

Asheville Rotation Update

Residents receive a diploma after completing their 6 months rotation in Asheville that reads ‘Having graciously and dutifully endured excessive amounts of fatherly advice, ancient wisdom and guidance. . . . a distinguished graduate of the Asheville VA Over the Hill Gang School of Orthopaedic Surgery.’ The Asheville VA has been the ‘farm team’ for our residents since 1969. We leave this rotation gaining experience in adult general orthopaedics with special emphasis on the following five surgeries: TKA, THA, rotator cuff repair, knee arthroscopy and carpal tunnel releases.

The independence we earn during our 6 months of training is unparalleled during our residency. We mature as surgeons and clinicians, and we gain intangibles that we are able to apply when we return to Duke to complete our training. Our mentors, Drs Frank Brown, Robert Francis, Milton Lambert, John Lucy and William Ogden, are our friends and advocates during the journey. For those of us who have been fortunate enough to learn under their tutelage, we are forever in-debt for their dedication to our education.

Of course, this rotation is not all work. The Asheville area is known for its beautiful weather, mountain lifestyle, festivals, numerous breweries, and great restaurants. In addition, the residents take advantage of all the Blue Ridge Mountains have to offer including: hiking, biking, running, and other outdoor activities.

All of us at Duke Orthopaedics would like to thank Dr Lambert who retired in December. He has been the backbone of the Department of Orthopaedics in Asheville for over a decade. His contributions will not be forgotten, and we look forward to seeing him at the Piedmont each year.

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