would never want to train here for residency, as the residents appeared poorly trained, and therefore ended up crossing it off my list based on what I observed during my month here.

THANK YOU!

Please return form to jeffersonAOA@gmail.com.