

**SPECIALTY** General Surgery - Hepatopancreatobiliary

**Medical School or Hospital** Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

1. **How would you rate your overall experience? Poor/Fair/Good/Very Good/ Excellent** Excellent
2. **How many hours did you work on average? Per day / Per week**  
65-85
3. **What were your daily duties? (Summarize)** The schedule is very standardized and systematic. You will have 2 operating days, 1 clinic day and 2 academic days. Everyday, rounds will be from 6.30am-7am with the fellow, there is no pre-rounds. During operating days, you will be operating a lot until about 7pm. On a busy OR day on the HPB service, there might be a Whipple, a distal pancreatectomy and a liver resection all in a day. During clinic hours, you go to clinic from 8am-4pm with the fellow and attending. Academic days are great because it's for research, conferences and lectures. Very light days, which will probably end at 2-3pm.
4. **Who did you work with the most? NP's/ PA's/ Interns/ Residents/ Fellows/ Attendings** Fellows, since MSKCC is a fellow-driven program.
5. **Which Attendings had the greatest influence on your education and experience?** William R Jarnagin, Peter Allen
6. **Did this rotation impact your interest in this program? How?**  
Reinforced current interest in the field.
7. **Did this rotation help you get an interview?** MSKCC does not have a residency program, but it will get you an extremely strong letter from the best surgeons from their respective fields.
8. **Did you get a letter of recommendation?** Yes
9. **Did you meet with or work with the Residency Program Director or the Department Chair?** Yes
10. **How did you apply for the rotation? Did you use VSAS?** It's an online application on their website. Be sure to apply 5 months in advance since it will take time to secure a spot.

- 11. What month(s) was your rotation?** August
- 12. When did you apply? When did you get accepted?** Applied in March, accepted in June.
- 13. Were there any special requirements for the rotation (i.e. BLS recertification, LOR, etc.)** None.
- 14. Is Housing provided? If not, can you recommend housing options?**  
No. Craigslist is a great website to look for places nearby.
- 15. Is parking provided? If not, any recommendations?** No. I didn't drive, but it'll probably be helpful if you asked the program coordinator.
- 16. Would you recommend this rotation to future students?**  
Absolutely.
- 17. Any other comments, suggestions or tips?** Go and enjoy yourself.  
Academic culture there is truly amazing, and you're going to learn a lot from the rotation. Only advice will be to study extensively on your service's topics to aid in your learning process since they blaze through information so fast (attendings and fellows).
- 18. OPTIONAL: Would you like to include your contact information?**  
Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Zhi Ven Fong,  
fzhiven@gmail.com